**08.23.2016**

* Culture - integrated pattern of human behavior - speech, morals, customs, family values, social structure and hierarchy, etc
* International relations - study of interactions among various actors in international politics
* Why study IR?
  + Complexity w/ key patterns
  + Interconnectedness and globalization
  + Impact on economy and life
  + Anyone can make a difference
    - Voting, consumer pressure, revolution, protest

**08.25.2016**

* When voting, foreign policy is typically less important to people than local and domestic policy
  + Sometimes, politicians will try to say they can fix international or global concerns with local or domestic measures
* IR is part of Polsci
  + Polsci is social science
  + Different than comparative politics - the study of foreign political systems/domestic issues
* Subfields of IR
  + International Security - war and peace, the popular subject of the cold war era
  + International Political Economy - the popular subject since the emergence of international trade deals
* Subfields of Polsci
  + Political theory
  + American politics
  + Comparative politics
  + Political methodology
* How do we study world politics?
  + Historic approach - read accounts, interviews, in order to explain one event
  + Social science approach - develop theories to generalize a series of like events, and to make predictions for future human behavior

**08.30.2016 - 09.01.2016**

* Actors in IR
  + No central authority on international level, anarchy in the IR system
  + States - primary actors, legally equal and sovereign, some of course are more powerful
* State - a territorial entity, controlled by a government and inhabited by a population
  + This modern definition comes from the 1648 Westphalia Treaty
    - Established that there is no authority above the state, cut off influence of the Pope
* Sovereignty - state is subject to no higher authority, requires universal recognition from the UN
  + States with internal rebellions won’t recognize Kosovo due to that setting a precedent for their own struggles
* Nation vs State - sometimes the borders of the state don’t match the borders of the nation
  + Nation - a community of people who share a national identity (Palestine, the Kurds, Taiwan)
  + Multinational states - diverse group of people inside the state (United States)
  + Nation state - when a state is ruled by a majority nation that makes up around 90%+ of the population
* Nonstate actors
  + Intergovernmental (IGOS)
    - Members: states
  + NGOs
    - Members, transnational groups and individuals
  + Multinational corporations
  + Others: individuals, substate actors, terrorist organizations

History

* Old system, before 1648
  + City states > empires > feudal fiefs > 1648
  + States formed and eroded often
  + First modern state was ancient Greek city states
    - Sovereignty, nationalism originated from here
* Middle ages
  + Religious authority centralized
  + Political authority decentralized into small independent feudal units
  + No single dominant power
  + No nationalism, people felt connection to their direct superior
  + Toward the end of the middle ages, europe became temporarily unified and then fragmented again due to religious wars, eventually leading to the 30 years war
* Westphalia treaty 1648
  + Independence of kings from Pope
  + Emergence of secular authorities
  + Creation of the “sovereign state”
  + Led to the decline of the concept of empires and kingdoms
* 18th-19th centuries
  + popular sovereignty dictated that the people rule the state
  + Multipolarity and Concert of Europe emerged after the napoleonic wars
    - 5 powers: austria, britain, prussia, russia and france
  + 1871 - prussia and other small states became germany and put the power system off balance. Germany wanted to be like the other states in terms of wealth, colonial lands, and power
  + End of this era - two alliances/blocs emerged
* 20th century
  + Rapid global change
  + WWI -
    - started by nationalism spurred by rise and fall of certain nations and states, especially in balkans
    - Central powers, germany, austria hungary and ottoman empire were defeated by allied powers (russia, france, UK, Italy, US)
    - Versailles treaty 1919 created the league of nations, placed war guilt on germany
    - the map of europe changes significantly, british hegemony declines, and european domination ends
  + Soviet Union formed in 1922
  + WWII -
    - German resentment
    - Economic and political instability in Germany and Italy leads to rise of fascism
    - Expansionism by Germany, Italy, Japan
    - The Allies appeased Hitler at first because they were more concerned with the rising Soviet Union, and they assumed that Hitler was eventually going to stop
    - US ends isolationism after 1941 Pearl Harbor Attack
    - Axis defeated
    - Beginning of cold war and UN
  + Cold War -
    - End of multipolar, beginning of bipolar
    - Incompatible ideologies: capitalism vs communism
    - Arms race and deterrence
    - “Containment” policy in regards to communism, leads to rise of NATO
      * Both US and Soviets compete for influence over 3rd world countries
    - Rapid decolonization
    - Korean war, cuban missile crisis, vietnam war, soviet invasion of afghanistan
    - From 1945 to today, the number of countries has doubled
  + Post Cold War -
    - Fall of berlin wall 1989
    - Dissolution of USSR 1991
    - Invasion of Kuwait by Iraq and gulf war
    - Dissolution of Yugoslavia 1991
    - Rwanda genocide
    - September 11
    - Rise of US hegemony, but the system is turning multipolar
    - Globalism brings new trends and challenges the the authority of the state
      * Political integration and increase in IOs
      * Economic interdependence
      * Cultural integration
      * Ethnic tensions and nationalism
      * Asymmetric warfare and terrorism
      * North-south gap
      * Human rights violations
      * Environmental degradation
  + 1900 - monarchs prominent, population 1.5 billion, little unity between states
  + 2000 - capitalistic democracy is the norm, population 6 billion, UN unifies most states

**09.08.2016**

* Theories in IR
  + Realism - power is everything, how the world works
  + Liberalism - morals and IGOs, how the world should work
  + Other (marxism, feminism, constructivism, etc)
* Theory - generalized statement about political, social, or economic activities that seeks to explain these events
  + Simplifying device - why things happen and how events and trends relate to each other
  + Accounts for general phenomena/patterns, does not delve into specific examples
  + Goal -
    - to understand the trends of the past and their impact on today
    - Predict the future and form policy recommendation
  + Good theory -
    - Generates testable hypotheses
    - After testing, theory is refined
* Power - the ability to get another actor to do what it would not otherwise have done
  + Hard power - military and alliances, getting others to do what you want
  + Soft power - ideological influence, getting others to want what you want
  + Multidimensional - military is not enough; it is also necessary to have economic, political, and social influence
* Realism
  + States that IR decisions are based on acquisition, maintenance and exercise of hard power by states
    - States are power maximizers
  + Concerned with security issues
  + Dominated US study of IR after WWII
  + Long historical tradition
  + “Power makes it right”
  + “the strong do what they have to do, the weak accept what they have to accept”
  + Machiavelli - wrote “Prince,” gives rulers advice on what to do to secure the survival of their state. The end goal is to acquire power and use it when necessary
  + Hobbes - Natural state of humanity is anarchy and selfishness, leading to a free for all. Since interstate relations is in a state of anarchy, we see fighting and competition

**09.13.2016**

Realism cont.

* Modern realism - hans morgenthau
  + “World politics is essentially a struggle among self interested states for power and position under anarchy, with each competing state pursuing its own national interests.”
* Focus - what the world is, not should be
* Pessimistic view of human nature - selfish but rational
* State of nature is the state of war
  + Conflict is inevitable in IR
* Focus on the three Ss - state (as a viable actor), survival, self help
* No escape from anarchy in IR
  + Leads to security dilemma (arms race)
  + Egoism + anarchy = world politics
* Power is an ends, not a means
* IR is a zero sum game
* Self help system - do not trust or rely on any state
* Self interest is more important than morality
  + Do whatever is necessary to advance your state’s interests
* To keep peace
  + Acquire arms and prepare for war
  + Deterrence and balance of power
    - Form alliances to ensure that no state or bloc can control the world
* Perception of the state
  + Rational, unitary and autonomous
  + Different views are integrated into one state voice
  + Constrained by anarchy
* Prospect for international cooperation is poor under under anarchy
  + If cooperation occurs, it is on insignificant “low politics” issues, such as environmental awareness
  + International law and organization is inherently weak
* the most stable system is a multipolar system
* Neorealism - structural realism
  + Formed in the 1980s - a system level theory (focuses on the structure of the IR system rather than the states themselves)
  + Kenneth Waltz, *Theory of International Politics*, is considered the leading figure of realism
  + Claims that international politics is a struggle power, not because of human nature, but because of the structure of the international system itself
    - Structure is shaped by anarchy and polarity
  + States are security maximizers, not power maximizers
  + Claims that bipolarity is the most stable distribution of power, rather than multipolar

**09.15.2016**

Liberalism

* Not affiliated with libcucks
* Strongest contemporary challenge to realism
* Claims that states have plural voices
* Focuses on what the world should be
* Fundamental values
  + liberty, rights and freedoms, limited government, rule of law, private property, free market, etc.
* Claims that people are rational and have mutual interests, and therefore are capable of cooperating
* Emphasizes state interests over state power, therefore takes morality into account
* Primary actors: Individuals
* Human nature - self interested but cooperative, rational, moral, altruistic
* Believe that we can learn from our mistakes and make the world a better place
  + Anarchy and war can be policed by international institutions, laws and norms
* History
  + Newer than realism
  + John Locke -
    - argued that all men are created equal
    - the state of nature is the state of peace
    - There should be some laws to prevent chaos
    - Humans are inherently good
    - The government that governs the least is the best
  + Immanuel Kant -
    - End of 1700s
    - *Perpetual Peace* - gave the conditions the world would need to be under for a permanent peace to be possible
      * Establish republics with checks and balances, these are more friendly toward each other
      * Have an IGO
      * Trade dependency curtails the impulse to war
  + Adam Smith
  + Hugo Grotius- founding father of international law
    - Wrote a piece on the law of war and peace
      * It’s in the people’s and states’ interest to obey laws, as without law there is anarchy
      * Cooperation is possible even under anarchy
      * Function law is to protect rights and punish wrongdoing
    - Viewed war as unnecessary, it should not be a regular thing
    - Came up with the concept of a just war - a war to obtain a right or punish a wrongdoer
      * War should be a last resort