

LECTURE / DISCUSSION / DEBATE
INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Terms and concepts to know:

International relations
War and conflict
International actors
International economics
Wealth distribution
Globalization
Global environment
International relations theory
Concepts

Hypotheses
Generalizations
Theory
Empirical theories
Normative theories
Levels of analysis
Individual level of analysis
State level of analysis
System level of analysis

Study and discussion questions:

1. How has politics been affected by the expansion of force, through technological change, and its dispersion?
2. How has world politics been affected by changes in capitalism?
3. Is there any plausible sense in which progress has taken place in international relations, and if so, is this progress due to intellectual or moral advances in human thinking?
4. What is the impact on world politics of the increasing diversity and complexity of social structures in the most powerful societies of the world?
5. What are the implications of electronic technologies, especially of the Internet, for world politics?
6. What modes of action can effectively cope with the unprecedented stress that human beings are imposing on the global environment?
7. Briefly describe Walt's "5 Big Questions" about contemporary world politics. Of the five, which one do you think is most important and how would you answer it?
8. Explain what Chipaike means by African agency in international relations. Why does he believe this agency is left out of most contemporary Western explanations of I.R.?
9. Pick one of the 5 points that Rosenthal sees as one of the "...moments that will shape ethics in international affairs" this year. Where are your points of agreement or disagreement with the author? With all the chaos in international relations right now, does it make sense to discuss "ethics"?

Readings:

Text. *Conflict and Cooperation*, Chapter 1.

Video:

Ukraine on Fire.