

LECTURE / DISCUSSION / DEBATE
LIBERALISM, PLURALISM, TRANSNATIONALISM

Terms and concepts to know:

Institutional transnationalism
International Law
Economic transnationalism
Regime
Multinational corporations

Natural Law
Collective security
Interdependence
Complex interdependence
Harmony of Interests

Study and discussion questions:

1. Discuss some of the key differences between the realist school and the liberal school of IR. Which of the critique liberal theory do you find most and least compelling?
2. Explain Meiser's contradiction between liberal theory and American imperialism? Does the author give a sufficient analysis of how the two interact? Why or why not?
3. In a section of the Badie, Schlosser, and Molino article, the authors ask whether liberal democracy should be imposed by military intervention. Do you believe this violates liberal principles? Why or why not?
4. What is soft power (according to Joseph Nye)? Does the author claim it is more effective than hard power? Do you agree?
5. Recently the US hosted a "Summit for Democracy" in the grand tradition of liberal international values. Not everyone was impressed, here or elsewhere. Examine Rubenstein's argument and comment on whether you think the United States deserves a seat at the international table for such an event.
6. Do you believe that Keohane's use of the phrase "informal violence" is a useful alternative to the term *terrorism*? Has the term *terrorism* become too politicized to be useful as an analytical term? If so, why?
7. What aspect of liberalism (institutional or economic transnationalism) does De Soto focus on in the documentary and can you find any internal inconsistencies or contradictions?

Readings:

Text. *Conflict and Cooperation*, Chapter 3.

Video:

The Power of the Poor.