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

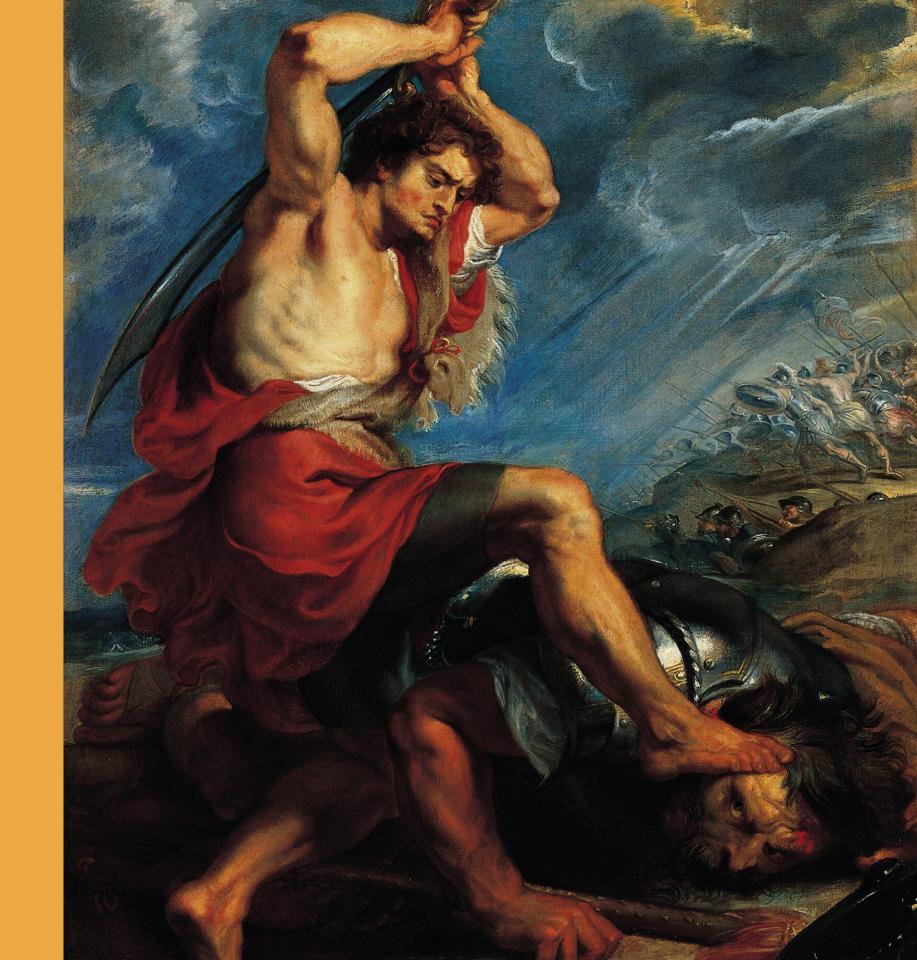
Liberal Assumptions

- 1. Multiple channels connect societies.
- 2. Issues on the international agenda are not arranged in a hierarchy.
- 3. On the issues where liberalism¹ prevails, states do not use military force.

¹ 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