

LECTURE / DISCUSSION / DEBATE  
INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM THEORIES, LAW, AND ORGANIZATIONS

**Terms and concepts to know:**

Nation-state	Internationalism
Level of analysis	System / state / individual
Realism	Liberalism / Pluralism / Transnationalism
Globalism / Class System Theory	Developed world
LDC's and LLDC's	Lenin and imperialism
World Systems Theory	Dependency Theory
"Liberal-Democratic" Peace Theory	United Nations and "peacekeeping"
Economic sanctions	Diplomacy
International law	Positivist versus "Natural Law" positions
Bilateral / multilateral treaties	ICJ (World Court)
IGO / NGO	OAU / WTO / OAS / EU / NATO
MNC's and TNC's	"High" politics versus "Low" politics

**Study and discussion questions:**

1. Discuss the level of analysis problem in international relations theory. Which level are you most comfortable when doing research?
2. Discuss and debate the three system level theories of IR. How are they similar to the philosophical theories we examined earlier? Which appears to you to have the best explanatory and prescriptive qualities for research?
3. Heineman, quoting Mueller, suggests that major war "has gradually moved toward disrepute because of perceived repulsiveness and futility." Do you agree with this assessment? Why or why not?
4. Many have suggested that liberal democracies do not go to war with one another and can show strong empirical data to back this proposition up. Can we rely on this thesis and does it suggest that promoting democracy abroad is in our best interest?
5. Are economic sanctions an effective method of dealing with "rogue" nations? What are the benefits and pitfalls of such methods?
6. Discuss the schizophrenic position of the UN Charter. How should we reconcile the concepts of sovereignty and self-defense?
7. Discuss the difference between "high" and "low" politics. Which should be of primary importance in the post-Cold War world?

**Readings:**

Heineman. *Political Science*, Chapters 16 and 17.

**Video:**

*National Bird*.