

International Relations



International Relations

- International Relations is concerned with relations across boundaries of nation-states
- Numerous factors influence IR,
 - Some of these are relatively permanent and can be controlled or changed by the human effort only in a limited degree.
 - Others may be created or destroyed by deliberate human action.

Influences on International Relations

The nature of international relations is determined and modified by numerous factors. Among the most important of these influences are of the following:

- 1) Geographical Factors
- 2) Population Factors
- 3) Psychological Factors
- 4) Historical Factors
- 5) Religious Factors
- 6) Cultural Factors
- 7) Economical Factors
- 8) Mechanical Factors

1. Geographical Factors

- Geographical factors include the natural barriers, caused by mountains, deserts, rivers, and the sea, which divide the earth surface into natural geographic units.
- Geographical factors include also distribution of the natural resources of the earth, specially those commodities are essential to economic life of the period.
- **Changes in the relative importance** of such commodities may be decisive in the rise and fall of states. Ex: the value of **coal** and **iron** in the industrial revolution of a century ago, and the importance of **oil** in the modern world.
- The international problem of an island state or of a state with well defined natural frontiers are quite different from those of a state which is easy of access and which is surrounded by strong neighbors.
- **Navigable rivers** (ex: Danube) which flow though several states may be a source of conflict and demand special treaty arrangement or international control.

2. Population Factors

- Population factors include the number of people living in a given area, their relation to the means of subsistence and to the resource available, the rate of growth of population.
- The question of immigrating and colonization are important in international relation.
- Racial difference of the population also affect the IR



3. Psychological Factors

- These include certain traits of human nature, such as pride, fear, pugnacity, selfishness, and ambition. These may be stimulated by the education and propaganda. As a result there may be developing a strong feeling of patriotic nationalism and ambitious schemes of imperialism
- On the other hand, emphasis on the altruistic sentiments and on the unity of mankind and its interests may lead to a cosmopolitan and international point of view.

4. Historical Factors

- The relations among states are influenced to a large extent by their past history and by the traditions that are handed down from generation to generation.
- As a result of past wars, states may view others states as their hereditary enemies.
- As a result of aid, states may cherish sentiments of friendship for other states, though their policies may be decidedly less friendly.

5. Religious Factors

- Differences in religious belief and in religious practices and observances have frequently been cause of international difficulty.



6. Cultural Factors

- Differences in the degree of intelligence and of civilization among different people of the earth create international complications.
- Even differences in customs, manner and ethical standards causes international misunderstanding.
 - People with high standards of living desire protection from the cheap labour of less advanced people.
 - People with stable institutions dislike the disorder, violence, and revolution which frequently exist among less developed peoples and which may affect the life or property of their citizens.

7. Economic Factors

- In the modern world, international relations are concerned to a large extent with promotion of the economic interests of the state or of certain classes within the state.
- Industrial states are concerned with the securing of raw materials and of markets for their finished goods.
- For the protection of their home industry and as a phase of their commercial rivalry, states erect tariff barriers against those competitors or exclude competitive products coming from other states.
- States with surplus capital desire opportunity for profitable investment abroad.
- The problems of international debts and international reparations are further examples of the importance of economic interests in present day international affairs.



8. Mechanical Factors

- International relations are affected by scientific discoveries and by mechanical inventions. Most important of these: improvement in the means of '**transportation**' and '**communication**'.
- The ability of men to overcome natural obstacles by many inventions.- Tunnel, bridge, draining of swamps, irrigation of desserts.
- Applies to warfare.



IR: After WWII



Bi-polar Politics

- Soon after the end of World War II in 1945, international politics could be seen as a bipolar system, a system in which two superpower governments—the United States and the USSR—emerged.
- A *cold war* (ongoing tensions and rivalries but not actual military attacks on each other) ensued between the superpowers.

Policy of Containment —→ Truman Doctrine —→ Marshall Plan

- In 1947, President Harry S. Truman pledged that the United States would help any nation resist communism in order to prevent its spread. His policy of **containment** is known as the **Truman Doctrine**.
- To help rebuild after the war, the United States pledged \$13 billion of aid to Europe in the **Marshall Plan**.

Policy of Containment

- Containment was the name given to U.S. foreign policy objectives in the years immediately after World War II. George F. Kennan (US diplomat and historian) spelled out the logic of containment policy in 1946–1947.
- Kennan argued that U.S. foreign policy should contain and limit **Soviet expansionism**. Containment policy was premised on a view of the USSR as a hostile rival to the United States, a rival that could be expected to try to expand its influence over territory beyond even eastern Europe and into, perhaps, the Middle East, the Mediterranean, and other regions.
- By containing any potential Soviet expansionist push, Kennan reasoned, the United States would not only curb the Soviet Union's sphere of influence but also impose strain and pressure on the Soviet system by perpetually thwarting its goals. Thus, in the long term, a containment policy could possibly compel a reconfiguration of the USSR into a less expansionist form of government.

Truman Doctrine

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- Announced by President Truman in 1947, the Truman Doctrine stated that the United States would aid countries in resisting what Truman called the “totalitarian” threat posed by the USSR.
- The Truman Doctrine claimed that the interest of the United States was served by providing economic assistance to countries that might otherwise come under Soviet influence.
- Greece and Turkey were foremost in Truman’s mind in 1947, but his doctrine opened up possibilities for aid to numerous countries.

Marshall Plan

- Indeed, beginning in 1948, the Marshall Plan provided U.S. economic aid to Europe, consistent with the containment philosophy. Fearing that the economic damage to Europe during World War II would render it vulnerable to Soviet influence, the United States asked European governments to submit plans for economic rebuilding; in return for U.S. aid in this rebuilding process, the United States asked each recipient country to share its budgetary data with the United States and required that U.S. exports play a key role in the rebuilding effort.
- A number of European countries accepted the terms of the Marshall Plan and used U.S. aid to restore their economies. Food, coal, electricity, oil, steel, and transportation sectors were targeted for immediate rebuilding.

NATO and Warsaw

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization was formed in 1949. It provided for a common defense of member countries. The original members were the United States, Canada, Denmark, Iceland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Britain, France, Belgium, The Netherlands, and Luxembourg. Members pledged to defend any other member attacked. Under these terms, NATO was intended to provide a deterrence against Soviet military expansion.
- The Soviets exploded their own atomic bomb in 1949 and they formed the Soviet–Eastern European military alliance known as the Warsaw Treaty Organization (Warsaw Pact) in 1955.

Cold War Events

- **The Korean War (1950–1953)** began with what the United States considered to be a Soviet-inspired decision by North Korea to attack South Korea. The United States supported South Korea.
- **The Cuban missile** crisis developed in 1962, when the United States discovered Soviet missile sites in Cuba and demanded that the Soviets remove their missiles from Cuba.
- **The Soviet Union sent troops into Czechoslovakia** in 1968 to maintain Soviet influence.
- **The United States had more than 540,000 troops in Vietnam** by the end of 1969 and justified the deployment on the grounds of preventing communist expansion in South Vietnam.

United Nations

- Role: The charter establishing the UN was created by representatives from 51 governments in 1945.
Chapter One of the UN Charter suggests that the purposes of the UN include efforts
 - To promote peace and security
 - To support principles of equality and self-governance of all people
 - To support human rights, freedom, and justice
 - To help governments in pursuit of mutually supportive objectives
- The charter further calls on member governments to abstain from threats and violence against any other governments, to assist the UN in carrying out its purposes, and to abstain from aiding any government against which the UN is taking actions.
- The enforcement of the UN Charter depends on the resources and support that member governments give to the UN.

China US Trade War



- <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-45899310>
- <https://www.china-briefing.com/news/the-us-china-trade-war-a-timeline/>