

POL 396: International Organization

Precept 1

Jing Qian

February 6, 2024

Logistics

1. Let's know each other
2. Precept Goals
3. Precept Syllabus & Grading
4. Review of Week 1 & Discussion

Let's know each other

- Preceptor: Jing Qian, Ph.D. (jingq@princeton.edu)
 - Ph.D. in Politics, Princeton University (September 2023)
 - Currently: Postgraduate Research Associate, Princeton Politics
 - Office hours: Tuesdays, 4:30-6:00pm in Fisher 100 & by appointment
Book office hour on <https://jingqian.org/pol396>
- Introduction - your name, year, major, and what you're excited to get out of this course?

Precept Goals

To help **YOU** better understand the class through small-group discussion.

- **Review:** Lecture & Readings from the previous week.
- **Discuss:** Connections across lectures/readings & real-world issues.
- **Explore:** Basic approaches for social science studies.

How could I better help you?

- Let me know before/during/after precepts, and/or
- Submit anonymous Google Form feedback at
<https://jingqian.org/pol396>

Precept Syllabus & Grading

Precept Syllabus available on Canvas (Syllabus Library)

- Precept participation: 10%
 - Attendance is required (only exception: explanation from your Dean)
 - **One-time exception: Email me in advance**
- Precept assignment: 10%
 - Weekly assignment: Multiple choice questions and answers
 - ★ **Due** every Friday at 11:59 pm
 - Three mnemonic devices
 - ★ **Due** Dean's Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2024 5pm

Reading: Abbot and Snidal (1998)

Why states act through formal international organizations?

Reading: Abbot and Snidal (1998)

What are the functional characteristics that lead states to prefer IOs to alternate forms of institutionalization?

- ☐ a Localization
- ☐ b Centralization
- ☐ c Independence
- ☐ d Flexibility

Reading: Abbot and Snidal (1998)

What are the functional characteristics that lead states to prefer IOs to alternate forms of institutionalization?

- a Localization
- b Centralization
- c Independence
- d Flexibility

Reading: Abbot and Snidal (1998)

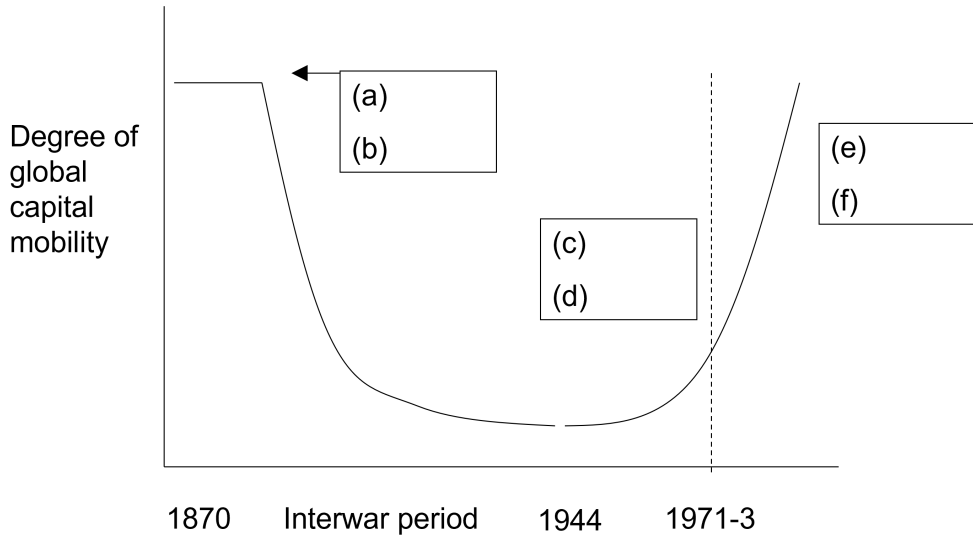
Centralization and Independence

- Centralization: a concrete and stable organization structure and an administrative apparatus managing collective activities
- Independence: the authority to act with a degree of autonomy, and often with neutrality, in defined spheres

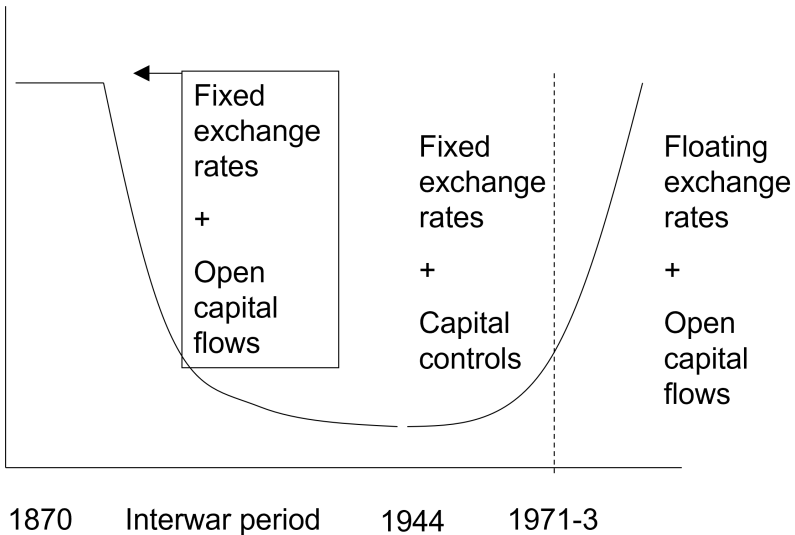
The Trilemma

- Free Capital Flow
 - Draw on the savings of the rest of the world
 - Investment opportunities abroad
- Fixed Exchange Rate
 - Reduce uncertainty in trade
- Sovereign Monetary Policy
 - Address inflation/unemployment

How do different countries choose different combinations?



Degree of
global
capital
mobility



What explains the different choices?

Why Did We Need the IMF?



The Mount Washington Hotel in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire.

Why Did We Need the IMF?



Omni Mount Washington Resort, November 2022

Why Did We Need the IMF?

- When was the IMF established?
- What were countries' choice in terms of the trilemma? (Hint: Gold Standard)
- What might happen in case of fluctuations/crisis? (Hint: beggar-thy-neighbor)
- How could IMF help?

We will continue discussing the IMF next week