Defining the Small State : Risa Brooks, Stephen Biddle, Baldur Thorhallsson

My question to Ken: Ken Doubled on legitimacy as COG for small states, prudent for Ireland to think about a transition away from the shelter of US. Ireland does well on its soft power “does have a limited impact”. Ireland needs to consider her policies in the context of ‘shelter’ of a big state / great power. Ireland’s Cold War model was focused on promoting human rights, international law. Is that environment persisting? What’s the trade off on our values and interests?

Particularly regarding the declining legitimacy of the multilateral institutions on which the structural realist system appears to be based

For the last 2 weeks or so we have been hearing about contemporary international relations.

While it’s all very interesting, a colleague mentioned to me yesterday that it’s somewhat disheartening – particularly in the context of what it means for our children.

I think it’s hard not to agree.

I thought your talk was particularly insightful in helping to see the context.

In particular, I’d like to reflect on your analysis of Russia, that Russia is never going to trade its way back to the top table.

Instead, the strategy is the pull others down

Thank you for your time

Relative decline of USA in GDP over last 100 years. Make them at least more open to questioning if the status quo system remains beneficial for them.

What if any influence would you see smaller powers having in the context of great power competition – particularly in the context of alliances.

Would you feel that contemporary Ireland has forgotten or ignored the lessons of WW2

Buzan and Lawson: 2015 “legalised hegemony”

From WW1 , war amongst the great powers no longer made sense as strategy because it extracted too great a toll on the powers. This followed the first attempt to create the first multilateral order per the League of Nations.

Peoples formed their own governments, and therefore they’d be less likely to go to war because they’d be voting on their own fates