

# International Relations!



# What will I cover in this session?

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1. Sources to collect knowledge/what knowledge to collect
2. Structures
3. What do I do if I know nothing?
4. FPs to note
5. Case Studies

Check the notes section for added thoughts and clarifications!

# Tips

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- Don't panic!
  - Everyone is scared too! -> the Adj probably doesn't know either
  - You'll probably piss off fewer countries than Trump
- These are objective and logical
  - Solve conflict
  - Don't let people die
  - People/countries have goals
- Make sure you have a clear characterization
- I think they're fun!

# What information should I gather?

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- Learn about the big players
  - USA
  - China
  - Russia
  - European Union
- Flashpoints when they pop up
  - What are the causes
  - Who are the regional players
    - What do they want
  - International players
- Understand the who
  - What are their interests
  - Who do they answer to
- Understand the why
  - What benefits would nations get out of doing this
  - Why are they doing this instead of something else
- How do international organisations function
  - EU

# Sources

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- News Papers

- The Economist
- The Diplomat
- Al Jazeera
- BBC News -> World reports

- Videos

- Caspian Report -> <https://www.youtube.com/user/CaspianReport/videos>
- PolyMatter -> <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgNg3vwj3xt7QOrclDaHdFg/videos>
- Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs -> <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCok8bs3XNbyU93LMwQ4A55w>
- Foreign Chronicles -> <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCO-NZoGEzCE5klWUCZVDuWQ/videos>
- KJ Vids -> [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxKw\\_SuEJYD4r796Rs8wpQg/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxKw_SuEJYD4r796Rs8wpQg/videos)

# Debating Lectures to Watch

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- Tom Stansfield -> 2016 International Relations (<https://youtu.be/PPUL517U4DU>)
- Duncan Crowe -> International Relations with Duncan Crowe (<https://youtu.be/S9mLMVWSz2A>)

# How do I win these debates?

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- Be the side that saves lives, make lives better
  - What changes domestically -> get a more stable country
- If actor, show how this country will be in a better position with this policy
  - Look at this country's interests
- Geopolitics, how does this affect this country's relations with other countries
  - How does this policy work and how does it pivot them in the right direction (signaling)
- At its core identify the conflict inside or between countries and fix it

# How does a government function?

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- Supports needed to be a government
  - Domestic
  - Military
  - Oligarchs/Rich people
  - International Backing
  - Money
- How do they get it?
  - Economics
  - Culture
  - Ideology/History
  - Leadership
    - Strongmen
  - Interest of regional/big players

## Ways to make the government change

- Factions within ruling party
- Oppositions
- Business (Domestic/International)
- Military power



# So you wanna invade a country? Or fix a problem?

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- Affirmative

- What is the problem and what is the cause of it
  - What is this country doing
  - Set the bar -> Do not reflect the will of the people
- Why is this the only option? Why has everything else failed?
  - Why can't we do something else
  - Usually softer things have been tried
- How will this solution fix it?
  - Give the mechanism
  - If war
    - What will you target
    - What does your actor do well
    - Will they fight back?
- What is the long-term with your proposal
  - Elections/Aid/Hearts and Minds

- Negative

- Tactical choice, push back or have your own solution
- Disproportional/Not what people want
  - Slow down their impetus
- Other solutions that are better
  - Softer or harder line
- Why their solution won't work
  - What's their will to be engaged?
  - Spillover?
  - Why their long term will be bad
- What's your long term

# What are the solutions in my arsenal?

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- Boots on the ground -> Peacekeeping or invasion
- Picking a side -> supplying arms/Intelligence/Secret actions (coups, assassinations)/missiles
- Diplomacy -> Political pressure, bribes, sanctions,
- Economic engagement -> Investment, bring them into the international community
- Effectiveness is very much linked to how that country views this other country

# Signaling

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- Useful in low impact topics
  - Japan shaming soldiers who participated in WW2
  - Country developing Nukes
- Steps
  - What signal does this country want to send?
    - Identify the narrative that a country wants to show? -> which side do they want to win, that they're stable, that they're strong, consistency
  - Who does it want to signal?
    - Domestic actors
    - Other international powers
  - Why is it likely to be true/effective?
    - Look through other actors and what makes them tick

# Example #1

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- That NATO should deploy peacekeepers to Libya

## Example #2

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- That the international community should recognize Somaliland as an independent and sovereign nation

# Relevant FPs, areas to research/understand

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- Aggressive v Diplomatic Approaches
  - Soft v hard power
- Is China good or evil?
- Should countries turn to the West or China?
- Are you better off within or outside of a country?



# Case Study: Sanctions

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- Success -> South Africa!
  - 'Allies' of South Africa
  - Domestic opposition
  - Private businesses
  - When reliant on international supply chains (ie oil, flows of credit)
  - Comprehensive and consistent international opposition
- Things you're targeting
  - Psychological effect of being isolated
  - Harder to pay for military/trade to get items
  - Deny access to certain key things
  - Pushing domestic actors to force change
- Failure -> North Korea!
  - USA/West is perceived as an enemy
  - Ideology -> Juche
  - State control of business/resources
  - International Backdoors/ways to evade
  - Hurt ordinary people and left the powerful mostly untouched



World: So you are going to Iraq to bring democracy?

USA:



# Case Study: Intervention

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- Success = Kosovo/Balkans!

- War between Kosovo v Yugoslavia/Serbia
- Intervention by NATO after diplomatic talks did not go anywhere
  - Was an air campaign hitting Yugoslav military targets and troops
  - Some refugees and civilian targets were hit
- Credited with stopping genocide
- NATO moved in troops after Serbia left
  - 50000 at beginning, still around 3500 around
  - Ensure there is stability/freedom of movement/clear out military hardware/develop institutions -> as still ethnic divisions
  - Work very closely with communities on the ground to see what their issues are

- Failure = Iraq!

- Goal to remove Saddam Hussein for breaching ceasefire, supporting terrorism and repression of Iraqi civilians, control of oil (was nationalized)
- Invasion massive success, over in a month
- Problems post war
  - Iraqi army and state was dissolved then US army did not step in to police
  - Constitution was drafted by US forces with minimal consultation
  - Preference given to Shia Muslims leading to ethnic tensions continuing between them and Sunni Muslims
  - Geography made insurgency effective
  - Allowed the rise of terrorist groups later (hardware, connections)