09.27.2016 - 09.29.2016

* World politics is the story of
  + Motivations and calculations of actors
  + How they put those into actions
* Primary performers/actors in foreign policy
  + States, igos, ngos, mncs, transnational groups, individuals
* Domestic sources of foreign policy - what goes on within states affects what goes on between states
* Subsection of IR - foreign policy analysis
* Foreign policy -
  + strategies used by governments to guide their actions in the international arena and realize their international goals
  + Course of action pursued by a government in its dealings with other states
  + Goals + values + (means/instruments)
  + Translation of power into action
  + Foreign policy process (how policies are arrived at) is complex
* Power and foreign policy
  + Power > foreign policy > action
  + Effective FP is not possible without power
  + Goal: to influence others
  + Tools
    - Threat, inducements, moral persuasion
    - Peaceful to coercive
      * Diplomacy, aid, sanctions, suicide bombings, alliances, use of military
  + Objectives
    - Hierarchical
    - vital/core, essential/middle range, desirable/long range goals
* Determinants on foreign policy
  + Why do states behave as they do
  + No single variable can fully explain
    - The variable’s relative weight depends on the circumstances at the time
    - Type of situation? Crisis or non crisis?
    - Nature of the issue? Pure foreign policy or intermestic?
  + Causal funnel
    - Factors grouped into 3 source categories
      * Input, output, feedback
      * Each category encompasses a large number of factors
  + 3 levels
    - Individual, state, system (International and global)
* Individual determinants
  + Role of individuals
    - Personality, physical and mental health, ego and ambitions, experiences, beliefs and values, rationality, intellectual capacity
  + FP influenced by cognitive, emotional, and psychological factors
* Impediments to rationality
  + Bounded rationality - uncertainty, lack of accurate information, cognitive limitations, time pressure
    - Satisficing - good enough
  + Misperception, selective perceptions, info screens, emotions/affective bias
  + Cognitive bias - cognitive balance, wishful thinking, analogies to past historical events, stereotypes
  + Competing interests and goals
  + Organizational problems - group-think

10.04.2016

* State level determinants of foreign policy
  + Military capabilities, economic conditions, type of government, sub-state actors (executives, bureaucracies, legislatures, interest groups, public opinion, mass media, military-industrial complex)
* System level determinants
  + Broad international influences on FP
  + Influence of external context/constraints on the options of states
  + Anarchy, power distribution and polarity, military alliances, geostrategic position, economic realities of the international system and globalization, international law and norms, the UN

10.06.2016

* Models of decision making
  + Rational actor model
  + Bureaucratic politics (government bargaining) model
  + Organizational process model
  + Each captures only part of the picture
* Rational actor model
  + States are unitary actors, are main unit of analysis
  + Rational choice
    - Purposeful, goal directed
    - Using best info available
    - Rigorous cost-benefit analysis
  + Goal of FP - pursue vital national interests
  + All policy makers go through same rational thought process
  + Steps
    - Problem recognition and definition
    - Goal selection and ordering
    - Identification of alternatives and consequences
    - Choice based on highest benefit and lowest cost
  + Very attractive model, decisions are rational and product of careful deliberation
* Bureaucratic politics model
  + Organizations have their own interests, missions and agendas
  + FP is the product of bargaining and power struggle between government agencies
    - They each fight for their own interests and try to increase their own budget, role and influence
  + “Where someone stands - may depend on where he sits.”
* Organizational process model
  + Government is composed of large organizations that determine the info and options available to the leaders
  + Highlights the impact of values, procedures, organizational processes and culture of the agencies on FP decisions
  + FP makers skip debating on every decision
    - Use standard operating procedures to fast track decisions
    - Apply these procedures to various cases

Conflicts and peace

* Destruction of war has worsened over time
  + Civilian casualties increase dramatically
* Conflict and war are different things
  + Conflict is disagreement based on incompatible interests
    - Not necessarily threatening
    - Can be ethnic, territorial, governmental, economic, etc.
  + War is a condition arising when actors use violence to coerce opponents into submission
    - Most severe form of conflict
* Armed conflict
  + Interstate
  + Intrastate - between government of a state and internal opposition groups
  + Internationalized intrastate - intrastate plus intervention from other states
  + Extrastate - colonial conflicts
  + Minor AC - 25-1000 battle related deaths per year
  + War - at least 1000 battle related deaths per year

10.08.2016

* Trends in armed conflict in 2014
  + 1946-2014: 259 AC
  + 40 active AC in 2014, highest since 1999
  + All intrastate AC except one
  + Most in global south
  + 11 wars, highest # casualties since 1989
  + Overall, still better than cold war times
* Overall trends
  + Number of AC
    - Decreased since cold war
    - Remained stable in the last 15 years (30-40)
    - On the rise since 2013
  + Colonial and interstate has decreased
  + Civil wars/ intrastate has become the predominant form
  + Decline in casualties since the 1950s
    - But over the past few years they have risen to their highest in 25 years
      * Has the waning of war ended?
  + The number of countries at risk of armed conflict has gone down since WW2
  + In the long run, if democratization and development continues, wars will continue to wane
* Nature of war
  + War vs other violence - war is between or among political groups
  + Clausewitz: war is merely the continuation of politics by other means
    - Rational pursuit of state interest - means to an end/instrument
  + Old wars vs new wars
    - Wars are becoming less organized, less formal and declarative, and more intrastate
    - Issues of identity are becoming more important in the wars. Post colonial wars have led to an increase in ethnic tensions. Leads to increase in passion felt by fighters
    - New wars are more asymmetrical (insurgency vs the state)
    - Increase in use of guerilla warfare
    - New wars are more barbaric than old wars. More terrorism, more disregard for rules of war by the insurgency

10.13.2016

* Causes of war - multiple causes and levels
* Explanations - focuses on specific direct causes of past wars - favored by historians
* Theoretical - focuses on general explanations that are applicable to various contexts
* Possible explanations - 3 levels
  + Individual
    - Human nature and psychology - is aggression an instinct or a learned habit?
    - Personalities, emotions, and experiences of leaders
    - Rationality vs misperceptions
    - Individuals are unlikely to be the primary cause of war
  + State
    - Diversionary theory and “rally around the flag”
    - Type of economy and government
    - Nationalism and self determination
      * Ethnic conflict, secessionism, irredentism
    - Geographic factors and demographic stress
    - Poverty
    - Duration of independence
  + System (interstate and global)
    - Power relations
      * Anarchy
      * Polarity
        + Hegemonic stability theory
        + Power transition theory
    - Interdependence
    - North south gap, environmental factors
* Territorial disputes
  + Most obvious reasons for war
    - Desire to acquire territory
    - Achieve national independence
    - Secessionism - a nation claims they are no longer a part of the state
    - Irredentism - claims a country makes on certain territory (China and Taiwan, Greek claims on Cyprus, etc)

10.18.2016

* 3 types of military force
  + Conventional, irregular, WMD
* Why do actors employ violence
  + A number of goals, most important is security and defending territory
* Use of military force
  + Extreme leverage and a last resort
  + Very costly
  + Its utility is declining
  + Use of force versus threat of force
* Ways to provide security
  + How to protect
    - Defense versus deterrence
  + Nuclear deterrence
    - Second strike capability and mutually assured destruction
  + Conditions for success
    - Capability - able to to carry out a counter attack
    - Credibility - willing to carry out a counter attack
* WMDs
  + Focus shifted from defense to deterrence
  + Biological, chemical and nuclear
    - More lethal and indiscriminate than conventional weapons
  + Usually delivered by ballistic missiles
  + Main problem today is proliferation - the possession of WMDs by more states
    - It has been slowed by international treaties
* Nuclear weapons
  + Most destructive, require sophisticated engineering and are expensive
  + Nuclear powers
    - US, Russia, UK, France, China, India, Pakistan, NK, Israel, Iran?
  + Nonproliferation treaty - if you have nukes don’t spread them, if you don’t don’t develop them
  + IAEA - international atomic energy agency - nuclear weapon watchdog
* Managing insecurity -
  + Avoid war?
    - Collective security and peacekeeping
    - Disarmament
    - Arms control
      * Fewer weapons, greater security
      * Goal to make wars less likely and less destructive
* Arms control
  + Most preferential method
  + Numerical restrictions - SALT, START, SORT treaty, New START treaty
  + Testing restrictions
    - CTBT, ABM
    - Defense technology: SDI / Star Wars
  + Development and transfer restrictions (non proliferation treaty)
  + Categorical restrictions - types of weapons (e.g. landmines)
* Terrorism
  + Not new but assuming a new role, difficult for states to deal with
  + Various goals and objectives
  + Definition - systematic use of violence for political goals (to influence politics)
    - Carried out by individuals, not state bodies
    - Targets civilians
    - Produces fear
* IO, law and human rights
  + Igos, ngos and mncs
  + Managing insecurity
    - Peacekeeping forces
    - Collective security
  + The UN
  + International law and human rights - ICJ / world court, “just war”, war crimes and ICC
* IGOs
  + Most conflicts not solved by military force
  + Rules, norms, institutions and organizations solve issues
    - Regulate state behavior and govern interactions
  + IOs are important
    - Deal with common state-state problems
    - Have political significance and impact on outcomes
  + Members are states
  + Types
    - Membership - open vs restricted
    - Competency - single vs multi issue
* NGOs
  + Members - transnational groups and individuals
    - Work across national boundaries
  + Private, voluntary organizations
    - Functions are diverse
  + MNCs - private enterprises with branches in other countries
* Collective security
  + Preventing aggression through threat of collective action
    - Goal - to make it irrational for any state to initiate an attack
  + Requirements for success
    - Unified opposition
    - Universally agreed definition of aggression
    - An institution that can make authoritative decisions and allocate costs
  + E.g. the League of Nations and the UN
* Peacekeeping
  + Deployment of international force under an IGO, like the UN
  + Peacekeeping - acting as a buffer between combatants, monitor a peace agreement, create conditions for negotiations
  + Impartial and neutral
  + After the cold war, most parties became more irresolvable civil wars, which are outside UN jurisdiction, so they changed their definition of peacekeeping
    - Helping parties resolve issues, providing humanitarian aid for civilians, demining, strengthening infrastructure, reconstruction, disarmament, supervision of elections, police training, state building, etc.
* The UN
  + Global and multipurpose
  + Members - 193 sovereign states
    - Each state “treated equally”
  + Intergovernmental
  + Security council - 15 members, 5 permanent
    - For security and peace decisions, all 5 must vote yes, and 9/15 total must vote yes
  + Only about international issues, does not concern itself with domestic issues
    - This is why it cannot help in civil wars today
* International Law and Human Rights
  + Sources of international law - treaties, customary law, principles of law and legal scholarship
  + Hard to enforce
  + Why do states obey international law?
    - right/wrong, reciprocity, punishment
    - Identity, reciprocity, dominance ^^