* The current period is one of the least warlike ever
  + Wars smaller and shorter
* Liberalism focuses more on identity and reciprocity than dominance
  + Claims that the rules IR are not timeless but evolve toward peace
* Unlike realists, liberals believe war is an irrational decision coming from defective reasoning that results in a long term harm to the state's interests
* Neoliberalism - concedes to realism on certain assumptions
  + States are unitary actors pursuing their own interests, but cooperation between states is done for this purpose of self interest, as it is a long term investment to improve stability
* Prisoner's dilemma - if one actor defects it gains, but if both defect they lose. Therefore none will be likely to defect
* International regime - set of rules and norms around which actors converge on a certain issue
  + Each expects to play by the same rules
  + Regimes do not work when states can act on their own to achieve their goals, but rather when collective good dilemmas are involved
    - Do not hinder long term goals for states
  + Hegemons may be needed to start regimes, but they live on through institutions like NATO, UN, etc
* Collective security - alliance of most major actors to deter aggression by any one actor
* Democratic peace theory - democracies almost never fight each other
  + No contradictions to date
* Social theories
  + Constructivism - asks how states construct their interests through their interactions with one another
    - An approach, not a theory
    - Explains why some countries are more friendly to each other despite their being no objective reason
    - Realists and liberals believe in logic of consequences working along reciprocity lines, but constructivism claims there is also a logic of appropriateness that influences actions along identity lines
* Postmodernism - revolves around the notion that there is not one objective reality, but multiple perspectives and experiences that defy easy categorization
  + Realism cannot justify its claim that states are the central actors of IR and that they are unitary in their interests
    - Claim that states are arbitrary social constructions to make sense of things. “Imaginary borders”
    - The soviet “union” split into 15 states after the collapse of the USSR, thereby indicating that they weren’t so unified after all
  + Goal is to undo the simplifications that have omitted certain actors in each theory
* Marxism - both IR and domestic politics arise from unequal relationships between economic classes
  + Branch of socialism, which states that the upper class starves and oppresses the lower class
  + Used to explain north south relations by expanding marxism to a global scale and considering the north as the upper and the south as the lower class
    - In domestic marxism, it was theorized that only advanced states would experience peasant revolts in a sort of “step beyond” capitalism. However, these poor people experience slow but stable rise in standard of living and therefore do not revolt.
    - However, the north exploits the south, and buys off the north’s poor with the profits
    - Therefore, it is the 3rd world countries that experience these revolts due to exploitation
* Peace studies - shifts away from interstate and towards individual, domestic and global
  + Conflict resolution - uses a 3rd party to mediate and peacefully solve a dispute between states
    - Most important mediator is the UN
  + Arbitration - when both sides agree to abide by a solution devised by the mediator
  + In hunter gatherer tribes, war is more likely to happen if the tribe has major inequality (especially gender), an absence of fathers in raising children, and harsh child raising practices
  + Negative peace - seen by realists; the temporary absence of war
  + Positive peace - seen by liberals; the time in which states improve themselves and their relationships
    - Most peace studies scholars believe positive peace will only be achieved by individuals pressuring their governments to do so
* Gender theories
  + Claim that other theories like realism only explain how men act
  + Difference feminism - do not try to claim that women do things as well as men, but rather that they are better or worse in certain areas. They claim they are better at conflict resolution due to their HR and nurturing skills. They do not reject the biological differences between male and female
    - Believe a government of women would be less realist and more liberal
  + Liberal feminism - men and women are pretty much equal, the perceived differences are social constructs
    - Believe a government of women would not change anything in terms of realism
  + Postmodern feminism - considers gender differences important but arbitrary and flexible. Are anti realists and anti biology
  + Because male social relations are based on autonomy, but females’ are based on connection and moral responsibility, realism is more masculine and feminism and liberalism is more feminine
  + Some believe the testosterone in males makes them more warlike