CH1 - US invasion of Iraq

* Despite the US’s placement of highest significance on absolute state sovereignty, both in word and in action, they went against this very principle by invading Iraq over the (false) notion that they were harboring a WMD program and al qaeda
* There has never been a formal investigation into this, and the US has never been brought up to explain this discrepancy
* Iraq invasion: domestic level
* Consequences of Iraq invasion: global

CH8

* Revolution - a far reaching and drastic change
  + Revolutions (political, economic, social) are not always violent but most often are
* The revolutionary war is the most common form of political violence since the end of the cold war
* Crane Brinton’s findings
  + Revolutions most often caused by relative deprivation, where a group of impoverished or unprosperous people are exposed to enough prosperity to feel as though they are oppressed or discriminated. These people must blame their government for these problems for a revolution to occur
  + After an overthrow, most new states tend to have a moderate faction that is in power and an extremist faction competing for power
    - The extremist power most often wins because
      * Extremists are more organized
      * Extremists can act more forcefully because they are not in charge
      * Moderates tend to be less populist in their actions
      * The moderates get blamed for the grievances of both the conservatives and extremists
      * Moderates tend to instill less enthusiasm in their population due to less populism
    - Reign of terror and virtue - when extremists begin to use terrorism and suppression to challenge the rule of the moderates
  + Most of the time, the post revolutionary state is disappointing in its outcomes. That is to say, the actual changes tend to fall short of the goals vied for by the revolutionaries
* An insurrection is not a revolution until a stable replacement state has been established

CH4

* Most conflicts between states are solvable
* Irresolvable conflicts
  + Demands of the two parties are too far apart or they hate each other too much
  + 3 modern ones
    - Israel Palestine
    - China Taiwan
    - India Pakistan
* Irresolvable conflicts share at least 7 characteristics
  + Resource involved is territory
  + Territorial conflict is deep and emotional, territory might have some cultural value
  + These emotions create positions that require mutually exclusive outcomes
  + The people have strong feelings toward the conflict, and deem their goals righteous
  + Outside states fail to intervene properly. Most states intervene in a conflict if it could disturb international stability
  + Inability of the parties to find acceptable outcomes to the conflict
  + The longer the conflict continue, the more the status quo hardens into a solution that is unacceptable to both but the least unacceptable overall
* Israel Palestine problem
  + Jews migrated to Palestine starting late 1800s
  + The holy lands lie in the region, which have been disputed by religions for millennia
  + In 1948, the large Jewish population declares themselves the state of Israel with support of US and USSR
  + Muslims are pissed, many flee, others declare war in hopes of destroying Israel
    - They were unorganized and israel pushed them back and gained more territory
    - The Palestinians fled this captured territory
  + The Palestinians want control over the entire area, israel wants them to stay in their area if not be integrated into Israel
    - Who will own Jerusalem is also a big deal
  + 1956 - UNEF withdraws from Israel Palestine border, leaving them to attack each other
    - Results in Egypt attacking israel with Jordan and syria
    - Israel beats them all and takes some of their land
  + 1973 yom Kippur war - israel loses and israel arms themselves with nukes for possible use against neighboring capitals
    - At this time US backed israel and USSR backed Muslim rivals
    - This caused outside nations to push for a peace process
* Peace process
  + Camp David I
    - Israel withdraws from Sinai peninsula
    - Egypt recognizes Israel and makes peace
    - Palestine gets west bank and Gaza strip to form their own state
  + Camp David II
    - Palestine and Israel disagreed over what autonomy meant for Palestine
    - Disputes over when and what to transfer to Palestine
    - A resolution was never made and violence continues
* In conclusion, after 30 years of US led peace negotiations, a satisfactory resolution has not been reached

CH3

* The concept of prosecution of war crimes is a recent (last 3 decades) part of IR
  + Became big after WWII, revived after cold war
* Attempts at prosecuting war crimes have not been too successful
* The main problem is that the ICC, which has been the main outlet for trial of war criminals, does not have universal reach.
* American position is opposed to it due to its fixation with sovereignty over its own citizens
  + American cooperation is critical to the success of the ICC
* The dilemma:
  + US vs rest of world
  + Sovereignty vs prosecution of war criminals

CH9

* Free trade is a controversial concept, with globalization being its most obvious manifestation
* In terms of macroeconomics, free trade is very alluring for a state or bloc’s economy due to comparative advantage
* At the individual level (microeconomics), free trade’s cons show with mass unemployment and termination of entire domestic industries, such as manufacturing in the US
  + This creates negative political stigma against globalization for certain demographics
* Fair Trade - the embrace of free trade in some regards, such as the lifting of certain barriers, but the placement of limitations such as protection of infant industries, in order to protect state interests
* The 2008 economic crisis convinced most actors that more globalization was needed