* Central trend of todays IR is globalization
  + 3 events reflect this
    - Ebola outbreak worldwide starting in africa
    - Arab spring protestors used social media to overthrow several governments
    - 2008-09 recession
* Key problem of IR: how can two or more countries serve their collective interests when doing so requires them to forgo their individual interests?
  + Stopping climate change vs keeping one’s economy going
  + Maintaining NATO vs a couple countries shorting on military aid
  + Collective goods problem - how to benefit all group members regardless of individual contribution
* Three principles offer possible solutions to this key problem
  + Dominance - bigger countries keep smaller countries in line
    - UN security council - 5 strongest military powers (largest nuclear arsenals) can veto decisions of all others
    - Dominance approach - try to maintain nukes as exclusive to this group of 5 by using force to prevent all others from obtaining them
  + Reciprocity - reward good, punish bad
    - Can lead to downward spiral of harder punches between nations (arms race)
    - Also allows for arms reduction agreements
  + Identity - the extent to which a country truly feels they are part of a group
    - The greater the extent, the greater the altruism
    - Can soften conflicts and selfish acts
    - Some nations, like sweden and germany, could build nukes but choose not to for ethical reasons, “it’s not who they are”
* IR scholars sometimes influence the foreign policy of their governments to test their ideas
* North-South relations - relationships between developed and developing countries
* Theories are more subjective in IR than science because studies in IR usually have multiple independent variables
* Sovereignty recognized by other states by membership in UN
* Modern international system has existed 500 years
  + Before, city states, empires and feudal fiefs were more common
* IR mainly deals with military and economic influence
  + Great powers - great economic and military influence
  + Superpowers - best of great powers (US is the only one at this time)
* National actors are strongest actors in IR, but are influenced by nonstate actors, called transnational actors if across borders, such as
  + Ingergovernmental orgs (IGO) - alliances
  + Nongovernmental orgs (NGO) - privately owned
  + Multinational corporations (MNC) - aid and bring together countries in exchange for protection
  + Nonrecognized substates and quasi-individual insurrections
  + Substate actors - cities or states with substantial influence in IR
* With all these new actors, the traditional nation state is becoming less influential in IR
* Due to too many actors, IR scenes are divided into different levels
  + Individual - citizen voting, rebellion, leaders and their psychology, head of rebel faction
  + Domestic/state - public opinion, interest groups, government agencies, etc that influence their state’s IR
  + Interstate/System - interactions between states, regardless of their domestic and individual concerns
  + Global [added recently] - global trends that alter interstate relations
    - technology, social norms, north south gap, disease, terrorism
  + Example: Iraq war
    - Individual - hussein bravery
    - Domestic - neocons in US wanting war
    - Interstate - US dominance without anyone backing Iraq
    - Global - rising fears of terrorism worldwide
  + Lower levels change faster than higher levels
* 3 theories for rise of globalization
  + Liberal economic principles - less trade restriction, states losing ground as actors in trade
  + Claim that today’s economy is no more globalized than before WW1, north south divide increasing, and that rival blocs of trade in US, europe and Asia are forming rather than one market
  + WTO, EU, and other interstate organizations are challenging the absolute sovereignty of a state
* Evolving international system
  + Two world wars
    - After ww1, US isolationism, declining british power, and a crippled Russia led to a power vacuum
    - Germany, japan and italy tried to fill this vacuum > ww2
    - Because of failed appeasement of Nazis prior to ww2, many concluded that only a hardline foreign policy with preparedness for war will deter aggression, despite these policies leading to ww1
  + Cold war
    - Fears that western europe would fall to communism led to marshall plan (containment)
      * Led to worldwide network of US military bases
    - China went from allied with USSR, to independent, to joining US alliance out of fear of USSR
      * They basically aligned against the most threatening super power at the time
    - US and USSR tried to gain ideological power in the poor south through proxy wars
      * This led to the US viewing everything as “east-west” and supporting terrible regimes
    - Tiananmen square protests encouraged many soviet states to become democracies in 1989, Gorbachav let them go quietly
  + Post cold war
    - Gulf war (iraq and kuwait) - US led coalition has some countries send military aid and some send money. This is known as “pass the hat” and was new and worked well