

# Crisis Diplomacy

## **Realism, Liberalism, and Diplomacy**

January 15, 2015

# Today's Agenda

- 1. Diplomacy according to Morgenthau.**
- 2. Liberalism: an alternative theory.**

# Diplomacy

**according to Morgenthau**

# **Realist Assumptions Redux**

- 1. There is an international system consisting of sovereign states.**
- 2. The international system is anarchical.**
- 3. The main national interest of every state is to preserve its own security and autonomy.**
- 4. In international politics, states always prioritize this national interest.**

# Tasks of Diplomacy

(according to Morgenthau)

- 1. Define the country's own goals.**
- 2. Assess other countries' goals and power.**
- 3. Find common ground between these goals.**
- 4. Choose appropriate means for achieving goals.**

# **The Old Diplomacy and the New**

## **Changes in diplomacy after World War I:**

- Modern communication technology.**
- Reaction against secrecy.**
- Parliamentary procedures.**
- Rise of the US and USSR.**



# Vices of the New Diplomacy

(according to Morgenthau)

- 1. Publicity.**
- 2. Majority voting.**
- 3. Fragmentation.**





# Publicity

**"Not only is a publicly conducted diplomacy unable to reach agreement or even to negotiate for the purpose of reaching agreement, but each public meeting leaves international matters in a worse state than before."**

**— Morgenthau (p. 579)**



# Majority Rule

**"[T]he outvoting of an opponent in a deliberative international body is a useless and may even be a mischievous undertaking ..."**

**— Morgenthau (p. 579)**

# Fragmentation

- **Consequence of majority voting.**
- **Sequences of disconnected legislative acts.**
- **Root problems connecting issues are ignored.**

# Liberalism:

**an alternative theory**

# Liberal Assumptions

- 1. Multiple channels connect societies.**
- 2. Issues on the international agenda are not arranged in a hierarchy.**
- 3. On the issues where liberalism<sup>1</sup> prevails, states do not use military force.**

<sup>1</sup> aka complex interdependence



# The Main Liberal Conclusion

**Weak states' interests may prevail over those of strong states.**





# Virtues of the New Diplomacy

(according to Keohane and Nye)

- **Formal equality for all states.**
- **New lines of communication.**
- **Negotiation through *issue linkage*.**

# Issue Linkage

**Trading concessions on one issue for gains in another, possibly unrelated issue.**

**Keohane and Nye: issue linkage is the main diplomatic tool for weak states.**

# Realism versus Liberalism?

**Is one theory right and the other wrong?**



# For Next Time

- **Read Fearon 1995, "Rationalist Explanations for War"**

# Image Sources

- UN Flag: [Wikimedia Commons](#)
- Peter Paul Rubens, "David Slaying Goliath":  
[Wikimedia Commons](#)