

INTRODUCTION CLASS (Week 1)

- Introductions: background, interests
- Very brief about structure of course and requirement (more detail later)

1. What is IR?

- What does it study?
- Focus on **war**
- Why war and not other? What's up with...
 - IPE
 - Intl Organizations
 - Human Rights
 - Development studies, Foreign Policy, etc

2. Historical origins of IR

- Importance of post-WWI, the League of Nations, and the role of Germany (more later on *classical* realism?)
- Pre WWI: colonialism, race, etc. Also international law
- Post WWI: more funding, more interest
 - Aberystwyth Uni > first dept on intl politics, 1918
- What if genocide? [Twitter](#), [Paul Poast](#)
 - Text by [DuBois in 1917](#) (in *J of Race Devt*)
 - No long peace, no democratic peace, no decline of war, “Cold” War? etc

3. Relations with other fields in PolSci

- IR, Comparative Politics, American, Methods
- Comparative politics vs IR
- **OPEN Q:** What drives democratization?
 - Domestic vs international: [evolution of Polity IV](#)
- What's the difference between comparative politics and IR? different approaches? not fixed boundaries. Example of **political violence**

4. Political violence

- What is it?
- Why study them in an IR course?
- Types? What are we going to cover in the course?
- Linnaean vs phylogenetic classification

5. IR Theories/Paradigms

- Realism / liberalism / constructivism
- Others: marxism (global capitalism, dependence theory), rational choice...
- Q: Russia: problem? what to do about it?
- Q: China? [link](#), [trading partners](#)
- Embrace De Gaulle / Adenauer, 1963 ([link](#))
 - What happened in 20 years?
 - Think as a **comparativist** and as a **IR scholar**
- Recap: IR theories flow chart (google)

6. What about EMPIRICS? How can you test all of this?

- Quantification of conflict (from international to internal, etc) vs qualitative
- Classic cross-country datasets (IR tradition) vs quant case studies
- Bueno de Mesquita's debate about external vs internal validity
 - Obviously, pre credibility revolution
 - Problem of context (e.g. remember Munger's discussion of media studies)