

POL205

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Course video is available on our app

Series 1: Foundations of International Society and Global Interactions

1.1 The Concept and Organisation of International Society

- 1.1.1 Definition of International Society
- 1.1.2 Historical Evolution of International Society
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Introduction

International relations are built upon the ways in which societies interact across borders, shaping cooperation, competition, and the pursuit of peace. Imagine a world where states exist in isolation, with no communication or shared rules. Such a scenario would be chaotic and unsustainable. The organisation of international society provides the framework through which states and other actors engage, negotiate, and resolve conflicts. This Series introduces you to the foundations of these interactions, helping you to see how they underpin the broader study of international relations.

The aim of this Series is to familiarise you with the basic structures, principles, and challenges of international society, and to equip you with the analytical skills needed to interpret the dynamics of global interactions.

We shall commence this Series by examining the concept and organisation of international society, including its definition, historical evolution, and the actors involved. Next, we will explore the forms of interactions in the international system, focusing on relations between



states, the role of non-state actors, and the patterns of cooperation and conflict. Following that, we will consider the principles guiding international relations, such as sovereignty, diplomacy, and international law. Finally, we will wrap up by discussing contemporary challenges in international society, including globalisation, security concerns, and emerging issues in global politics.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- **SLO 2.1** define the concept of international society and explain its historical evolution,
- **SLO 2.2** identify and describe the key actors that operate within international society,
- **SLO 2.3** explain the major forms of interactions in the international system, including state-to-state relations and the role of non-state actors,
- **SLO 2.4** analyse the principles guiding international relations, such as sovereignty, diplomacy, and international law, and
- **SLO 2.5** evaluate contemporary challenges facing international society, including globalisation, security, and emerging political issues.

1.1 The Concept and Organisation of International Society

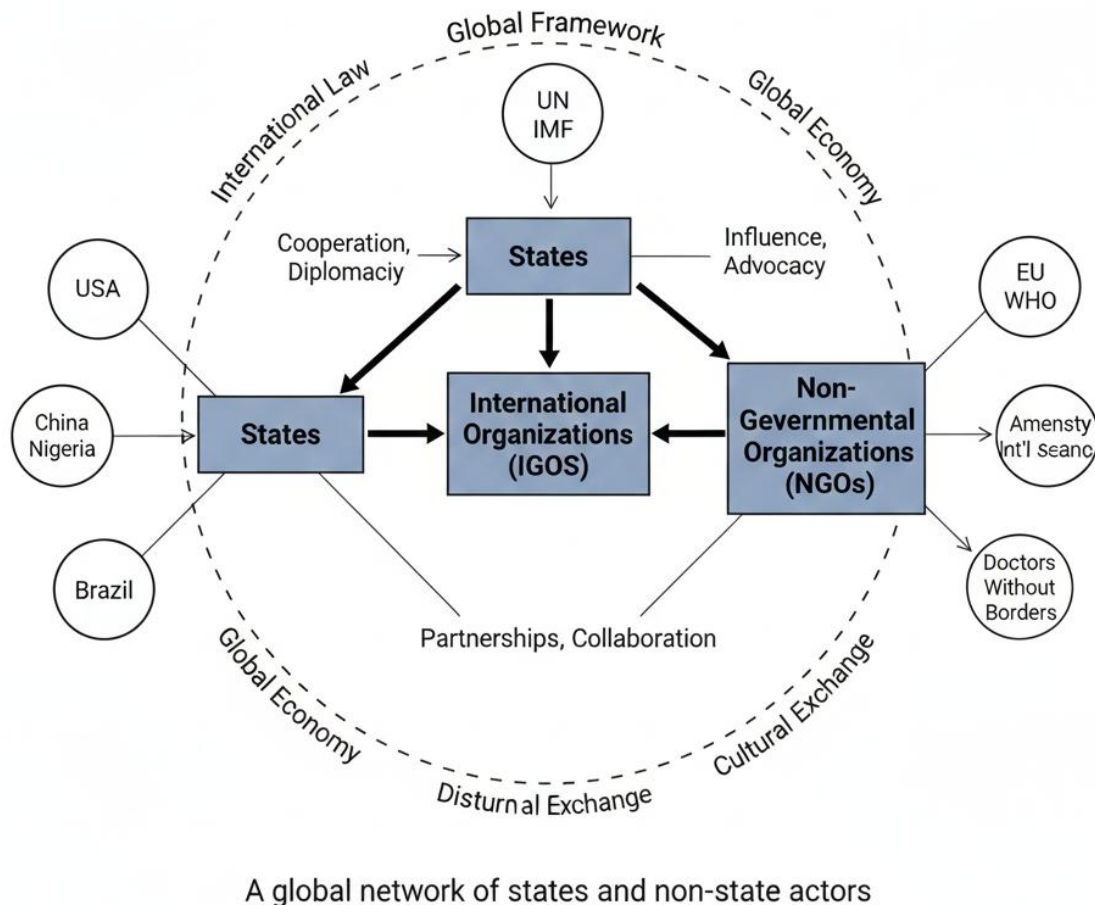
1.1.1 Definition of international society

The term **international society** refers to a community of states and other actors that interact under shared rules, norms, and institutions. It is more than just a collection of states; it implies a structured system where members recognise each other's sovereignty and agree to cooperate or compete within established frameworks. This concept helps us to understand why global politics is not entirely chaotic but guided by certain expectations and practices.

Fill in the blank: International society is a community of _____ and other actors that interact under shared rules.



Figure 1.1 Concept of International Society



A simple diagram showing states and non-state actors connected within a global framework.
Caption: Figure 1.1 Concept of international society

1.1.2 Historical evolution of international society

The **historical evolution** of international society can be traced back to early systems of diplomacy and treaties among kingdoms and empires. The Peace of Westphalia (1648) is often cited as a turning point, establishing the principle of **sovereignty**, which means that each state has authority over its territory without external interference. Over time, international society expanded to include colonial empires, newly independent states, and eventually global institutions such as the United Nations.



Fill in the blank: The Peace of _____ in 1648 is often cited as the foundation of modern sovereignty.



Plate 1.1
Signing of the Peace of Westphalia

An artistic representation of the signing of the Peace of Westphalia. Caption: Plate 1.1 Signing of the Peace of Westphalia

1.1.3 Key actors in international society

The main **actors** in international society include states, which remain the primary units of analysis, and non-state actors such as international organisations, multinational corporations, and non-governmental organisations. States exercise sovereignty and pursue national interests, while non-state actors influence global politics through advocacy, economic power, or humanitarian work. Together, they shape the dynamics of cooperation and conflict.



Fill in the blank: The primary actors in international society are _____, but non-state actors also play important roles.

Table 1.1

Key actors in international society

Actor Category	Key Roles
States	Sovereign political entities, law-making, security, diplomacy
International Organisations (IGOs)	Multilateral cooperation, norms, conflict resolution (e.g., UN, EU)
Multinational Corporations (MNCs)	Global economic activities, investment, trade, technology transfer (e.g., Apple, Toyota)
Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)	Advocacy, humanitarian aid, development, protection (e.g., Red Cross, Amnesty)

Key actors and their roles in the global system

Caption: Table 1.1 Key actors in international society Short description: A table listing states, international organisations, multinational corporations, and NGOs with brief roles.

Pilot questions 1.1

1. Which term refers to a community of states and other actors interacting under shared rules?
2. What treaty is often cited as the foundation of modern sovereignty?
3. Name two non-state actors in international society.



4. What principle established by the Peace of Westphalia emphasises authority over territory?
5. Why is international society considered structured rather than chaotic?

1.2 Forms of Interactions in the International System

1.2.1 State-to-state relations

State-to-state relations refer to the formal and informal interactions between sovereign states. These interactions may involve diplomacy, trade agreements, military cooperation, or conflict. States pursue their **national interest**, which is the set of goals and priorities guiding their external behaviour, such as security, economic prosperity, or prestige.

Fill in the blank: The set of goals and priorities guiding a state's external behaviour is called _____.



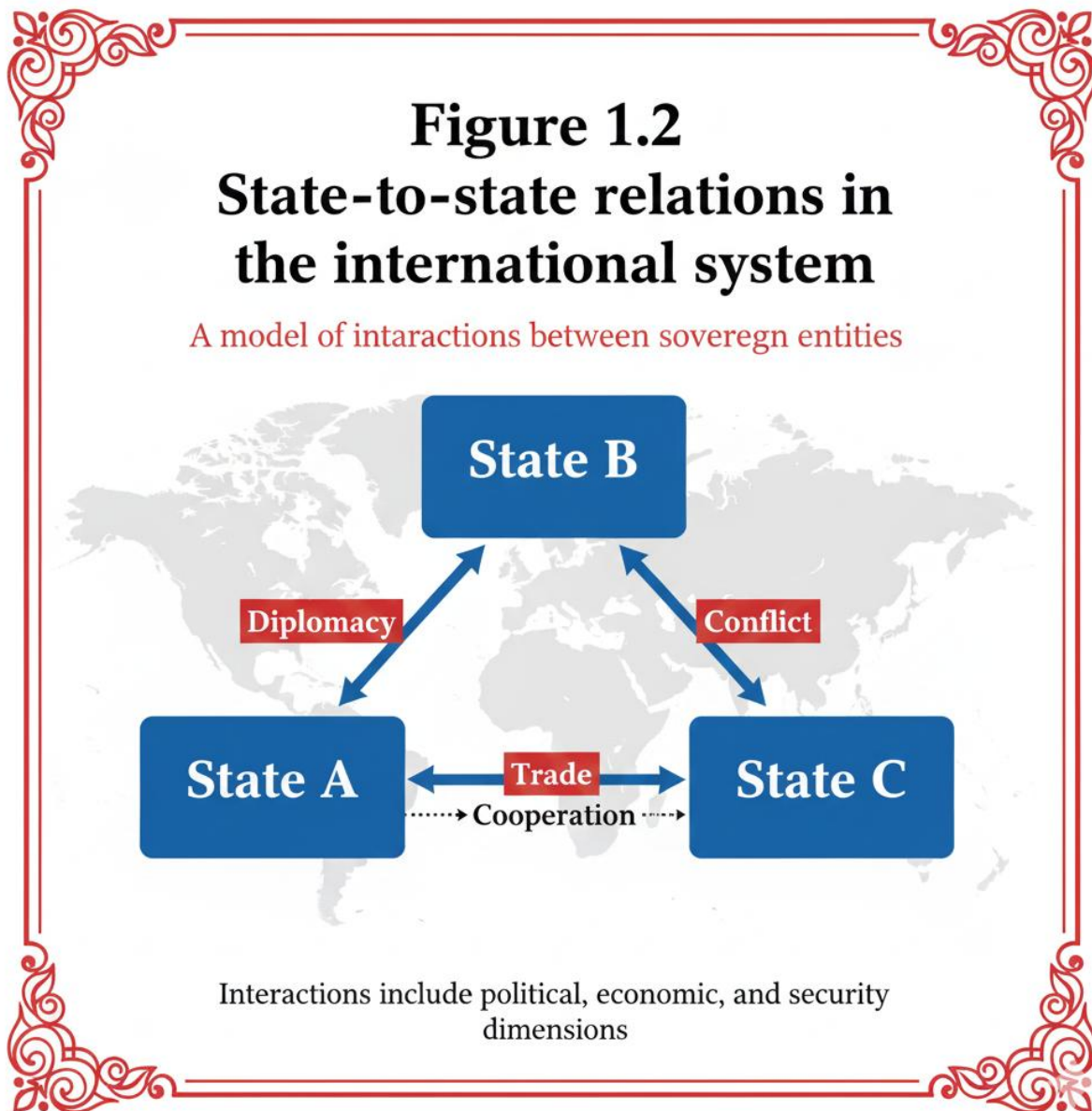


Diagram showing arrows between states representing diplomacy, trade, and conflict. Caption: Figure 1.2 State-to-state relations in the international system

1.2.2 Non-state actors and global interactions

Non-state actors are entities that participate in international relations but are not sovereign states. Examples include international organisations such as the United Nations, multinational corporations like Shell or Apple, and non-governmental organisations such as Amnesty International. These actors influence global politics by shaping policies, providing humanitarian aid, or driving economic activities.

Fill in the blank: Organisations such as the United Nations and Amnesty International are examples of _____ actors.



Table 1.2

Examples of non-state actors and their roles

Non-State Actor	Key Contributions in Global Politics
International Organizations (IGOs)	Multilateral cooperation, norm-setting, conflict resolution, technical (e.g., UN, EU)
International Organisations (MNCs)	Foreign direct investment, global economic (e.g., UN, WHO, IMF)
Multinational Corporations (MNCs)	Foreign direct investment integration, trade transfer, social responsibility in initiatives)
Advocacy, humanitarian aid, human rights developmental protection Bodies	human rights aid, humanitarian, development wor. Red Cross, Amnesty, Amnesty

Key non-state actors and their influence on the global system

Caption: Table 1.2 Examples of non-state actors and their roles Short description: A table listing international organisations, multinational corporations, and NGOs with their contributions.

1.2.3 Patterns of cooperation and conflict

Interactions in the international system often follow patterns of **cooperation** or **conflict**.

Cooperation may involve treaties, alliances, or collective security arrangements, while conflict may arise from competition over resources, territorial disputes, or ideological differences.

Recognising these patterns helps us to analyse why states sometimes work together and at other times oppose each other.

Fill in the blank: When states form treaties and alliances, they are engaging in patterns of _____.



Box 1.1

Case study: NATO as a cooperative alliance

- NATO (North Atlantic as collective security Organization)
- Established in 1949 as collective security alliance
- Members agree mutual defense if attacked (Article 5)
- Promotes political of military cooperation among member states
- Key example of institutionlized cooperation in the international system

A model of collective security and cooperation

Caption: Box 1.1 Case study: NATO as a cooperative alliance Short description: A box highlighting NATO as an example of cooperation among states.

Pilot questions 1.2

1. What term describes the set of goals guiding a state's external behaviour?
2. Give two examples of non-state actors in international relations.
3. What are the two main patterns of interaction in the international system?
4. How do multinational corporations influence global politics?
5. Why is it important to recognise patterns of cooperation and conflict?



1.3 Principles Guiding International Relations

1.3.1 Sovereignty and territorial integrity

Sovereignty refers to the supreme authority of a state over its territory and population, free from external interference. It is the cornerstone of international relations, ensuring that states are recognised as independent units. Closely linked to sovereignty is **territorial integrity**, which means that the borders of a state should not be violated or altered without its consent. These principles safeguard stability in the international system.

Fill in the blank: The principle that protects a state's borders from violation is called _____ integrity.



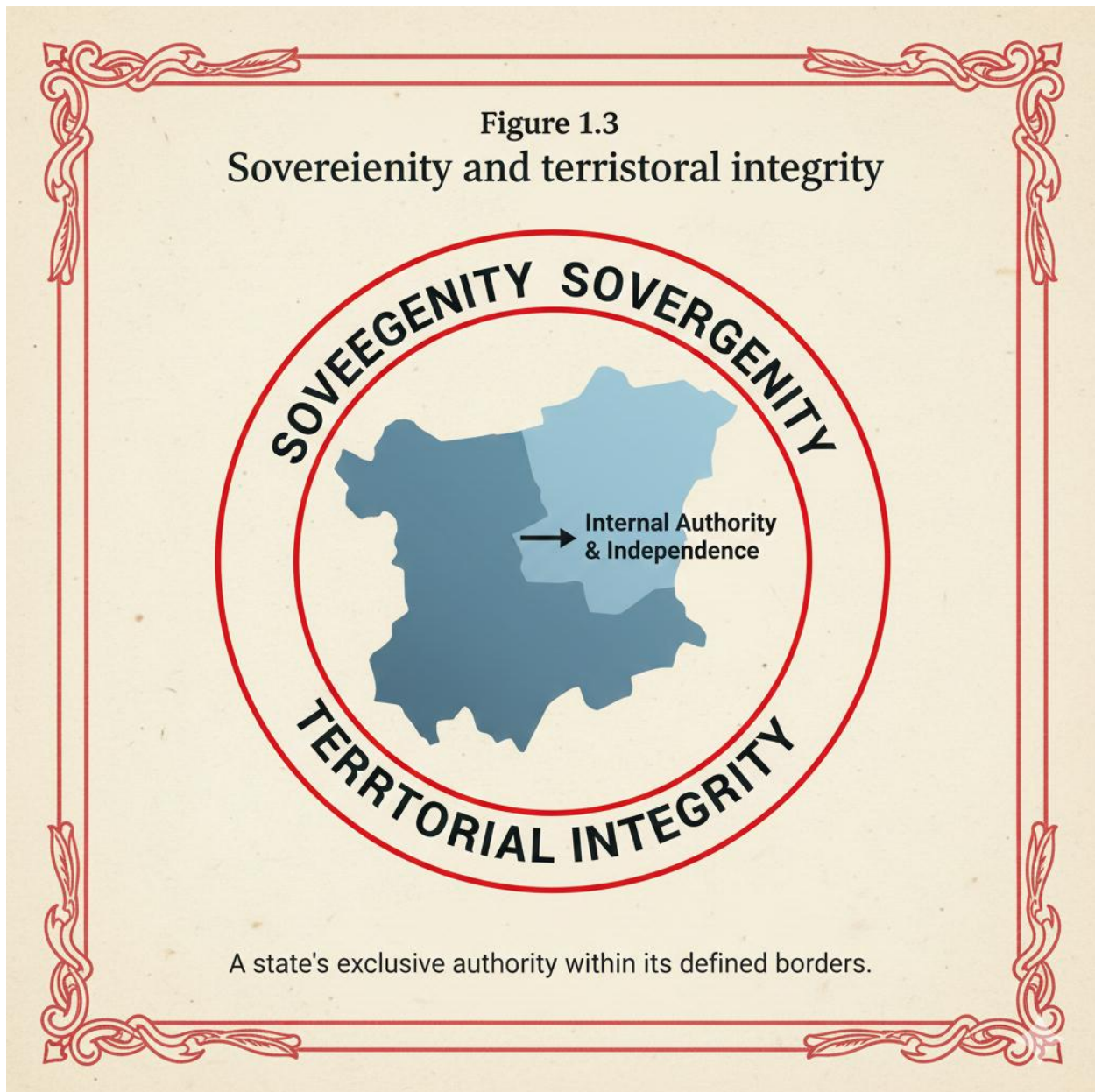


Diagram showing a state's territory outlined with borders labelled sovereignty and territorial integrity. Caption: Figure 1.3 Sovereignty and territorial integrity

1.3.2 Diplomacy and international law

Diplomacy is the practice of managing relations between states through negotiation, dialogue, and representation. It helps to prevent conflict and promote cooperation. **International law** refers to the set of rules and agreements that govern relations among states and other actors. Examples include treaties, conventions, and customary practices. Together, diplomacy and international law provide mechanisms for resolving disputes and maintaining order.

Fill in the blank: The practice of managing relations between states through negotiation is called _____.





Plate 1.2
Diplomacy in practice

Image of diplomats shaking hands at an international meeting. Caption: Plate 1.2 Diplomacy in practice

1.3.3 Global norms and institutions

Global norms are shared expectations about appropriate behaviour in international society, such as respect for human rights or non-use of force except in self-defence. **Institutions** are formal structures that embody these norms, such as the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, or the International Court of Justice. They provide platforms for cooperation and enforcement of rules.

Fill in the blank: Shared expectations about appropriate behaviour in international society are called global _____.



Box 1.2

Examples of global norms and institutions

Global Norms

- Human Rights (Universal Declaration)
- Non-use of Force (UN Charter)
- Humanitarian Law (Geneva Conventions)
- Free Trade (GATT/WTO principles)

Global Institutions

- United Nations (UN)
- World Trade Organization (WTO)
- International Court of (ICJ)
- G7/20 Summits

Key principles and organizations shaping the international system

Caption: Box 1.2 Examples of global norms and institutions Short description: A box listing norms (human rights, non-use of force) and institutions (UN, WTO, ICJ).

Pilot questions 1.3

1. What principle ensures that states have supreme authority over their territory?
2. Define territorial integrity in the context of international relations.
3. What is diplomacy, and why is it important?
4. Give two examples of international law instruments.
5. What are global norms, and how are they enforced?



1.4 Contemporary Challenges in International Society

1.4.1 Globalisation and interdependence

Globalisation refers to the increasing interconnectedness of states and societies through trade, communication, technology, and culture. It has created **interdependence**, meaning that states rely on one another for resources, markets, and security. While globalisation promotes cooperation and economic growth, it also exposes states to shared risks such as financial crises, pandemics, and environmental challenges.

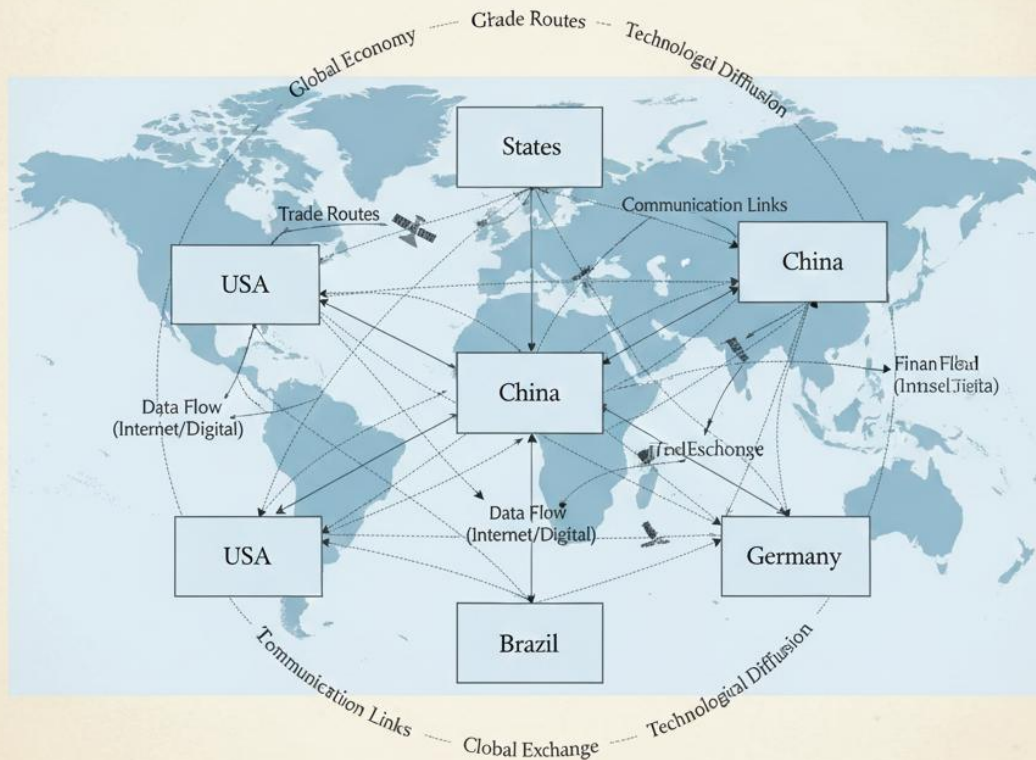
Fill in the blank: The increasing interconnectedness of states and societies through trade and communication is called _____.



Figure 1.4

Globalisation and Interdependence

An interconnected global system



States are linked through flows of goods, information, and capital.

Diagram showing interconnected states linked by trade, communication, and technology.
Caption: Figure 1.4 Globalisation and interdependence

1.4.2 Security and peacekeeping issues

Security in international society refers to the protection of states and peoples from threats such as war, terrorism, and cyber-attacks. **Peacekeeping** involves efforts by international organisations, particularly the United Nations, to maintain or restore peace in conflict zones. These challenges highlight the need for collective action, as no single state can address global security issues alone.

Fill in the blank: Efforts by international organisations to maintain or restore peace in conflict zones are called _____.





Plate 1.3 UN peakegaring operations

Short description: Image of UN peacekeepers in a conflict zone. Caption: Plate 1.3 UN peacekeeping operations

1.4.3 Emerging issues in international politics

Emerging issues include **climate change**, **cybersecurity**, and **migration crises**, which increasingly shape international relations. These issues cut across borders and require innovative solutions and cooperation among states and non-state actors. They challenge traditional notions of sovereignty and demand new forms of governance.

Fill in the blank: Climate change, cybersecurity, and migration crises are examples of _____ issues in international politics.



Box 1.3

Emerging issues in Emerging international politics

- **Climate Change:** Global warming, extreme weather, sea level rise, and resource scarcity requiring international cooperation.
- **misuse of State-sponsored hacking,** cyber breaches posing threats of infrastructure and privacy.
- **Cybersecurity:** State-sponsored hacks, and data threats of infrastructure and privacy.
- **Migration Crises:** Large-scale displacement due to conflict, hardship and environmental factors, creating humanitarian and political challenges.

Key challenges shaping the global agenda

Caption: Box 1.3 Emerging issues in international politics Short description: A box listing climate change, cybersecurity, and migration crises with brief explanations.

Pilot questions 1.4

1. What term describes the increasing interconnectedness of states through trade and communication?
2. Define interdependence in the context of globalisation.
3. What is the role of peacekeeping in international society?
4. Give two examples of global security threats.
5. Name three emerging issues in international politics.



Series Summary

This Series has introduced you to the foundations of international society and its organisation, showing why it is central to the study of international relations. We began by defining international society, tracing its historical evolution, and identifying the key actors that shape global politics. We then examined the forms of interactions in the international system, focusing on state-to-state relations, the role of non-state actors, and the patterns of cooperation and conflict. Following that, we explored the guiding principles of international relations, including sovereignty, diplomacy, international law, and global norms and institutions. Finally, we considered contemporary challenges such as globalisation, security concerns, and emerging issues like climate change and cybersecurity.

By engaging with these topics, you should now be able to define international society and explain its historical development, identify and describe the actors involved, explain forms of interaction, analyse guiding principles, and evaluate contemporary challenges. These abilities directly align with the Series Learning Outcomes (SLOs), ensuring that you are well prepared to apply these foundational concepts in subsequent Series of the course.

Glossary of Terms

- **Actors:** Entities that participate in international relations, including states and non-state actors such as organisations and corporations.
- **Diplomacy:** The practice of managing relations between states through negotiation, dialogue, and representation.
- **Global norms:** Shared expectations about appropriate behaviour in international society, such as respect for human rights.
- **Globalisation:** The increasing interconnectedness of states and societies through trade, communication, technology, and culture.
- **Interdependence:** A condition where states rely on one another for resources, markets, and security.
- **International law:** Rules and agreements that govern relations among states and other actors, including treaties and conventions.
- **International society:** A community of states and other actors that interact under shared rules, norms, and institutions.
- **Peacekeeping:** Efforts by international organisations, particularly the United Nations, to maintain or restore peace in conflict zones.
- **Sovereignty:** The supreme authority of a state over its territory and population, free from external interference.
- **Territorial integrity:** The principle that a state's borders should not be violated or altered without its consent.

Concept Check Questions [Series 1]

Objective questions



1. Which treaty is often cited as the foundation of modern sovereignty? (Linked to SLO 2.1)
2. What term describes shared expectations about appropriate behaviour in international society? (Linked to SLO 2.4)
3. Name one international organisation that plays a role in peacekeeping. (Linked to SLO 2.5)

Short-answer questions

4. Define sovereignty and explain why it is important in international relations. (Linked to SLO 2.4)
5. Identify two examples of non-state actors and describe their roles in global politics. (Linked to SLO 2.3)

Long-answer questions

6. Analyse the forms of interactions in the international system, highlighting both cooperation and conflict. (Linked to SLO 2.3)
 - *Basic response:* Learners should describe state-to-state relations, the role of non-state actors, and examples of cooperation and conflict.
 - *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may connect these interactions to historical or contemporary case studies, such as NATO for cooperation or territorial disputes for conflict.
7. Evaluate contemporary challenges facing international society, with reference to globalisation, security, and emerging issues. (Linked to SLO 2.5)
 - *Basic response:* Learners should explain globalisation and interdependence, security and peacekeeping, and emerging issues like climate change.
 - *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may critically assess how these challenges reshape sovereignty and propose innovative solutions for collective governance.

Answers to Concept Check Questions [Series 1]

1. The Peace of Westphalia (1648).
2. Global norms.
3. The United Nations.
4. Sovereignty is the supreme authority of a state over its territory and population, ensuring independence and stability.
5. Examples include multinational corporations (economic influence) and NGOs (humanitarian advocacy).
6. *Basic response:* Interactions include diplomacy, trade, alliances, and conflicts over resources or ideology. *Value-added response:* Case studies such as NATO (cooperation) and territorial disputes (conflict) illustrate these dynamics.



7. *Basic response:* Challenges include interconnected economies, global security threats, and issues like climate change. *Value-added response:* These challenges reshape sovereignty and demand collective governance through institutions and innovative policies.

References and Attributions [Series 1]

- Peace of Westphalia (1648) historical context: Suggested OER search string “Peace of Westphalia treaty signing OER image”.
- Figure 1.1 Concept of international society: AI prompt “Generate a diagram showing states, NGOs, and international organisations connected in a global network.”
- Plate 1.1 Signing of the Peace of Westphalia: AI prompt “Generate a historical painting-style image of diplomats signing a treaty in 1648.”
- Table 1.1 Key actors in international society: AI prompt “Generate a table listing states, international organisations, multinational corporations, and NGOs with their roles.”
- Figure 1.2 State-to-state relations: AI prompt “Generate a diagram showing states connected by arrows labelled diplomacy, trade, and conflict.”
- Table 1.2 Examples of non-state actors: AI prompt “Generate a table listing international organisations, multinational corporations, and NGOs with their roles in global politics.”
- Box 1.1 Case study NATO: AI prompt “Generate a text box summarising NATO as a case study of cooperation among states.”
- Figure 1.3 Sovereignty and territorial integrity: AI prompt “Generate a diagram showing a state map with borders labelled sovereignty and territorial integrity.”
- Plate 1.2 Diplomacy in practice: AI prompt “Generate an image of diplomats shaking hands at an international meeting.”
- Box 1.2 Global norms and institutions: AI prompt “Generate a text box listing global norms and institutions with examples.”
- Figure 1.4 Globalisation and interdependence: AI prompt “Generate a diagram showing interconnected states linked by trade, communication, and technology.”
- Plate 1.3 UN peacekeeping operations: AI prompt “Generate an image of UN peacekeepers in blue helmets patrolling a conflict zone.”
- Box 1.3 Emerging issues in international politics: AI prompt “Generate a text box listing climate change, cybersecurity, and migration crises as emerging issues.”

Answers to Pilot Questions [Series 1]

Part 1.1 The Concept and Organisation of International Society

1. International society
2. The Peace of Westphalia



3. States, international organisations, multinational corporations, NGOs
4. Sovereignty
5. Because it operates under shared rules and norms

Part 1.2 Forms of Interactions in the International System

6. National interest
7. International organisations, NGOs
8. Cooperation and conflict
9. Cooperation

Part 1.3 Principles Guiding International Relations

10. Sovereignty
11. Territorial integrity
12. Diplomacy
13. Treaties and conventions
14. Global norms

Part 1.4 Contemporary Challenges in International Society

15. Sovereignty
16. Interdependence
17. Peacekeeping
18. War, terrorism
19. Climate change, cybersecurity, migration crises



Series 2: Theories and Approaches in International Relations

2.1 Classical theories of international relations

- 2.1.1 Realism and the pursuit of power
- 2.1.2 Liberalism and cooperation among states
- 2.1.3 Marxism and economic structures of global politics

2.2 Contemporary approaches to international relations

- 2.2.1 Constructivism and the role of ideas
- 2.2.2 Feminist perspectives in international relations
- 2.2.3 Postcolonial approaches and global inequality

2.3 Comparative analysis of theories

- 2.3.1 Strengths and limitations of classical theories
- 2.3.2 Strengths and limitations of contemporary approaches
- 2.3.3 Relevance of theories to current global issues

2.4 Application of theories to case studies

- 2.4.1 Realism and security dilemmas
- 2.4.2 Liberalism and international institutions
- 2.4.3 Constructivism and identity politics

Introduction

In the last Series, we explored the foundations of international society and examined how states and other actors interact within shared rules and institutions. Building on that foundation, this Series turns to the theories and approaches that scholars use to explain and interpret those interactions. Theories provide us with lenses through which we can understand why states behave as they do, why cooperation or conflict arises, and how global structures evolve.

The aim of this Series is to introduce you to both classical and contemporary theories of international relations, and to equip you with the ability to analyse their relevance and apply them to real-world situations.

We shall commence this Series by examining classical theories such as realism, liberalism, and Marxism. Next, we will explore contemporary approaches including constructivism, feminist perspectives, and postcolonial approaches. Following that, we will conduct a comparative analysis of these theories, highlighting their strengths, limitations, and relevance to current global issues. Finally, we will wrap up by applying selected theories to case studies, showing



how they can be used to interpret security dilemmas, international institutions, and identity politics.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- **SLO 2.1** define and explain classical theories of international relations, including realism, liberalism, and Marxism,
- **SLO 2.2** describe contemporary approaches such as constructivism, feminist perspectives, and postcolonial approaches,
- **SLO 2.3** analyse the strengths and limitations of both classical and contemporary theories,
- **SLO 2.4** evaluate the relevance of these theories to current global issues, and
- **SLO 2.5** apply selected theories to case studies in international relations, including security dilemmas, institutions, and identity politics.

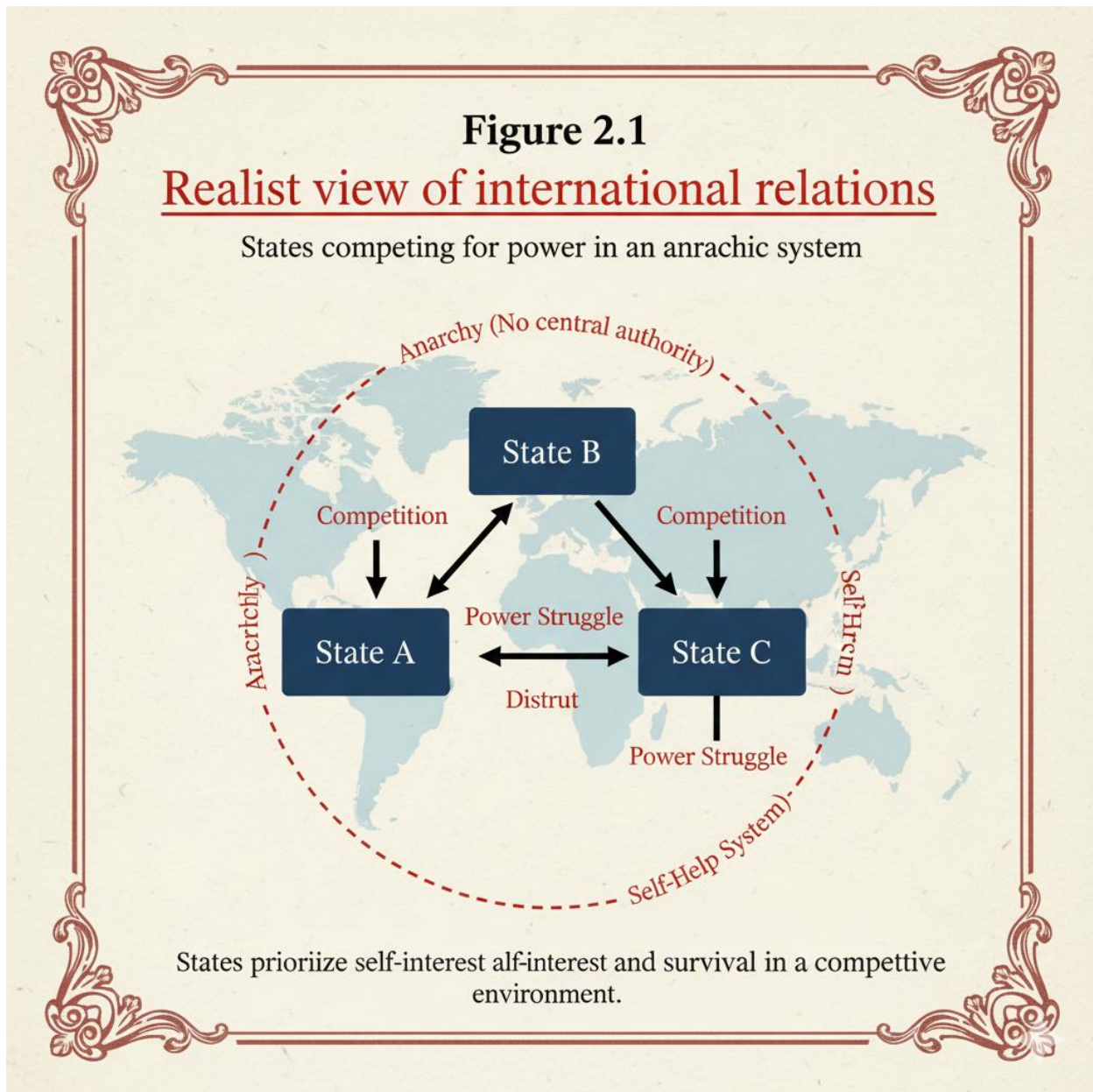
2.1 Classical Theories of International Relations

2.1.1 Realism and the pursuit of power

Realism is a theory of international relations that emphasises the role of power and national interest in shaping state behaviour. Realists argue that the international system is anarchic, meaning there is no overarching authority above states, and therefore states must rely on their own capabilities to survive. Security and military strength are considered essential, and cooperation is often viewed as temporary or fragile.

Fill in the blank: Realists argue that the international system is _____, meaning there is no overarching authority above states.





Short description: Diagram showing states in competition, with arrows representing power and security interests. Caption: Figure 2.1 Realist view of international relations

2.1.2 Liberalism and cooperation among states

Liberalism is a theory that highlights the potential for cooperation among states through institutions, diplomacy, and shared values. Liberals argue that states can build trust and reduce conflict by creating international organisations, signing treaties, and promoting democracy. Unlike realism, liberalism sees the international system as capable of progress and peace through collective action.

Fill in the blank: Liberals argue that states can reduce conflict by creating _____ organisations and signing treaties.



Table 2.1
Key features of liberalism in international relations

Principle	Description	Example
Cooperation	States can work together for mutual gain	UN Security Council
Institutions	Organizations facilitate collaboration and trust	World Trade Organization (WTO)
Democracy	Democratic states are more peaceful and cooperative	European Union (EU)
Treaties & Law	International agreements regulate and behavior	Paris Climate Accord

Cooperation, institutions, and shared values promote peace and prosperity.

Caption: Table 2.1 Key features of liberalism in international relations Short description: A table listing cooperation, institutions, democracy, and treaties as liberal principles.

2.1.3 Marxism and economic structures of global politics

Marxism views international relations through the lens of economic structures and class struggle. It argues that global politics is shaped by inequalities between wealthy and poor states, often reinforced by capitalism. Marxist approaches highlight exploitation, dependency, and the dominance of powerful economies over weaker ones. This perspective draws attention to issues of justice and inequality in the international system.

Fill in the blank: Marxism argues that global politics is shaped by inequalities reinforced by _____.



Box 2.1

MARXIST PERSPECTIVE ON GLOBAL INEQUALITY

Exploitation, Dependency, & Capitalist Dominance

- **Exploitation:** Developed nations (core) extract resources & labor from developing nations (periphery) for profit.
- **Dependency:** Global South remains economically reliant on the Global North due to historical colonialism & unequal trade structures.
- **Capitalist Dominance:** Global institutions & economic systems perpetuate power of capitalist states & multinational corporations, exacerbating disparities.

Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 2

Caption: Box 2.1 Marxist perspective on global inequality Short description: A box summarising exploitation, dependency, and capitalist dominance in global politics.

Pilot questions 2.1

1. What theory emphasises the role of power and national interest in shaping state behaviour?
2. According to realism, what is the nature of the international system?
3. Which theory highlights cooperation through institutions and treaties?
4. What principle of liberalism promotes peace through collective action?
5. How does Marxism explain inequalities in global politics?



2.2 Contemporary Approaches to International Relations

2.2.1 Constructivism and the role of ideas

Constructivism is a theory that emphasises the importance of ideas, beliefs, and identities in shaping international relations. Unlike realism and liberalism, which focus on material power and institutions, constructivism argues that the international system is socially constructed. This means that the way states behave depends on shared norms, values, and perceptions rather than fixed rules.

Fill in the blank: Constructivism argues that the international system is _____ constructed, shaped by ideas and norms.



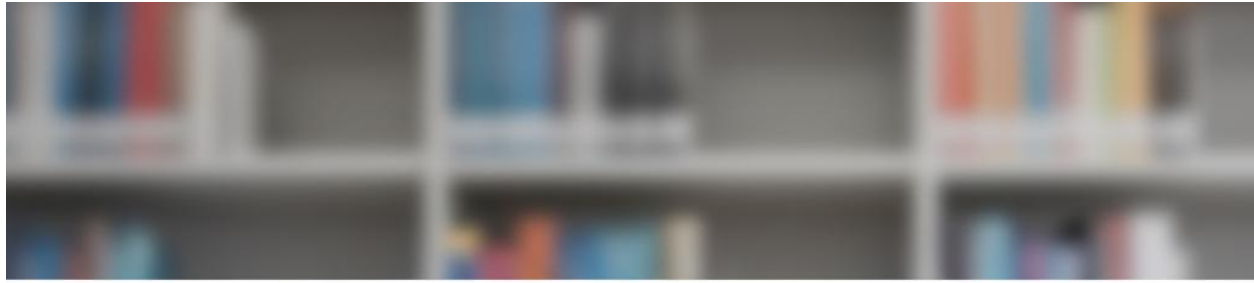
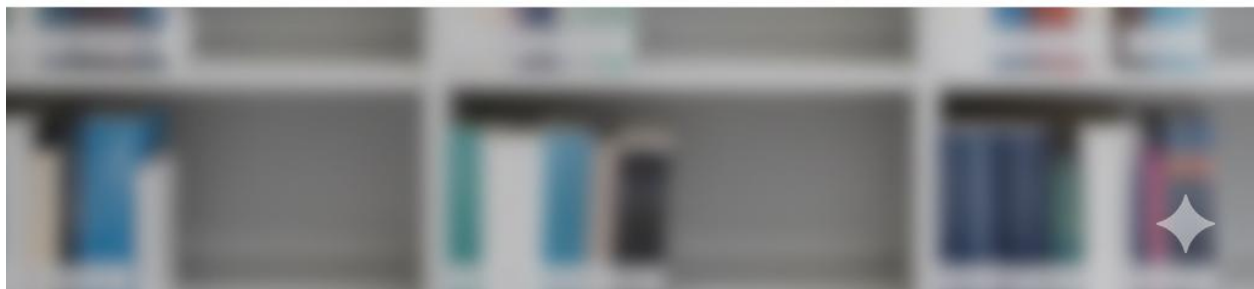
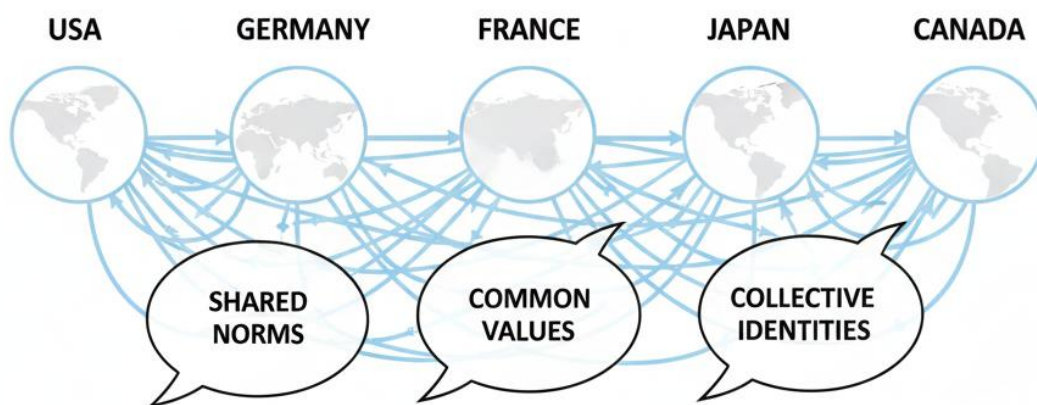


Figure 2.2 Constructivist View of International Relations



Short description: Diagram showing states connected by shared norms and identities. Caption: Figure 2.2 Constructivist view of international relations

2.2.2 Feminist perspectives in international relations

Feminist perspectives highlight the role of gender in global politics. They argue that traditional theories often overlook how international relations affect men and women differently. Feminist approaches draw attention to issues such as representation, inequality, and the impact of conflict on women. They also challenge the dominance of male-centred narratives in global politics.

Fill in the blank: Feminist perspectives argue that traditional theories often overlook how international relations affect _____ differently.



Box 2.2

FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Representation, Inequality, & Conflict Impacts

- **Representation:** Critiques the exclusion of women in diplomatic, & security debates, advocating for diverse voices.
- **Representation:** Analyzes how global structures perpetuate gender-based disparities in power, & economics, & human rights.
- **Conflict Impacts:** Examines the gendered consequences of war & peacekeeping, including sexual violence displacement, displacement of women's of resistance.

Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 2

Caption: Box 2.2 Feminist perspectives in international relations Short description: A box summarising key feminist contributions such as representation, inequality, and conflict impacts.

2.2.3 Postcolonial approaches and global inequality

Postcolonial approaches examine how colonial history continues to shape international relations today. They highlight inequalities between developed and developing states, focusing on issues of exploitation, dependency, and cultural dominance. Postcolonial scholars argue that global politics cannot be fully understood without considering the legacies of colonialism and the voices of formerly colonised societies.

Fill in the blank: Postcolonial approaches highlight how _____ history continues to shape international relations today.



Table 2.2 Postcolonial Approaches and Tocus

Approach/Concept	Key Focus/Contribution
■ Colonial Legacies ■ Global Inequality Critique of how historical power imbalances and exploitation on periphery and development states & unequal North structures.	Analysis of the enduring political, economic, and social effects on post-independence states and global structures. Critique of how former colonies imbalances and exploitation disparities of power, of power, and Global North & human rights.
■ Dependency Theory remain economic powers and global global financial, hindering genuine economic systems.	Study of how Western norms, languages languages & products an global sexual marginalised cultures and knowledge systems

Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 2

Caption: Table 2.2 Postcolonial approaches and their focus Short description: A table listing colonial legacies, inequality, dependency, and cultural dominance.

Pilot questions 2.2

1. Which theory emphasises the importance of ideas, beliefs, and identities in shaping international relations?
2. What does constructivism mean when it says the international system is socially constructed?
3. What do feminist perspectives highlight in global politics?
4. How do feminist approaches challenge traditional theories?



5. What do postcolonial approaches argue about the role of colonial history in international relations?

2.3 Comparative Analysis of Theories

2.3.1 Strengths and limitations of classical theories

Classical theories such as **realism**, **liberalism**, and **Marxism** each provide valuable insights into international relations. Realism highlights the importance of power and security, liberalism emphasises cooperation and institutions, while Marxism draws attention to inequality and economic structures. However, each theory also has limitations. Realism may overlook opportunities for cooperation, liberalism may underestimate conflict, and Marxism may focus too narrowly on economic factors.

Fill in the blank: Realism highlights the importance of _____ and security in international relations.



Table 2.3

Strengths and Limitations of Classical Theories

Theory	Strengths	Limitations
Realism	• Focuses on power & Explains conflict & war	• Neglects cooperation Highlgy institutions & norms
Liberalism	• Explains cooperation powers pers otbunt Provides parsinus model states	• State-centric undrertsmaes power interpepedence and & human rights
Marxism	• Overly optinseatic untuer global captiatlism & istorical context	• Western-centric bias Levere aglecy Less focus on state Revolution rarely occurs

Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 2

Caption: Table 2.3 Strengths and limitations of classical theories Short description: A table comparing realism, liberalism, and Marxism with their strengths and weaknesses.

2.3.2 Strengths and limitations of contemporary approaches

Contemporary approaches such as **constructivism**, **feminist perspectives**, and **postcolonial approaches** broaden the scope of international relations by focusing on ideas, identities, gender, and historical legacies. Their strength lies in challenging traditional assumptions and highlighting neglected issues. However, they may be criticised for being less predictive or for lacking clear frameworks to guide state behaviour.

Fill in the blank: Constructivism focuses on the role of _____, beliefs, and identities in shaping international relations.



Box 2.3 Strengths and Limitations of Contemporary Approaches

Constructivism, Feminist Perspectives & Postcolonial Approaches

	Limitations
Constructivism: - Explains role of ideas, norms, & identity - Bridges gap global domestic & international	Neglects material power & institutions states
Feminist Perspectives - Highlights gendered power structures - Expands security concept beyond states	- Can in overly on undermines power - Leaves alive lack unity
Postcolonial Approaches - Criticizes as Eurocentric to "high politics". - Centers marginalized lack unity	- Western-bias in overly critical/pessimistic - Less focus on solutions

Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 2

Caption: Box 2.3 Strengths and limitations of contemporary approaches Short description: A box summarising constructivism, feminist perspectives, and postcolonial approaches with strengths and weaknesses.

2.3.3 Relevance of theories to current global issues

Theories remain relevant because they help us interpret and respond to global challenges. Realism explains security dilemmas, liberalism supports the role of institutions like the United Nations, Marxism highlights economic inequality, constructivism sheds light on identity politics, feminism addresses gendered impacts of conflict, and postcolonial approaches reveal the persistence of colonial legacies. By comparing theories, learners can see how different perspectives complement or challenge one another in explaining today's world.



Fill in the blank: Liberalism supports the role of international _____ such as the United Nations in promoting cooperation.

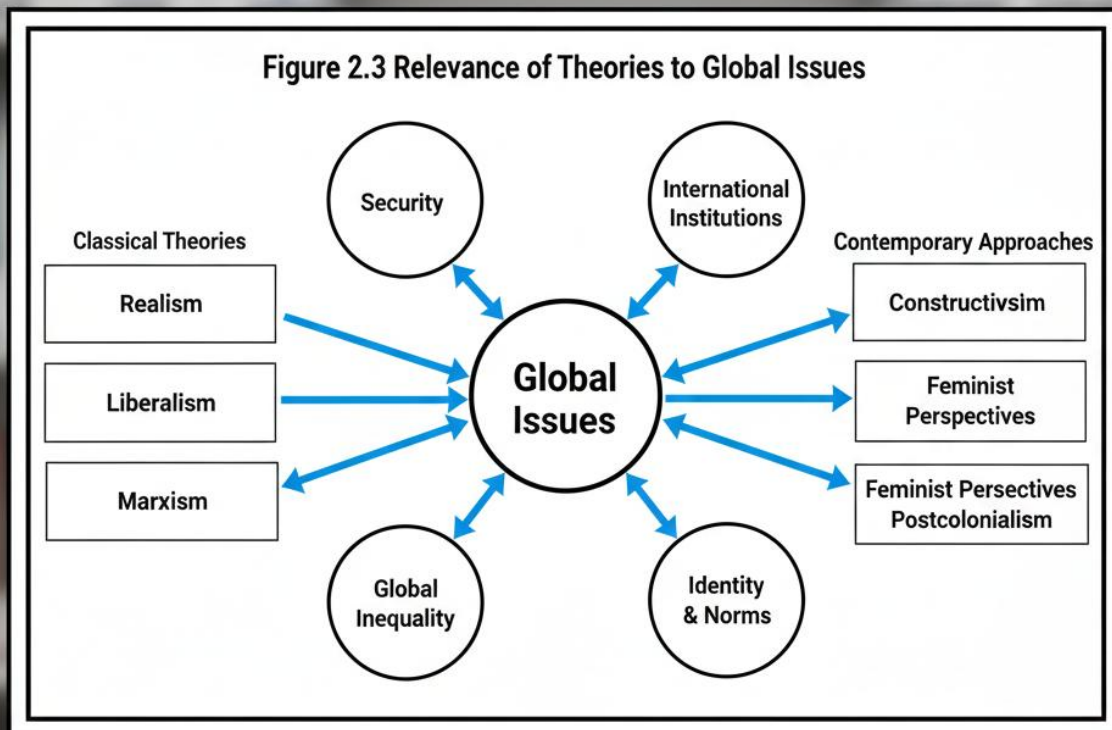


Diagram showing theories linked to global issues such as security, institutions, inequality, and identity. Caption: Figure 2.3 Relevance of theories to global issues

Pilot questions 2.3

1. What does realism emphasise in international relations?
2. What is one limitation of liberalism?
3. Which contemporary approach focuses on gender in global politics?
4. How does Marxism explain inequality in international relations?



5. Why are theories still relevant to current global issues?

2.4 Application of Theories to Case Studies

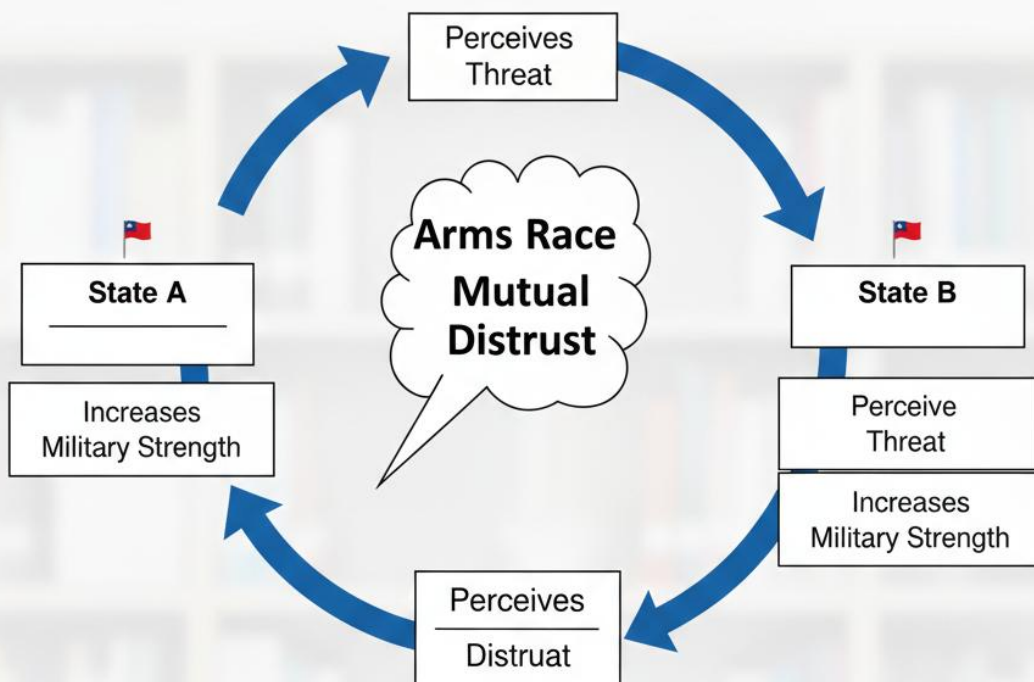
2.4.1 Realism and security dilemmas

A **security dilemma** occurs when one state increases its military strength to feel secure, but this action makes other states feel threatened, leading them to also build up their military. Realism explains this cycle as a natural outcome of an anarchic international system where states prioritise survival and power. For example, the Cold War arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union illustrates how states act under realism.

Fill in the blank: A security _____ occurs when one state's military build-up causes others to feel threatened.



Figure 2.4 Realism and the Security Dilemma



Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 2

Short description: Diagram showing two states increasing military strength in response to each other. Caption: Figure 2.4 Realism and the security dilemma

2.4.2 Liberalism and international institutions

Liberalism highlights the role of **international institutions** in promoting cooperation and reducing conflict. Institutions such as the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, and the European Union provide platforms for dialogue, rules for trade, and mechanisms for collective security. These institutions demonstrate how states can achieve peace and prosperity through cooperation rather than competition.

Fill in the blank: Institutions such as the United Nations and WTO are examples of international _____ that promote cooperation.



Table 2.4 Liberalism and International Institutions

International Institution	Role in Promoting Cooperation
United Nations (UN)	• Forum for dialogue & diplomacy - Peacekeeping & collective security - Addresses global challenges
World Trade Organization (WTO)	• Regulates global trade - Reduces tariffs & barriers - Provides dispute resolution
European Union (EU)	• Economic & political integration - Single market & currency - Promotes peace & stability

Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 2

Caption: Table 2.4 Liberalism and international institutions Short description: A table listing UN, WTO, and EU with their roles in promoting cooperation.

2.4.3 Constructivism and identity politics

Identity politics refers to the way states and groups define themselves and others based on culture, religion, or ideology. Constructivism explains how these identities shape behaviour in international relations. For instance, conflicts in the Middle East often involve identity-based divisions, while cooperation within the European Union reflects shared values and norms. Constructivism shows that ideas and identities can be as powerful as material interests.



Fill in the blank: Constructivism explains how _____ politics, based on culture or ideology, shapes international behaviour.

Box 2.4 Constructivism and Identity Politics

Identity Politics & International Relations

Constructivism emphasizes how shared ideas, norms, and identities shape behaviour in international structures. Identity, a key concept, refers to political action and alliance and alliances based on shared characteristics like culture, or ethnicity, influencing, influencing foreign policy and global interactions.

Example: Middle East

The rise of pan-Arabic Islam, and sectarian identities (Sunni/Shia) has profoundly impacted regional alliances, conflicts, and foreign policies like Saudi Arabia, Iran and Iraq.

Example: European Union has a shared European identity, based on common values, shared history, has facilitated and economic, integration and stability and (e.g. Brexit).

Example: European Union The European identity, based deeper, political integration, despite persistent national identities and occasional friction (Brexit).

Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 2

Caption: Box 2.4 Constructivism and identity politics Short description: A box summarising identity politics with examples from the Middle East and European Union.

Pilot questions 2.4

1. What term describes the cycle of military build-up explained by realism?
2. Give one example of an international institution that promotes cooperation.
3. How does liberalism view the role of institutions in global politics?



4. What does constructivism highlight about identity politics?
5. Provide one example of identity-based cooperation or conflict in international relations.

Series Summary

This Series has introduced you to the major theories and approaches that explain international relations. We began with classical theories such as realism, liberalism, and Marxism, which highlight power, cooperation, and economic structures. Then we explored contemporary approaches including constructivism, feminist perspectives, and postcolonial approaches, which broaden our understanding by focusing on ideas, identities, gender, and historical legacies. Following that, we compared the strengths and limitations of both classical and contemporary theories, showing how each contributes to explaining global politics. Finally, we applied these theories to case studies, demonstrating their relevance to security dilemmas, international institutions, and identity politics.

By engaging with these topics, you should now be able to define and explain classical theories, describe contemporary approaches, analyse their strengths and limitations, evaluate their relevance to current global issues, and apply them to practical case studies. These abilities directly align with the Series Learning Outcomes (SLOs), ensuring you can use theoretical perspectives as tools for interpreting international relations.

Glossary of Terms

- **Constructivism:** A theory that emphasises the role of ideas, beliefs, and identities in shaping international relations.
- **Feminist perspectives:** Approaches that highlight the role of gender in global politics and challenge male-centred narratives.
- **Identity politics:** The way states and groups define themselves and others based on culture, religion, or ideology.
- **International institutions:** Organisations such as the United Nations or WTO that promote cooperation and manage global issues.
- **Liberalism:** A theory that highlights cooperation among states through institutions, treaties, and shared values.
- **Marxism:** A theory that views international relations through economic structures and class struggle, focusing on inequality.
- **Postcolonial approaches:** Perspectives that examine how colonial history continues to shape global inequality and politics.
- **Realism:** A theory that emphasises power, security, and survival in an anarchic international system.
- **Security dilemma:** A situation where one state's military build-up causes others to feel threatened, leading to an arms race.

Concept Check Questions [Series 2]

Objective questions



1. Which theory emphasises power and survival in an anarchic system? (Linked to SLO 2.1)
2. What theory highlights cooperation through institutions and treaties? (Linked to SLO 2.1)
3. Which contemporary approach focuses on colonial legacies and inequality? (Linked to SLO 2.2)

Short-answer questions

4. Define constructivism and explain its focus in international relations. (Linked to SLO 2.2)
5. Identify one strength and one limitation of liberalism. (Linked to SLO 2.3)

Long-answer questions

6. Analyse the strengths and limitations of classical theories such as realism, liberalism, and Marxism. (Linked to SLO 2.3)
 - *Basic response:* Learners should describe each theory's main contribution and limitation.
 - *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may connect these theories to historical examples such as the Cold War or the creation of the UN.
7. Evaluate the relevance of contemporary approaches to current global issues. (Linked to SLO 2.4)
 - *Basic response:* Learners should explain how constructivism, feminism, and postcolonial approaches broaden understanding of global politics.
 - *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may apply these approaches to specific issues such as identity conflicts, gendered impacts of war, or postcolonial inequality.
8. Apply realism, liberalism, and constructivism to case studies of security dilemmas, institutions, and identity politics. (Linked to SLO 2.5)
 - *Basic response:* Learners should match each theory to the appropriate case study.
 - *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may provide detailed examples such as the Cold War arms race, the UN's peacekeeping role, or EU identity politics.

Answers to Concept Check Questions [Series 2]

1. Realism.
2. Liberalism.
3. Postcolonial approaches.
4. Constructivism emphasises the role of ideas, beliefs, and identities in shaping international relations.
5. Strength: Promotes cooperation through institutions. Limitation: May underestimate conflict.



6. *Basic response:* Realism focuses on power but ignores cooperation; liberalism promotes cooperation but may overlook conflict; Marxism highlights inequality but may overemphasise economics. *Value-added response:* Historical examples such as Cold War arms races (realism), UN institutions (liberalism), and global inequality (Marxism) illustrate these points.
7. *Basic response:* Contemporary approaches highlight ideas, gender, and colonial legacies. *Value-added response:* Applied to identity conflicts in the Middle East, gendered impacts of war, and postcolonial inequality in Africa.
8. *Basic response:* Realism explains security dilemmas, liberalism explains institutions, constructivism explains identity politics. *Value-added response:* Cold War arms race (realism), UN peacekeeping (liberalism), EU shared identity (constructivism).

References and Attributions [Series 2]

- Figure 2.1 Realist view of international relations: AI prompt “Generate a diagram showing states competing for power and security in an anarchic system.”
- Table 2.1 Key features of liberalism: AI prompt “Generate a table listing cooperation, institutions, democracy, and treaties as liberal principles.”
- Box 2.1 Marxist perspective: AI prompt “Generate a text box summarising exploitation, dependency, and capitalist dominance in global politics.”
- Figure 2.2 Constructivist view: AI prompt “Generate a diagram showing states connected by shared norms, values, and identities.”
- Box 2.2 Feminist perspectives: AI prompt “Generate a text box summarising feminist contributions to international relations.”
- Table 2.2 Postcolonial approaches: AI prompt “Generate a table listing colonial legacies, inequality, dependency, and cultural dominance.”
- Table 2.3 Strengths and limitations of classical theories: AI prompt “Generate a table comparing realism, liberalism, and Marxism with strengths and limitations.”
- Box 2.3 Strengths and limitations of contemporary approaches: AI prompt “Generate a text box summarising strengths and limitations of constructivism, feminist perspectives, and postcolonial approaches.”
- Figure 2.3 Relevance of theories: AI prompt “Generate a diagram linking theories of international relations to global issues like security, institutions, inequality, and identity.”
- Figure 2.4 Realism and security dilemma: AI prompt “Generate a diagram showing two states increasing military strength in response to each other.”
- Table 2.4 Liberalism and institutions: AI prompt “Generate a table listing UN, WTO, and EU with their roles in promoting cooperation.”
- Box 2.4 Constructivism and identity politics: AI prompt “Generate a text box summarising identity politics with examples from the Middle East and European Union.”



Answers to Pilot Questions [Series 2]

Part 2.1 Classical Theories

1. Realism
2. Anarchic
3. Liberalism
4. Collective action
5. Economic inequality

Part 2.2 Contemporary Approaches

6. Constructivism
7. It is shaped by ideas and norms
8. Gender roles and impacts
9. By challenging male-centred narratives
10. Colonial history

Part 2.3 Comparative Analysis

11. Power
12. It may underestimate conflict
13. Feminist perspectives
14. Economic structures and inequality
15. They help explain current global issues

Part 2.4 Application of Theories

16. Security dilemma
17. United Nations
18. They promote cooperation and reduce conflict
19. The role of ideas and identities
20. Middle East conflicts or EU cooperation



Series 3: National Interest, Domestic Politics, and Foreign Policy Linkages

3.1 The concept of national interest

- 3.1.1 Definition and dimensions of national interest
- 3.1.2 Security, economic, and ideological interests
- 3.1.3 National interest as a determinant of foreign policy

3.2 Domestic politics and foreign policy

- 3.2.1 Role of political institutions in shaping foreign policy
- 3.2.2 Influence of public opinion and interest groups
- 3.2.3 Impact of leadership and decision-making styles

3.3 Linkages between domestic and foreign policies

- 3.3.1 How domestic priorities influence foreign policy choices
- 3.3.2 Case studies of domestic-foreign policy linkages
- 3.3.3 Challenges in balancing domestic and international demands

3.4 Evaluating national interest in global politics

- 3.4.1 National interest and international cooperation
- 3.4.2 National interest and conflict situations
- 3.4.3 Changing nature of national interest in contemporary politics

Introduction

In the previous Series, we examined theories and approaches that help explain how states and other actors behave in the international system. This Series shifts the focus to the concept of **national interest** and the ways in which domestic politics influence foreign policy. National interest is the driving force behind a state's external actions, while domestic institutions, public opinion, and leadership styles shape how those interests are pursued. Understanding these linkages is crucial because foreign policy does not exist in isolation; it is deeply connected to domestic priorities and challenges.

The aim of this Series is to equip you with the ability to define national interest, analyse how domestic politics shape foreign policy, and evaluate the connections between internal and external policies in global politics.

We shall commence this Series by exploring the concept of national interest, including its definition, dimensions, and role as a determinant of foreign policy. Next, we will examine how domestic politics influence foreign policy through institutions, public opinion, and leadership.



Following that, we will analyse the linkages between domestic and foreign policies, supported by case studies and examples. Finally, we will conclude by evaluating national interest in global politics, considering its role in cooperation, conflict, and its changing nature in contemporary times.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- **SLO 3.1** define national interest and explain its dimensions, including security, economic, and ideological aspects,
- **SLO 3.2** analyse how domestic political institutions, public opinion, and leadership styles shape foreign policy,
- **SLO 3.3** evaluate the linkages between domestic and foreign policies, using case studies to illustrate these connections, and
- **SLO 3.4** assess the role of national interest in global politics, including its influence on cooperation, conflict, and contemporary challenges.

3.1 The Concept of National Interest

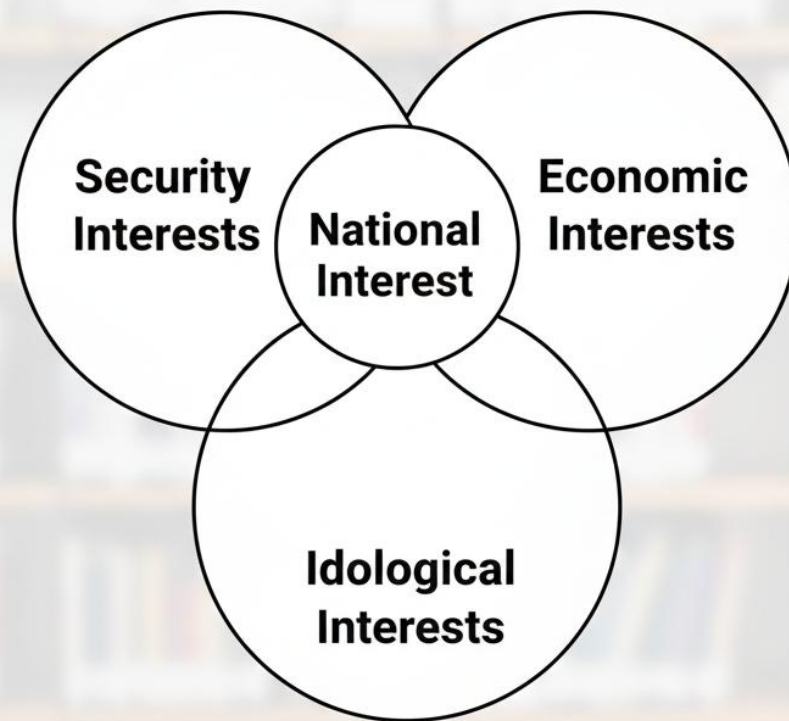
3.1.1 Definition and dimensions of national interest

National interest refers to the goals and priorities that guide a state's foreign policy and international behaviour. It encompasses what a state considers essential for its survival, prosperity, and identity. These interests can be categorised into dimensions such as security, economic well-being, and ideological values. National interest provides the foundation upon which foreign policy decisions are made.

Fill in the blank: _____ interest refers to the goals and priorities that guide a state's foreign policy.



Figure 3.1 Dimensions of National Interest



Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 3

: Diagram showing three overlapping circles labelled security, economic, and ideological interests. Caption: Figure 3.1 Dimensions of national interest

3.1.2 Security, economic, and ideological interests

Security interests involve protecting a state's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and citizens from external threats. **Economic interests** focus on access to markets, resources, and trade opportunities that ensure prosperity. **Ideological interests** reflect values such as democracy, religion, or cultural identity that a state seeks to promote internationally. Together, these dimensions shape the priorities of foreign policy.

Fill in the blank: Protecting sovereignty and territorial integrity are examples of _____ interests.



Table 3.1 Dimensions of National Interest and Examples

Dimension	Example
Security Interests	• Territorial defense • Alliances - Counter-terror
Economic Interests	• Trade agreements • Resource access - Investment protection
Ideological Interests	• Democracy promotion • Human rights advocacy - Cultural influence

Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 3

Caption: Table 3.1 Dimensions of national interest and examples Short description: A table listing security, economic, and ideological interests with examples.

3.1.3 National interest as a determinant of foreign policy

Foreign policy is often described as the outward expression of national interest. States design their foreign policies to protect and advance their security, economic, and ideological priorities. For example, alliances may be formed to enhance security, trade agreements to promote economic growth, and diplomatic initiatives to spread values. Understanding national interest helps explain why states pursue certain policies and avoid others.

Fill in the blank: Foreign policy is often described as the outward expression of _____ interest.



Box 3.1 National Interest as a Determinant of Foreign Policy

Shaping Alliances, Trade, and Diplomacy

- **Alliances:** Nations form alliances based shared security concerns and strategic interests, enhancing collective defense capabilities.
- **Trade Agreements:** Economic interests drive the negotiation of favorable trade deals, securing market resources, resources, and investment opportunities
- **Diplomacy & Initiatives:** Ideological influence diplomatic efforts, promoting values, human rights, or specific political systems globally

Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 3

Caption: Box 3.1 National interest as a determinant of foreign policy Short description: A box summarising how national interest shapes alliances, trade agreements, and diplomatic initiatives.

Pilot questions 3.1

1. What term refers to the goals and priorities guiding a state's foreign policy?
2. Name the three dimensions of national interest.
3. Give one example of a security interest.
4. How do economic interests shape foreign policy?
5. Why is national interest considered a determinant of foreign policy?



3.2 Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy

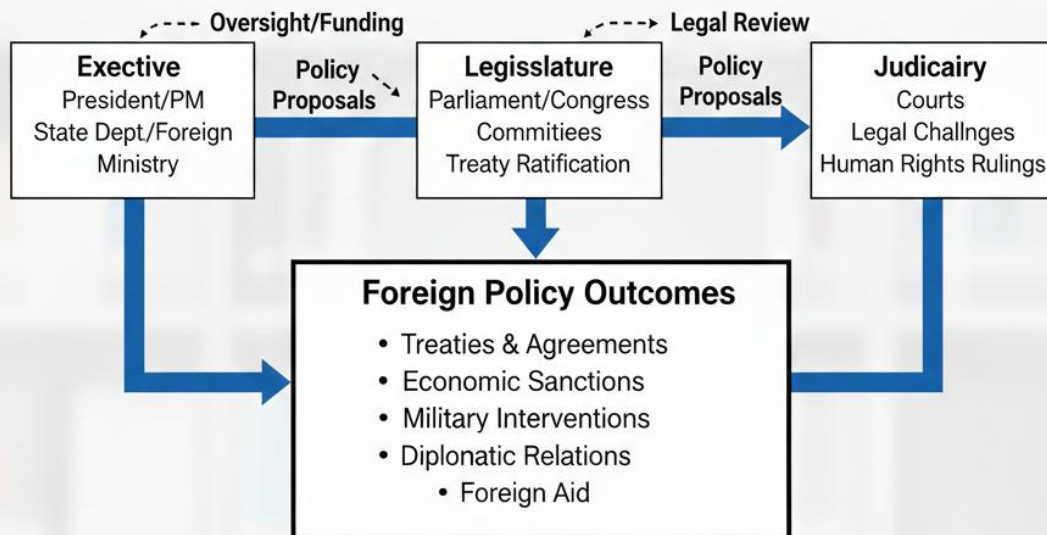
3.2.1 Role of political institutions in shaping foreign policy

Political institutions such as the executive, legislature, and judiciary play a central role in shaping foreign policy. The executive branch often leads in decision-making, while legislatures may approve treaties or allocate resources. Judicial bodies can influence foreign policy by interpreting constitutional provisions or international agreements. These institutions ensure that foreign policy reflects both national interest and domestic legal frameworks.

Fill in the blank: The _____ branch often leads in foreign policy decision-making.



Figure 3.2 Political Institutions and Foreign Policy



Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 3

Short description: Diagram showing executive, legislature, and judiciary connected to foreign policy outcomes. Caption: Figure 3.2 Political institutions and foreign policy

3.2.2 Influence of public opinion and interest groups

Public opinion refers to the collective views of citizens on foreign policy issues. Governments often take these views into account, especially in democratic systems. **Interest groups**, such as business associations, advocacy organisations, or lobbyists, also influence foreign policy by promoting specific agendas. Their impact can be seen in trade negotiations, environmental agreements, or human rights policies.

Fill in the blank: Collective views of citizens on foreign policy issues are referred to as _____ opinion.



Box 3.2 Public Opinion and Interest Groups in Foreign Policy

Influence on Foreign Policy Decisions

- **Public Opinion:** Mass public sentiment and media coverage can constrain or support foreign policy choices, influencing leaders' decisions on issues like military intervention or humanitarian aid.
- **Interest Groups:** Organized advocates specific to specific policy outcomes (e.g. human environment, business lobbies), providing resources, information and electoral pressure to policymakers.

Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 3

Caption: Box 3.2 Public opinion and interest groups in foreign policy Short description: A box summarising how public opinion and interest groups influence foreign policy decisions.

3.2.3 Impact of leadership and decision-making styles

Leadership plays a critical role in foreign policy. Leaders' personalities, ideologies, and decision-making styles can significantly affect how national interest is pursued. Some leaders adopt cautious, consensus-based approaches, while others prefer bold and unilateral actions. Leadership choices can determine whether a state engages in diplomacy, conflict, or cooperation.

Fill in the blank: Leaders' personalities and _____ styles can significantly affect foreign policy outcomes.





Plate 3.1
Leadership and foreign policy decision-making

Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 3

Short description: Image of a political leader addressing parliament or engaging in diplomatic talks. Caption: Plate 3.1 Leadership and foreign policy decision-making

Pilot questions 3.2

1. Which branch of government often leads in foreign policy decision-making?
2. What term refers to the collective views of citizens on foreign policy issues?
3. Give one example of how interest groups influence foreign policy.
4. How can leadership styles affect foreign policy outcomes?
5. Why are political institutions important in shaping foreign policy?



3.3 Linkages Between Domestic and Foreign Policies

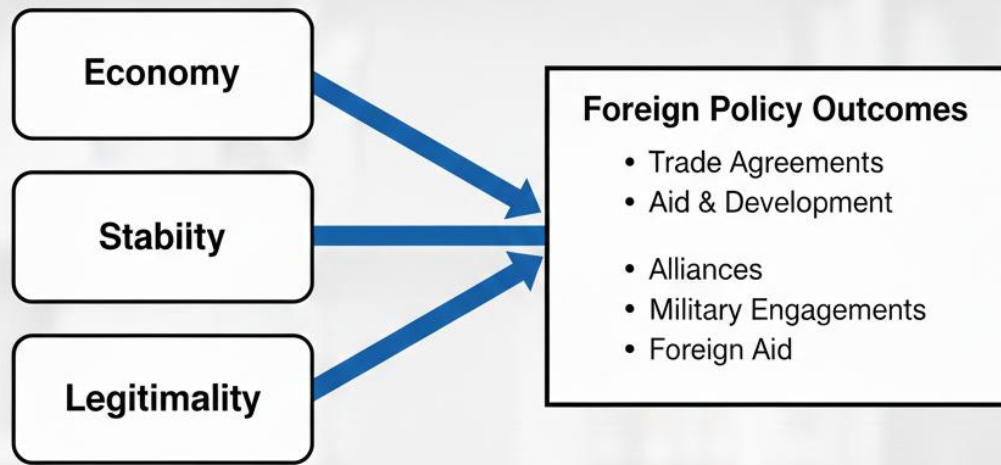
3.3.1 How domestic priorities influence foreign policy choices

Domestic priorities such as economic growth, social stability, and political legitimacy often shape foreign policy decisions. For example, a government seeking to boost employment may pursue trade agreements, while one facing internal unrest may adopt foreign policies that strengthen national unity. In this way, foreign policy is not only outward-looking but also a reflection of domestic needs.

Fill in the blank: Foreign policy is often shaped by domestic priorities such as economic growth and _____ stability.



Figure 3.3 Domestic Priorities Influencing Foreign Policy



Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 3

Diagram showing arrows from domestic priorities (economy, stability, legitimacy) to foreign policy outcomes. Caption: Figure 3.3 Domestic priorities influencing foreign policy

3.3.2 Case studies of domestic-foreign policy linkages

Case studies illustrate how domestic politics and foreign policy are interconnected. For instance, the United States' foreign policy in the Cold War was influenced by domestic concerns about communism. Similarly, trade policies in developing countries often reflect domestic needs for industrialisation and employment. These examples show that foreign policy decisions cannot be separated from internal political and social contexts.

Fill in the blank: During the Cold War, US foreign policy was influenced by domestic concerns about _____.



Box 3.3 Case Studies of Domestic-Foreign Policy Linkages

Examples of Influences on Foreign Policy

- **US Cold War Policy:** Domestic fear of communism and the “military-industrial complex” fueled aggressive containment policies, defense spending increases, shaping decades of US foreign relations.
- **Trade Policies in Developing Countries:** Domestic economic needs, industry lobbies, and employment concerns often dictate trade policies, impacting relationships with other countries and their development trajectories.

Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 3

Caption: Box 3.3 Case studies of domestic-foreign policy linkages Short description: A box summarising examples such as US Cold War policy and trade policies in developing countries.

3.3.3 Challenges in balancing domestic and international demands

States often face challenges in balancing domestic and international demands. A government may need to satisfy domestic constituencies while also meeting international obligations. For example, environmental agreements may require costly reforms that are unpopular at home, while military alliances may demand resources that could otherwise be used domestically. Balancing these demands requires careful negotiation and compromise.

Fill in the blank: Environmental agreements may require costly reforms that are sometimes _____ at home.



Table 3.3 Challenges in Balancing Domestic and International Demands

Challenge	Example
• Environmental Agreements	Domestic industries resist regulations, while international treaties demand emissions reductions.
• Military Alliances	Public demands for peace clash with alliance obligations for military intervention.
• Trade Commitments	Protecting domestic jobs conflicts with international free trade agreements.

Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 3

Caption: Table 3.3 Challenges in balancing domestic and international demands
 Short description: A table listing examples such as environmental agreements, military alliances, and trade commitments.

Pilot questions 3.3

1. Name two domestic priorities that can shape foreign policy choices.
2. What domestic concern influenced US foreign policy during the Cold War?
3. Why are case studies useful in understanding domestic-foreign policy linkages?
4. Give one example of a challenge in balancing domestic and international demands.



5. How can governments manage competing domestic and international pressures?

3.4 Evaluating National Interest in Global Politics

3.4.1 National interest and international cooperation

National interest often drives states to cooperate when shared goals align. For example, countries may join alliances or international organisations to enhance security, promote trade, or tackle global challenges such as climate change. Cooperation allows states to pursue their interests collectively, reducing costs and increasing effectiveness.

Fill in the blank: States may join international _____ to enhance security and promote trade.





Diagram showing states cooperating through alliances and organisations to pursue shared interests. Caption: Figure 3.4 National interest and international cooperation

3.4.2 National interest and conflict situations

National interest can also lead to conflict when states' goals clash. Competition over resources, territorial disputes, or ideological differences may result in tensions or wars. Real-world examples include conflicts over oil, border disputes, or rival political systems. Evaluating national interest in these contexts helps explain why states sometimes prioritise confrontation over cooperation.

Fill in the blank: Competition over _____ or territorial disputes may lead to conflict between states.





Plate 3.2 National Interest and Conflict Situations

Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 3

: Image of two states in conflict over resources or borders. Caption: Plate 3.2 National interest and conflict situations

3.4.3 Changing nature of national interest in contemporary politics

The nature of national interest is evolving in response to globalisation, technological change, and transnational challenges. Issues such as cybersecurity, pandemics, and climate change have become central to national interest, alongside traditional concerns of security and economics. States must now balance domestic priorities with global responsibilities, making national interest more complex and dynamic than ever before.

Fill in the blank: In contemporary politics, issues such as cybersecurity and _____ have become central to national interest.



Box 3.4 Changing Nature of National Interest

Contemporary Dimensions in Global Politics

- **New Dimensions** Protecting digital infrastructure, data privacy, and defense against cyberattacks.
- **Cybersecurity:** Global health security, vaccine distribution, and
- **Pandemics** economic recovery from outbreaks.
- **Climate Change:** Mitigating environmental impact, adapting to extreme weather, and promoting green tech

Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 3

Caption: Box 3.4 Changing nature of national interest Short description: A box summarising new dimensions of national interest including cybersecurity, pandemics, and climate change.

Pilot questions 3.4

1. Why might states cooperate to pursue national interest?
2. Give one example of how national interest can lead to conflict.
3. What global challenges are now central to national interest?
4. How does globalisation affect the nature of national interest?
5. Why is national interest considered more complex in contemporary politics?



Series Summary

This Series has explored how national interest and domestic politics shape foreign policy. We began by defining national interest, examining its dimensions of security, economic, and ideological priorities, and showing how it serves as a determinant of foreign policy. We then considered the role of domestic politics, including institutions, public opinion, and leadership styles, in influencing foreign policy decisions. Following that, we analysed the linkages between domestic and foreign policies, using case studies to illustrate how internal priorities affect external actions. Finally, we evaluated national interest in global politics, highlighting its role in cooperation, conflict, and its evolving nature in contemporary times.

By engaging with these topics, you should now be able to define national interest, analyse how domestic politics shape foreign policy, evaluate domestic-foreign linkages, and assess the role of national interest in cooperation, conflict, and contemporary challenges. These abilities directly align with the Series Learning Outcomes (SLOs), ensuring you can interpret foreign policy decisions in light of both domestic and international contexts.

Glossary of Terms

- **Domestic politics:** Internal political processes and institutions that influence a state's foreign policy.
- **Foreign policy:** The outward expression of national interest through a state's actions in international relations.
- **Interest groups:** Organisations or associations that seek to influence government policy, including foreign policy.
- **Leadership styles:** The approaches leaders take in decision-making, which affect foreign policy outcomes.
- **National interest:** The goals and priorities guiding a state's foreign policy, including security, economic, and ideological dimensions.
- **Political institutions:** Structures such as the executive, legislature, and judiciary that shape foreign policy decisions.
- **Public opinion:** Collective views of citizens on foreign policy issues, often influencing government choices.
- **Security interests:** Priorities focused on protecting sovereignty, territorial integrity, and citizens from external threats.

Concept Check Questions [Series 3]

Objective questions

1. What term refers to the goals and priorities guiding a state's foreign policy? (Linked to SLO 3.1)
2. Which branch of government often leads in foreign policy decision-making? (Linked to SLO 3.2)
3. What domestic concern influenced US foreign policy during the Cold War? (Linked to SLO 3.3)



Short-answer questions

4. Define national interest and list its three dimensions. (Linked to SLO 3.1)
5. Explain how public opinion can influence foreign policy. (Linked to SLO 3.2)

Long-answer questions

6. Analyse the linkages between domestic priorities and foreign policy choices, using examples. (Linked to SLO 3.3)
 - *Basic response:* Learners should explain how domestic priorities such as economic growth or political legitimacy shape foreign policy.
 - *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may provide case studies such as US Cold War policy or trade policies in developing countries.
7. Assess the role of national interest in global politics, considering cooperation, conflict, and contemporary challenges. (Linked to SLO 3.4)
 - *Basic response:* Learners should explain how national interest drives cooperation, leads to conflict, and evolves with globalisation.
 - *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may apply this to specific examples such as climate change agreements, resource conflicts, or cybersecurity.

Answers to Concept Check Questions [Series 3]

1. National interest.
2. The executive branch.
3. Communism.
4. National interest refers to the goals guiding foreign policy; dimensions are security, economic, and ideological.
5. Public opinion influences foreign policy by shaping government priorities, especially in democratic systems.
6. *Basic response:* Domestic priorities such as economic growth or stability shape foreign policy choices. *Value-added response:* Case studies include US Cold War policy shaped by anti-communism and trade policies in developing countries.
7. *Basic response:* National interest drives cooperation, leads to conflict, and evolves with globalisation. *Value-added response:* Examples include climate change agreements (cooperation), oil disputes (conflict), and cybersecurity (contemporary challenges).

References and Attributions [Series 3]

- Figure 3.1 Dimensions of national interest: AI prompt “Generate a diagram showing three overlapping circles labelled security, economic, and ideological interests.”
- Table 3.1 Dimensions of national interest: AI prompt “Generate a table listing security, economic, and ideological interests with examples.”



- Box 3.1 National interest as determinant: AI prompt “Generate a text box summarising how national interest shapes alliances, trade agreements, and diplomacy.”
- Figure 3.2 Political institutions and foreign policy: AI prompt “Generate a diagram showing executive, legislature, and judiciary connected to foreign policy outcomes.”
- Box 3.2 Public opinion and interest groups: AI prompt “Generate a text box summarising how public opinion and interest groups influence foreign policy decisions.”
- Plate 3.1 Leadership and foreign policy: AI prompt “Generate an image of a political leader addressing parliament or engaging in diplomatic talks.”
- Figure 3.3 Domestic priorities influencing foreign policy: AI prompt “Generate a diagram showing domestic priorities like economy, stability, legitimacy shaping foreign policy outcomes.”
- Box 3.3 Case studies of linkages: AI prompt “Generate a text box summarising case studies linking domestic politics to foreign policy decisions.”
- Table 3.3 Challenges in balancing demands: AI prompt “Generate a table listing challenges in balancing domestic and international demands with examples.”
- Figure 3.4 National interest and cooperation: AI prompt “Generate a diagram showing states cooperating through alliances and organisations to pursue shared interests.”
- Plate 3.2 National interest and conflict: AI prompt “Generate an image showing two states in conflict over resources or borders.”
- Box 3.4 Changing nature of national interest: AI prompt “Generate a text box summarising new dimensions of national interest including cybersecurity, pandemics, and climate change.”

Answers to Pilot Questions [Series 3]

Part 3.1 The Concept of National Interest

1. National interest
2. Security, economic, ideological
3. Protecting sovereignty
4. By shaping trade agreements and resource access
5. Because it guides foreign policy decisions

Part 3.2 Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy

6. Executive branch
7. Public opinion
8. Business associations influencing trade policy
9. By shaping whether states act cautiously or boldly



10. They ensure foreign policy reflects national priorities

Part 3.3 Linkages Between Domestic and Foreign Policies

11. Economic growth, social stability
12. Communism
13. They show how domestic contexts shape external actions
14. Environmental agreements requiring costly reforms
15. Through negotiation and compromise

Part 3.4 Evaluating National Interest in Global Politics

16. Organisations
17. Resources
18. Cybersecurity
19. It makes states balance domestic and global priorities
20. Because it now includes transnational challenges

Series 4: Coalitions, Alliances, and Balance of Power in Global Politics

4.1 The concept of coalitions in global politics

- 4.1.1 Definition and characteristics of coalitions
- 4.1.2 Types of coalitions (temporary, issue-based, strategic)
- 4.1.3 Case studies of coalitions in international relations

4.2 Alliances and their role in international relations

- 4.2.1 Definition and purposes of alliances
- 4.2.2 Military alliances and collective security (e.g., NATO)
- 4.2.3 Political and economic alliances (e.g., EU, ASEAN)

4.3 The balance of power theory

- 4.3.1 Meaning and historical evolution of balance of power
- 4.3.2 Mechanisms for maintaining balance of power
- 4.3.3 Criticisms and limitations of balance of power theory



4.4 Contemporary relevance of coalitions, alliances, and balance of power

- 4.4.1 Coalitions and alliances in the post-Cold War era
- 4.4.2 Balance of power in a multipolar world
- 4.4.3 Emerging challenges: terrorism, cyber threats, and global governance

Introduction

In the last Series, we examined how national interest and domestic politics shape foreign policy decisions. This Series turns our attention to the collective strategies states adopt to pursue their interests in the international arena. Coalitions and alliances are central to how states cooperate, while the balance of power theory explains how they manage competition and prevent domination. These concepts are vital for understanding both historical and contemporary global politics, from military alliances to economic partnerships and power rivalries.

The aim of this Series is to introduce you to the concepts of coalitions, alliances, and balance of power, and to equip you with the ability to analyse their roles in shaping international relations and evaluate their relevance in today's multipolar world.

We shall commence this Series by exploring the concept of coalitions, their characteristics, types, and case studies. Next, we will examine alliances, including military, political, and economic forms, and their role in international relations. Following that, we will study the balance of power theory, its historical evolution, mechanisms, and criticisms. Finally, we will conclude by evaluating the contemporary relevance of coalitions, alliances, and balance of power in addressing modern challenges such as terrorism, cyber threats, and global governance.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- **SLO 4.1** define coalitions in global politics and explain their characteristics, types, and examples,
- **SLO 4.2** describe alliances and analyse their role in military, political, and economic contexts,
- **SLO 4.3** explain the meaning, evolution, and mechanisms of the balance of power theory, and evaluate its limitations,
- **SLO 4.4** assess the contemporary relevance of coalitions, alliances, and balance of power in addressing global challenges.

4.1 The Concept of Coalitions in Global Politics

4.1.1 Definition and characteristics of coalitions

A **coalition** in global politics refers to a temporary or issue-based partnership between states or actors formed to achieve specific objectives. Unlike formal alliances, coalitions are often flexible, short-term, and focused on particular issues such as security, trade, or humanitarian



action. Their key characteristics include shared interests, voluntary participation, and adaptability to changing circumstances.

Fill in the blank: A coalition is a temporary or _____ partnership formed to achieve specific objectives.

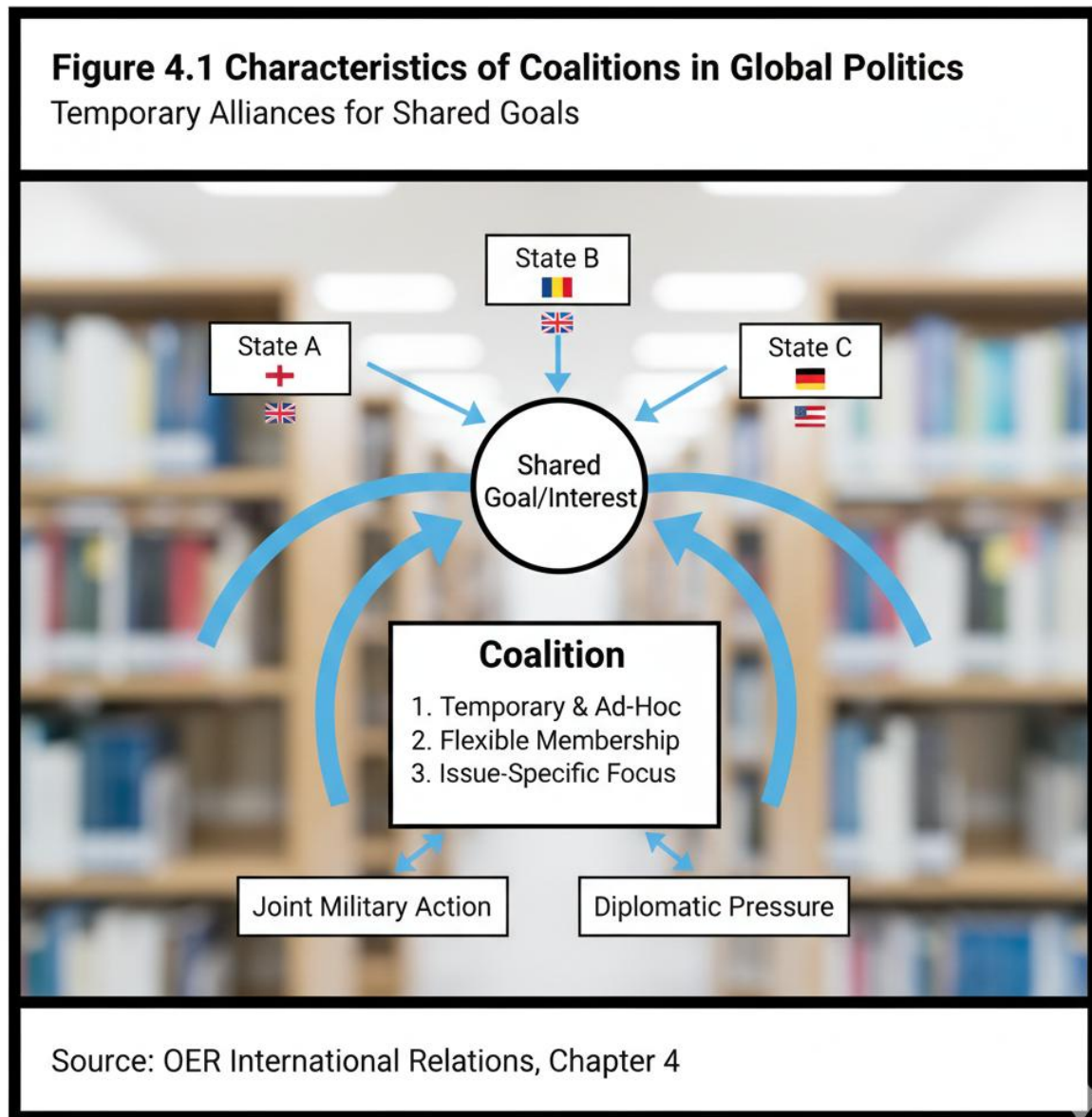


Diagram showing states joining together temporarily for a shared goal. Caption: Figure 4.1 Characteristics of coalitions in global politics

4.1.2 Types of coalitions (temporary, issue-based, strategic)

Coalitions can take different forms:

- **Temporary coalitions:** Formed for short-term objectives, such as disaster relief.



- **Issue-based coalitions:** Focused on specific concerns like climate change or trade negotiations.
- **Strategic coalitions:** Longer-term partnerships aimed at advancing broader goals, often overlapping with alliances.

Fill in the blank: Coalitions formed for short-term objectives, such as disaster relief, are called _____ coalitions.

Table 4.1

Types of Coalitions in Global Politics

Type of Coalition	Example
Temporary Coalition	Ad-hoc military task forces (e.g, intervention forces)
Issue-Based Coalition	Climate change summts, humanitarian aid efforts
Strategic Coalition	NATO, European Union

Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 4

Caption: Table 4.1 Types of coalitions in global politics Short description: A table listing temporary, issue-based, and strategic coalitions with examples.

4.1.3 Case studies of coalitions in international relations



Examples of coalitions include the **Coalition against ISIS**, which brought together multiple states to combat terrorism, and the **Coalition for Climate Action**, where states collaborate to address environmental challenges. These case studies show how coalitions can be effective in tackling urgent global issues without requiring permanent alliances.

Fill in the blank: The Coalition against _____ was formed to combat terrorism in the Middle East.

Box 4.1 Case Studies of Coalitions in International Relations

Examples of Global Alliances

- **Coalition against ISIS:** A global military and political alliance of over 80 countries, formed to combat the terrorist group IS through airstrikes, training local forces, and of funding. Demonstrates a temporary, issue-based coalition for security.
- **Coalition for Climate Action:** A network of governments, and civil society organizations and civil society organizations working to working to accelerate climate action and achieve the goals of the the goals of the Paris Agreement. Highlights a strategic, issue-based coalition addressing a-form-global challenge.

Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 4

Caption: Box 4.1 Case studies of coalitions in international relations Short description: A box summarising examples such as the Coalition against ISIS and Coalition for Climate Action.

Pilot questions 4.1

1. What term refers to a temporary or issue-based partnership between states?



2. Name the three types of coalitions.
3. Give one example of a temporary coalition.
4. What is the Coalition against ISIS an example of?
5. Why are coalitions considered more flexible than alliances?

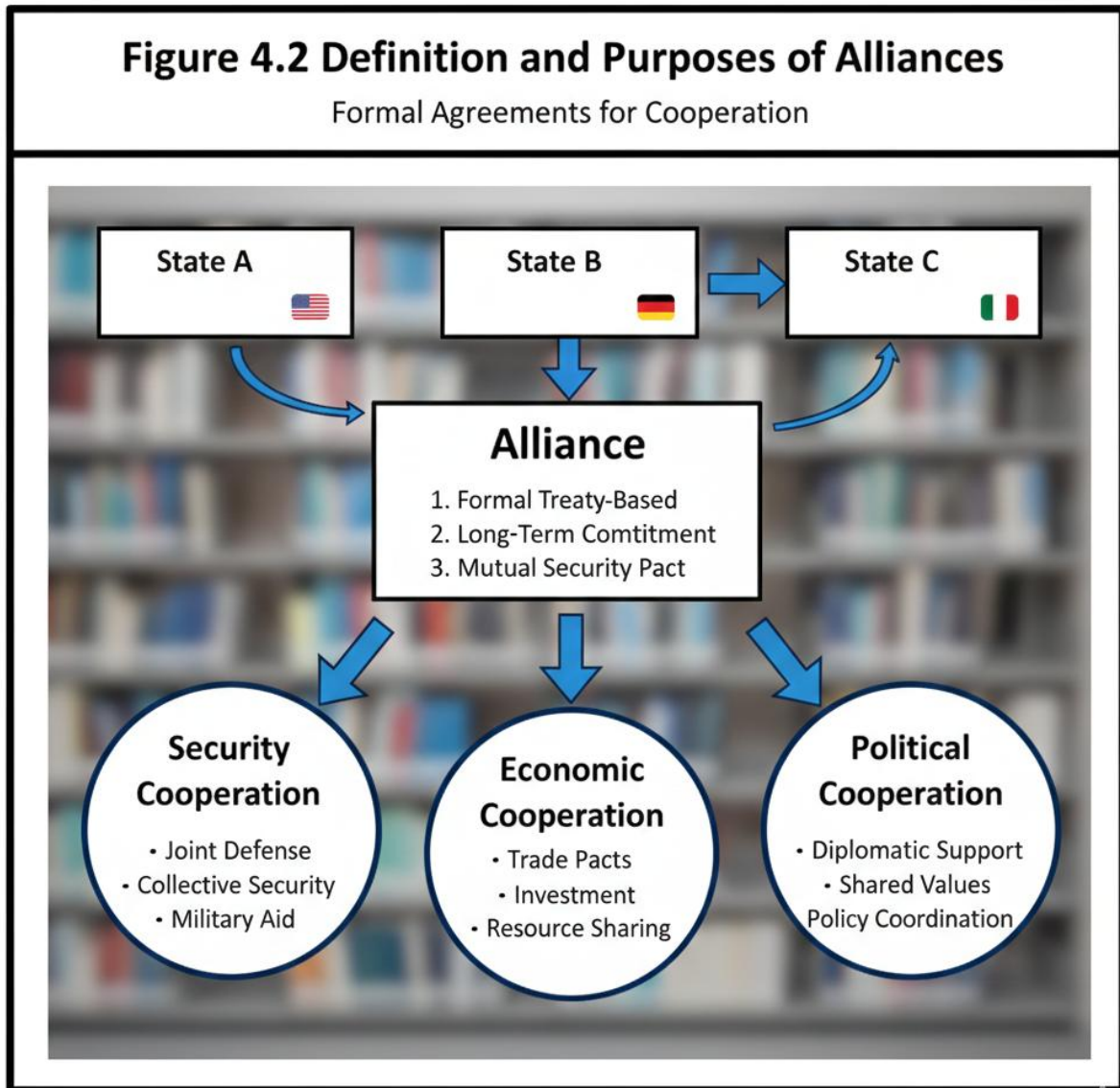
4.2 Alliances and Their Role in International Relations

4.2.1 Definition and purposes of alliances

An **alliance** is a formal agreement between two or more states to cooperate in pursuit of shared objectives. Unlike coalitions, alliances are usually long-term and institutionalised. Their purposes include enhancing security, promoting economic cooperation, and strengthening political ties. Alliances provide stability by committing members to mutual support.

Fill in the blank: An alliance is a formal _____ between states to cooperate in pursuit of shared objectives.





Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 4

Diagram showing states connected by formal agreements for security, economic, and political cooperation. Caption: Figure 4.2 Definition and purposes of alliances

4.2.2 Military alliances and collective security (e.g., NATO)

Military alliances are formed to provide collective security, meaning that an attack on one member is considered an attack on all. The **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** is a prime example, created to deter aggression and maintain peace among its members. Such alliances enhance deterrence and provide a framework for joint military operations.

Fill in the blank: Military alliances provide _____ security, meaning an attack on one is an attack on all.



Table 4.2 Examples of Military Alliances and their Purposes

Alliance	Primary Objective
NATO (North security of of Troganization)	Collective security, mutual defense against external aggression, crisis management
Warsaw Pact (Historical)	Mutual defense against NATO, commuict bloc of military military coordization
AUKUS (Australia, UK, US security security pact)	Indo-IPnactic security, advance technology sharing. (e.g. nuclear subbraines)

Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 4

Caption: Table 4.2 Examples of military alliances and their purposes Short description: A table listing NATO and other military alliances with their objectives

4.2.3 Political and economic alliances (e.g., EU, ASEAN)

Political and economic alliances focus on cooperation beyond security. The **European Union (EU)** promotes political integration and economic prosperity, while the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** fosters regional stability and trade. These alliances demonstrate how states can pool sovereignty and resources to achieve collective benefits.

Fill in the blank: The European Union is an example of a political and _____ alliance promoting integration and prosperity.



Box 4.2 Political and Economic Alliances

Key Regional Blocs & Their Roles

European Union (EU)

- **Political Role:** Promotes peace, democracy, and hughts; commen foreign and security policy.
- **Economic Role:** Single market, Eurozone currency, trade agreements, and development aid.

ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)

- **Political Role:** Enhances regional stability, dialogue, and conflict resolution.
- **Political Role:** Free Trade Area (AFTA), investment investment promotion, and economic integration.

Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 4

Caption: Box 4.2 Political and economic alliances Short description: A box summarising examples such as the EU and ASEAN with their roles in politics and economics.

”

Pilot questions 4.2

1. What term refers to a formal agreement between states for cooperation?
2. What is the main purpose of military alliances?
3. Give one example of a military alliance.
4. Name one political or economic alliance.
5. Why are alliances considered more stable than coalitions?



4.3 The Balance of Power Theory

4.3.1 Meaning and historical evolution of balance of power

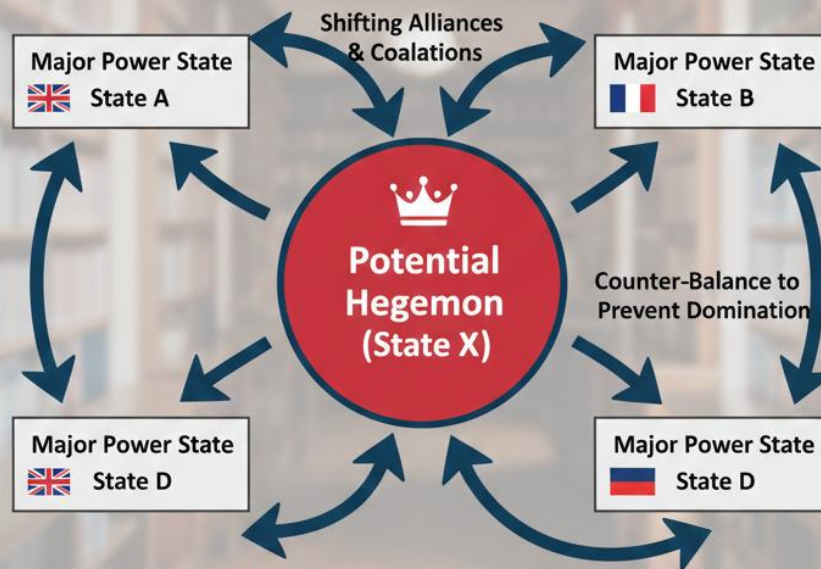
The **balance of power** refers to a system in which states seek to prevent any one state from becoming too dominant. By distributing power among several states, stability is maintained and the risk of hegemony is reduced. Historically, the balance of power was central to European politics, particularly during the 18th and 19th centuries, when alliances shifted to prevent domination by a single power such as France or Germany.

Fill in the blank: The balance of power seeks to prevent any one state from becoming too _____.



Figure 4.3 Historical Balance of Power System

Preventing Hegeromy Through Shifting Alliances



Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 4

Diagram showing multiple states balancing power to prevent domination by one. Caption: Figure 4.3 Historical balance of power system

4.3.2 Mechanisms for maintaining balance of power

States use several mechanisms to maintain balance of power, including forming alliances, increasing military strength, and engaging in diplomacy. For example, during the Cold War, the balance of power was maintained through military alliances like NATO and the Warsaw Pact. These mechanisms ensure that no single state can easily dominate the international system.

Fill in the blank: Alliances, military build-up, and _____ are mechanisms used to maintain balance of power.



Table 4.3 Mechanisms for Maintaining Balance of Power

Key Strategies in International Relations

	Mechanism	Example
• Alliances	A States form mutual defense pacts (e.g., NATO) and modestly determoddrzines its military to match to counter a capabilities of a neanta-rival state	International confereences, arms control agreements andotations and negotiations are used to manage tensions and find to peaceful resolutions, like the SALT treaties
• Military Build-up (Aranment)		
• Diploamiy & Treaties		

Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 4

Caption: Table 4.3 Mechanisms for maintaining balance of power Short description: A table listing alliances, military build-up, and diplomacy as mechanisms with examples.

4.3.3 Criticisms and limitations of balance of power theory

While the balance of power has been influential, it has limitations. Critics argue that it can lead to arms races, instability, and wars when states miscalculate. Others suggest that the theory is less relevant in today's interconnected world, where economic interdependence and global institutions play a larger role. Despite these criticisms, the balance of power remains a useful lens for analysing international politics.

Fill in the blank: One criticism of the balance of power is that it can lead to _____ races and instability.



Box 4.3

Criticisms and Limitations of Balance of Power Theory

Key Arguments & Contemporary Challenges

- **Arms Races & Conflict:**
The constant competition of military advantage can escalate tensions and intensify the security dilemmas.
- **Inherent Instability** of military alliances, the likelihood of war through security dilemmas.
- **Inherent Instability:**
Requires continuous, often unpredictable shifts of alliances and, leading to a volatile international environment.
- **Reduced Relevance in a Globalized World:**
Contemporary challenges like climate change, terrorist threats are transnational and cannot be addressed by traditional power balancing alone.

Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 4

Caption: Box 4.3 Criticisms and limitations of balance of power theory Short description: A box summarising criticisms such as arms races, instability, and reduced relevance in a globalised world

Pilot questions 4.3

1. What is the main goal of the balance of power system?
2. Which centuries saw the balance of power dominate European politics?
3. Name one mechanism used to maintain balance of power.
4. What alliances maintained balance during the Cold War?



5. Give one criticism of the balance of power theory.

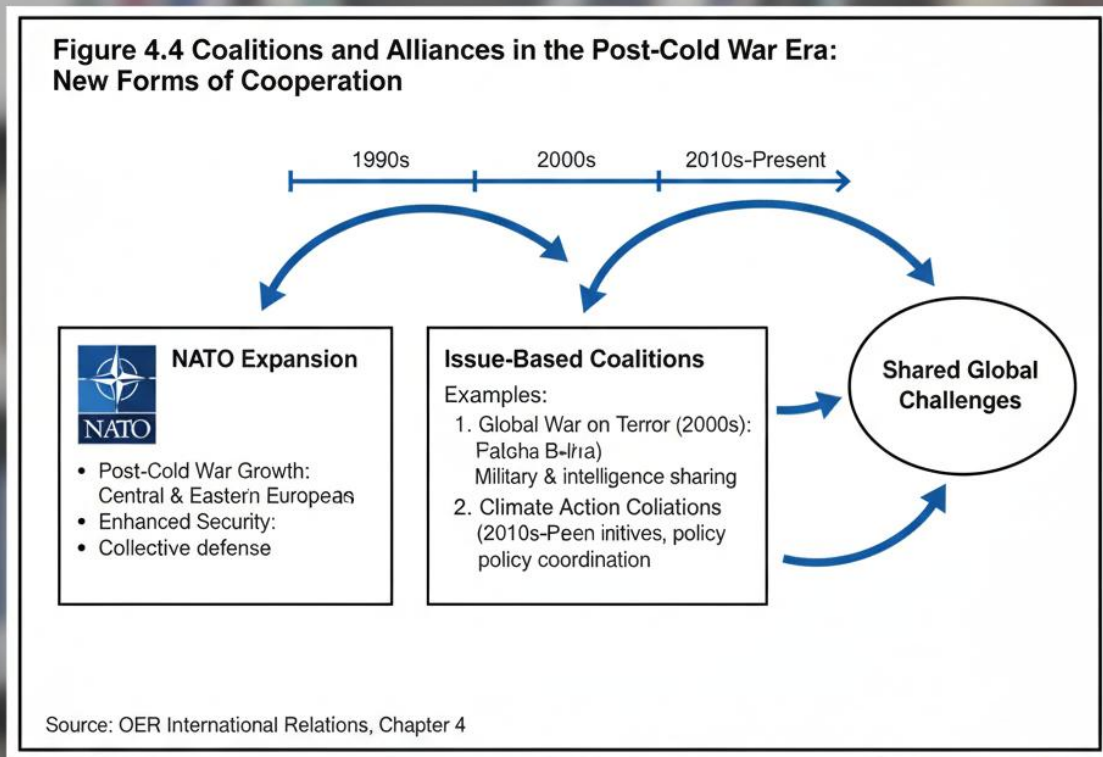
4.4 Contemporary Relevance of Coalitions, Alliances, and Balance of Power

4.4.1 Coalitions and alliances in the post-Cold War era

In the post-Cold War era, coalitions and alliances have adapted to new realities. Military alliances such as NATO expanded their membership and missions, while issue-based coalitions emerged to tackle global challenges like terrorism and climate change. These developments show that cooperation remains essential in addressing threats that transcend borders.

Fill in the blank: In the post-Cold War era, NATO expanded its _____ and missions to address new challenges.





showing NATO expansion and issue-based coalitions addressing terrorism and climate change.
Caption: Figure 4.4 Coalitions and alliances in the post-Cold War era

4.4.2 Balance of power in a multipolar world

Today's international system is increasingly multipolar, with power distributed among several major states such as the United States, China, Russia, and the European Union. The balance of power in this context involves complex interactions, shifting alliances, and competition across economic, military, and technological domains. Unlike the bipolar Cold War era, multipolarity requires more flexible strategies to maintain stability.

Fill in the blank: In a multipolar world, power is distributed among several major _____.



Table 4.4 Balance of Power in a Multipolar World

Key Global Powers & Their Spheres of Influence

Major Power	North America, Western Europe, Global Security Technology
United States (US)	Asia-Pacific, Global Supply Alliances (NATO), (NATRO), Technology, Finance
China	Asia-Pacific, Global Supply Chains, Belt and Road Road Initiative (Infrastructure Investment), Technology
European Union (EU)	Eastern Europe, Asia, Energy Supply, Military-Security Influence
European Union (EU)	Europe, Trade & Economic Regulations, Diplomacy, Development Aid

Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 4

Caption: Table 4.4 Balance of power in a multipolar world Short description: A table listing major powers (US, China, Russia, EU) and their areas of influence.

4.4.3 Emerging challenges: terrorism, cyber threats, and global governance

Coalitions, alliances, and balance of power are increasingly tested by emerging challenges. Terrorism requires coordinated responses across borders, cyber threats demand new forms of cooperation, and global governance institutions must adapt to address transnational issues. These challenges highlight the need for states to rethink traditional approaches and embrace innovative strategies for collective security and stability.

Fill in the blank: Cyber _____ demand new forms of cooperation among states in the contemporary era.



Box 4.4 Emerging Challenges in Global Politics

Contemporary Threats & The Need For Cooperation

- **Terrorism:**
- Non-state actors using violence to achieve political goals, requiring international intelligence sharing and security cooperation.
- **Cyber Threats:** State-sponsored criminal activities targeting critical infrastructure, data, and democratic processes, necessitating cyberbursity alliances and digital digital defense strategies.
- **Global Governance:**
- Weakensess in international instiutions to address complex, complex, transsonal issus like pandemic, climate change, and economic instability, highllighing the need reformed multaterial frameworks

Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 4

Caption: Box 4.4 Emerging challenges in global politics Short description: A box summarising terrorism, cyber threats, and global governance as contemporary challenges.

Pilot questions 4.4

1. How has NATO adapted in the post-Cold War era?
2. What does multipolarity mean in global politics?
3. Name two major powers in today's multipolar world.
4. Give one example of an emerging challenge that tests coalitions and alliances.
5. Why must global governance institutions adapt in the contemporary era?



Series Summary

This Series has examined how states cooperate and compete in the international system through coalitions, alliances, and the balance of power. We began by defining coalitions, exploring their characteristics, types, and case studies. We then studied alliances, distinguishing between military, political, and economic forms, and highlighting their purposes and stability compared to coalitions. Following that, we analysed the balance of power theory, its historical evolution, mechanisms, and criticisms. Finally, we evaluated the contemporary relevance of these concepts in a multipolar world, considering emerging challenges such as terrorism, cyber threats, and global governance.

By engaging with these topics, you should now be able to define coalitions, describe alliances, explain the balance of power theory, and assess their relevance in today's global politics. These abilities directly align with the Series Learning Outcomes (SLOs), ensuring you can interpret both cooperation and competition in international relations.

Glossary of Terms

- **Alliance:** A formal agreement between states to cooperate in pursuit of shared objectives.
- **Balance of power:** A system in which states seek to prevent any one state from becoming too dominant.
- **Coalition:** A temporary or issue-based partnership between states formed to achieve specific objectives.
- **Collective security:** The principle that an attack on one member of an alliance is considered an attack on all.
- **Multipolarity:** A global system where power is distributed among several major states.
- **NATO:** The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, a military alliance formed for collective security.
- **Post-Cold War era:** The period after 1991 when global politics shifted from bipolarity to multipolarity.
- **Strategic coalition:** A longer-term partnership aimed at advancing broader goals, often overlapping with alliances.

Concept Check Questions [Series 4]

Objective questions

1. What term refers to a temporary or issue-based partnership between states? (Linked to SLO 4.1)
2. What principle underlies military alliances such as NATO? (Linked to SLO 4.2)
3. What is the main goal of the balance of power system? (Linked to SLO 4.3)

Short-answer questions

4. Define an alliance and explain its purposes. (Linked to SLO 4.2)



5. Give one criticism of the balance of power theory. (Linked to SLO 4.3)

Long-answer questions

6. Analyse the differences between coalitions and alliances, using examples. (Linked to SLO 4.1 & 4.2)

- *Basic response:* Learners should explain definitions and differences in duration, stability, and purpose.
- *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may provide examples such as the Coalition against ISIS (coalition) and NATO (alliance).

7. Assess the relevance of coalitions, alliances, and balance of power in today's multipolar world. (Linked to SLO 4.4)

- *Basic response:* Learners should explain how these concepts remain important in addressing global challenges.
- *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may apply this to terrorism, cyber threats, and climate change governance.

Answers to Concept Check Questions [Series 4]

1. Coalition.
2. Collective security.
3. To prevent any one state from becoming too dominant.
4. An alliance is a formal agreement between states to cooperate; purposes include security, economic cooperation, and political ties.
5. One criticism is that it can lead to arms races and instability.
6. *Basic response:* Coalitions are temporary and issue-based, while alliances are formal and long-term. *Value-added response:* Examples include the Coalition against ISIS (temporary) and NATO (formal alliance).
7. *Basic response:* Coalitions, alliances, and balance of power remain relevant in multipolarity. *Value-added response:* They help address terrorism, cyber threats, and global governance challenges.

References and Attributions [Series 4]

- Figure 4.1 Characteristics of coalitions: AI prompt “Generate a diagram showing states joining together temporarily for a shared goal.”
- Table 4.1 Types of coalitions: AI prompt “Generate a table listing temporary, issue-based, and strategic coalitions with examples.”
- Box 4.1 Case studies of coalitions: AI prompt “Generate a text box summarising examples of coalitions such as the Coalition against ISIS and Coalition for Climate Action.”



- Figure 4.2 Alliances: AI prompt “Generate a diagram showing states connected by formal agreements for security, economic, and political cooperation.”
- Table 4.2 Military alliances: AI prompt “Generate a table listing NATO and other military alliances with their objectives.”
- Box 4.2 Political and economic alliances: AI prompt “Generate a text box summarising examples of political and economic alliances such as EU and ASEAN.”
- Figure 4.3 Balance of power: AI prompt “Generate a diagram showing multiple states balancing power to prevent domination by one.”
- Table 4.3 Mechanisms of balance of power: AI prompt “Generate a table listing alliances, military build-up, and diplomacy as mechanisms for maintaining balance of power.”
- Box 4.3 Criticisms of balance of power: AI prompt “Generate a text box summarising criticisms and limitations of balance of power theory.”
- Figure 4.4 Post-Cold War coalitions: AI prompt “Generate a diagram showing NATO expansion and issue-based coalitions addressing terrorism and climate change.”
- Table 4.4 Multipolar balance of power: AI prompt “Generate a table listing major powers (US, China, Russia, EU) and their areas of influence.”
- Box 4.4 Emerging challenges: AI prompt “Generate a text box summarising terrorism, cyber threats, and global governance as contemporary challenges.”

Answers to Pilot Questions [Series 4]

Part 4.1 Coalitions

1. Coalition
2. Temporary, issue-based, strategic
3. Disaster relief coalition
4. Coalition against ISIS
5. Because they are flexible and short-term

Part 4.2 Alliances

6. Alliance
7. Collective security
8. NATO
9. EU or ASEAN
10. Because they are formal and institutionalised

Part 4.3 Balance of Power



11. To prevent domination by one state
12. 18th and 19th centuries
13. Alliances
14. NATO and Warsaw Pact
15. Arms races and instability

Part 4.4 Contemporary Relevance

16. Membership
17. States
18. United States, China, Russia, EU
19. Terrorism or cyber threats
20. To address transnational issues effectively

Series 5: Classifications of States and the Impact of the Third World

5.1 Classifications of states in international relations

- 5.1.1 Criteria for classifying states (economic, political, military, cultural)
- 5.1.2 Categories of states: developed, developing, and underdeveloped
- 5.1.3 Case studies of state classifications in practice

5.2 The concept of the Third World

- 5.2.1 Historical origins of the term “Third World”
- 5.2.2 Characteristics of Third World states
- 5.2.3 Criticisms and evolving terminology (Global South, developing world)

5.3 Impact of the Third World on global politics

- 5.3.1 Role in international organisations (e.g., UN, NAM, G77)
- 5.3.2 Influence on global economic and political agendas
- 5.3.3 Challenges faced by Third World states in global politics

5.4 Contemporary relevance of state classifications

- 5.4.1 Globalisation and shifting categories of states



- 5.4.2 Emerging economies and their impact on global politics
- 5.4.3 Future of state classifications in international relations

Introduction

In the previous Series, we examined coalitions, alliances, and the balance of power in global politics. This Series shifts focus to how states are classified and the role of the so-called “Third World” in international relations. Classifications of states—such as developed, developing, and underdeveloped—help us understand differences in economic strength, political stability, and global influence. The concept of the Third World, though contested, has historically been used to describe states outside the Western capitalist bloc and the Soviet communist bloc during the Cold War.

This Series will explore the criteria used to classify states, the origins and characteristics of the Third World, and the impact of these states on global politics. We will also consider the evolving terminology (such as “Global South”) and the contemporary relevance of state classifications in an era of globalisation and emerging economies.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- **SLO 5.1** explain the criteria for classifying states and identify categories such as developed, developing, and underdeveloped,
- **SLO 5.2** describe the historical origins and characteristics of the Third World, and discuss evolving terminology,
- **SLO 5.3** analyse the impact of Third World states on global politics, including their role in international organisations and global agendas,
- **SLO 5.4** evaluate the contemporary relevance of state classifications, considering globalisation, emerging economies, and future trends.

5.1 Classifications of States in International Relations

5.1.1 Criteria for classifying states (economic, political, military, cultural)

States are often classified based on multiple criteria:

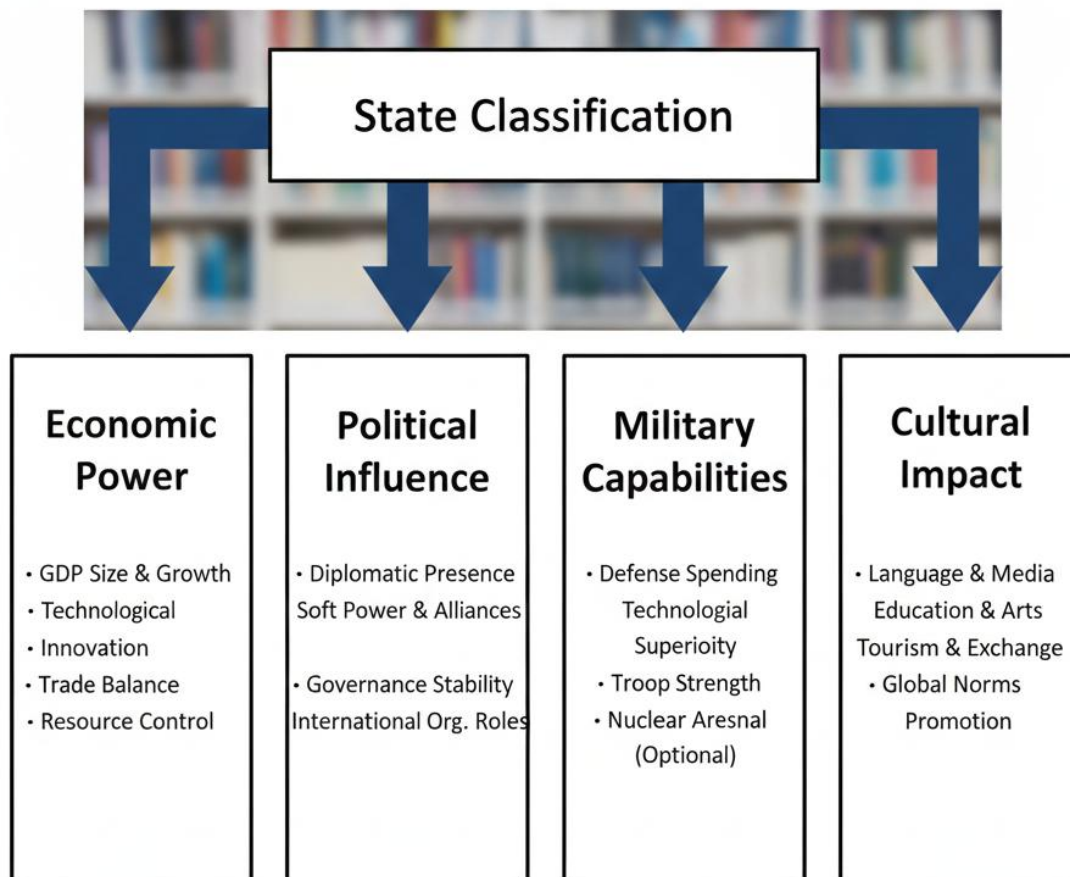
- **Economic strength:** GDP, industrialisation, and technological advancement.
- **Political stability:** Functioning institutions, governance quality, and rule of law.
- **Military capacity:** Defence spending, technological sophistication, and global reach.
- **Cultural influence:** Soft power through media, education, and cultural exports.

These criteria help scholars and policymakers understand the relative position of states in the international system.



Fill in the blank: States are often classified based on economic strength, political stability, military capacity, and _____ influence.

Figure 5.1 Criteria for Classifying States: Four Pillars of Global Standing



Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 5

Diagram showing four pillars of classification—economic, political, military, cultural. Caption: Figure 5.1 Criteria for classifying states

5.1.2 Categories of states: developed, developing, and underdeveloped

States are commonly grouped into three broad categories:

- **Developed states:** High-income economies, advanced infrastructure, strong institutions (e.g., USA, Germany, Japan).



- **Developing states:** Middle-income economies, growing infrastructure, improving institutions (e.g., Brazil, India, Nigeria).
- **Underdeveloped states:** Low-income economies, weak infrastructure, fragile institutions (often in parts of Sub-Saharan Africa).

Fill in the blank: States with high-income economies and advanced infrastructure are classified as _____ states.

Table 5.1 Categories of States and Examples	
Category	Examples
Developed States	United States, Germany, Japan, Australia
Developing States	India, Brazil, South Africa, Mexico
Underdeveloped States (Least Developed Countries)	Haiti, Ethiopia Afghanistan, Somalia

Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 5

Table 5.1 Categories of states and examples Short description: A table listing developed, developing, and underdeveloped states with examples.

5.1.3 Case studies of state classifications in practice

Case studies illustrate how classifications are applied. For example:



- **South Korea:** Transitioned from a developing to a developed state within decades due to industrialisation and education.
- **Nigeria:** Classified as a developing state, with strong economic potential but challenges in infrastructure and governance.
- **Afghanistan:** Often considered underdeveloped due to persistent conflict and weak institutions.

These examples show that classifications are dynamic and can change over time.

Fill in the blank: South Korea transitioned from a developing to a _____ state due to industrialisation and education.



Box 5.1 Case Studies of State Classifications

Diverse Paths to Development & Challenges

- **South Korea:** A case of rapid development, transforming from an agrarian, war-torn 1950s into the global leader in technology, and culture. Industrialization, investment in strategic global integration.
- Demonstrates successful developing state with significant growth. Demonstrated strategic global integration.
- **Nigeria:** Classified as a developing state with significant oil wealth, but faces challenges including corruption, inequality, and security issues. Highlights the complexities of resource-rich developing nations.
- **Afghanistan:** An underdeveloped, conflict-affected state grappling with instability, and limited infrastructure. Prolonged conflict on development and state-building efforts.

Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 5

Caption: Box 5.1 Case studies of state classifications Short description: A box summarising examples such as South Korea, Nigeria, and Afghanistan.

Pilot questions 5.1

1. Name four criteria used to classify states.
2. What term describes states with high-income economies and advanced infrastructure?
3. Give one example of a developing state.
4. Why is Nigeria classified as a developing state?
5. How did South Korea transition from a developing to a developed state?



5.2 The Concept of the Third World

5.2.1 Historical origins of the term “Third World”

The term **Third World** originated during the Cold War to describe countries that were neither aligned with the Western capitalist bloc (First World) nor the Soviet communist bloc (Second World). It was first popularised in the 1950s by French demographer Alfred Sauvy. These states were often newly independent from colonial rule and sought to chart their own path in global politics.

Fill in the blank: The term “Third World” was first popularised in the _____ by Alfred Sauvy.



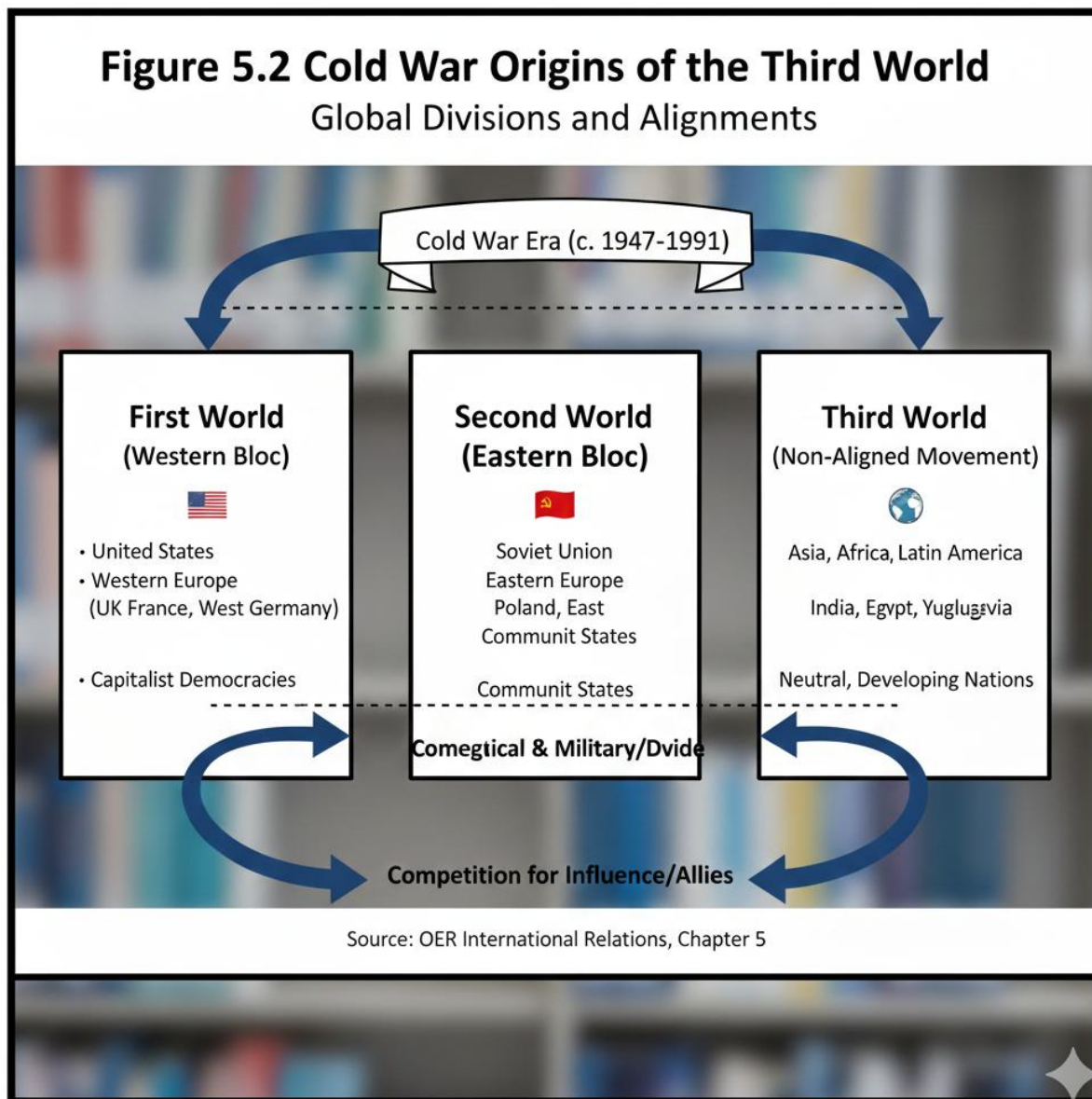


Diagram showing Cold War divisions: First World (West), Second World (Soviet bloc), Third World (non-aligned). Caption: Figure 5.2 Cold War origins of the Third World

5.2.2 Characteristics of Third World states

Third World states typically shared certain characteristics:

- **Economic underdevelopment:** Low GDP, reliance on agriculture, limited industrialisation.
- **Political instability:** Weak institutions, frequent changes in government, or authoritarian rule.
- **Social challenges:** High poverty rates, low literacy, poor healthcare systems.



- **Dependence:** Reliance on foreign aid, loans, or external powers for development.

Fill in the blank: Third World states often face high poverty rates and low _____ levels.

Table 5.2 Characteristics of Third World States Defining Features of Developing Nations	
Characteristic	Description/Examples
Economic: • Low poverty rates • High poverty rates	• Low GDP per capita • Reliance of primary commodities - Limited industrialization
Political • Corruption & colonialism	• Corruption & weak governance - Authoritarian tendencies
Social • Limited access of distribution of education/healthcare	• Reliance on foreign aid/loans • Unequal trade relations • Technological dependence
Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 5	

Caption: Table 5.2 Characteristics of Third World states Short description: A table listing economic, political, social, and dependency characteristics.”

5.2.3 Criticisms and evolving terminology (Global South, developing world)

The term “Third World” has been criticised for being outdated and pejorative. Scholars and policymakers now prefer terms such as **Global South** or **developing world**, which emphasise shared challenges without implying inferiority. These evolving terms reflect a more nuanced understanding of global inequalities and the diverse experiences of states outside the traditional Western powers.



Fill in the blank: The term “Third World” is often replaced by “Global South” or _____ world.

Box 5.2 Criticiims and Evolving Termonoligy

Debates Around the Term 'Third World Nations

- Criticioms of 'Third World: Rooted in Cold War divisions, implies inferrity, lumping diverse natise nations together, and outdated outdaed in a multipolar world.
- Alternative Termonolgy: 'Global South',
'Less-Developing Countries' 'Uneque-Developed Countries' (LDC)
'Majority World.
- Rationale for Alternatives: More inclusive, focuss on economic development & shared challenges, avoids Colrd conntataions, and recagnizes diversity.

Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 5

Caption: Box 5.2 Criticisms and evolving terminology Short description: A box summarising criticisms of the term “Third World” and alternatives like Global South and developing world.

Pilot questions 5.2

1. Who first popularised the term “Third World”?
2. During which global conflict did the term originate?
3. Name two characteristics of Third World states.
4. What term is often used today instead of “Third World”?



5. Why is the term “Third World” criticised?

5.3 Impact of the Third World on Global Politics

5.3.1 Role in international organisations (e.g., UN, NAM, G77)

Third World states have played a significant role in shaping international organisations. Through the **United Nations (UN)**, they have raised issues of development, peace, and self-determination. The **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)** provided a platform for states outside the Cold War blocs to assert independence. The **Group of 77 (G77)** has been influential in promoting economic cooperation and advocating for fairer global trade policies.

Fill in the blank: The Group of _____ has been influential in promoting economic cooperation among developing states.



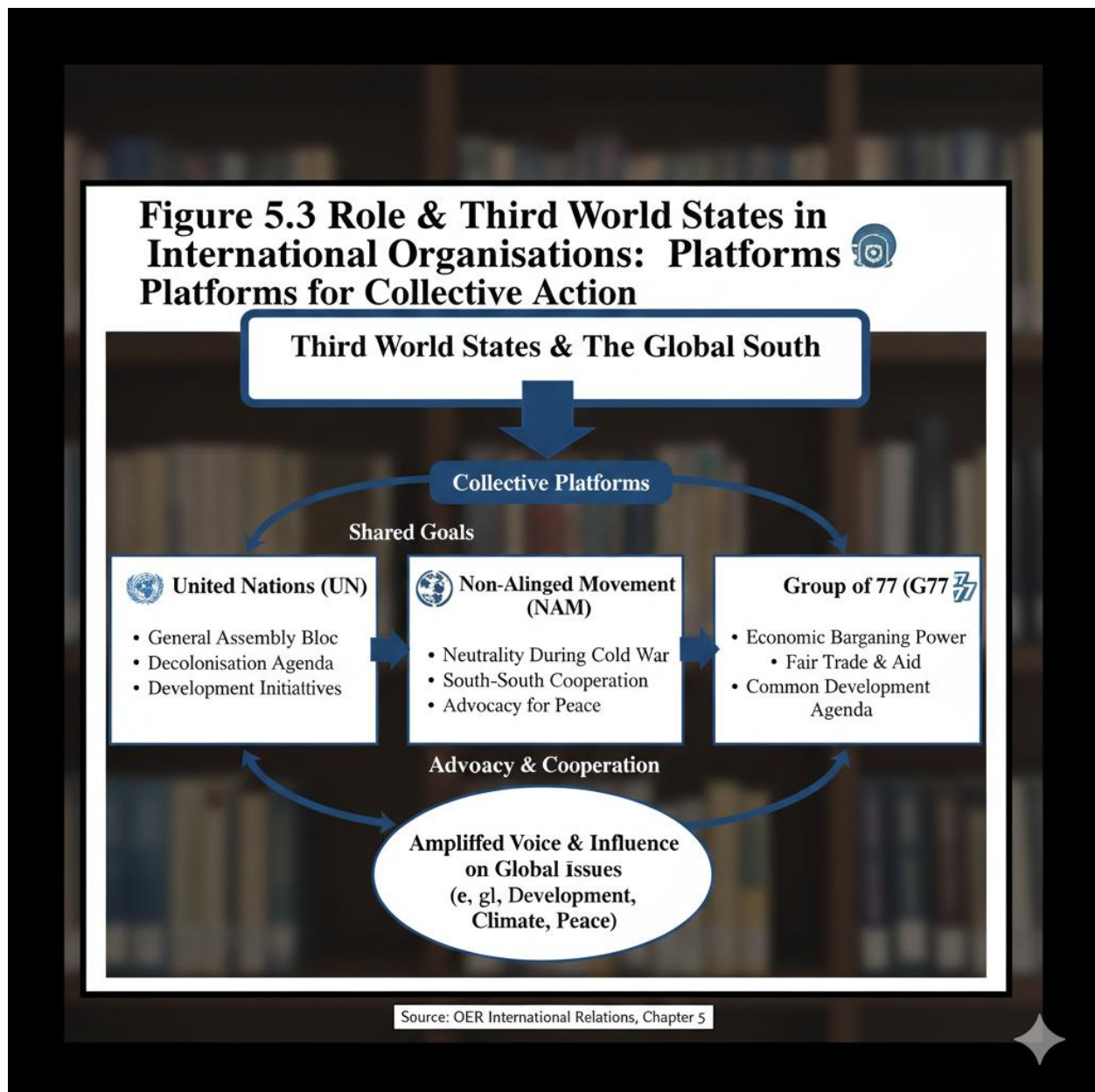


Diagram showing UN, NAM, and G77 as platforms for Third World states. Caption: Figure 5.3 Role of Third World states in international organisations

5.3.2 Influence on global economic and political agendas

Third World states influence global agendas by advocating for fair trade, debt relief, and sustainable development. Their collective voice has shaped discussions on climate change, poverty reduction, and global inequality. For example, the push for the **New International Economic Order (NIEO)** in the 1970s reflected demands for restructuring global economic relations to benefit developing countries.

Fill in the blank: The push for the New International _____ Order reflected demands for restructuring global economic relations.



**Table 5.3 Influence of Third World States on Global Agendas
Key Issues & Collective Advocacy**

Issue

Fair Trade & Economic Equity	Impact & Outcomes
Advocacy for equitable trade terms, market access, and commodity price stabilization. like UNCTAD	Campaigns for forgiveness or restructuring or crippling debt burdens. G77 role in pushing for HIPC initiatives
Debt Relief & Financial Reform	Highlighting the disproportionate impact on developing nations. Demands for climate finance, technology transfer, and "common but differentiated responsibilities."
Sustainable Development	
Emphasis on balancing economic growth with environmental protection in social, social equity. Central to Earth Summits and	
Climate Change & Environmental Justice	
agenda	

Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 5

Caption: Table 5.3 Influence of Third World states on global agendas Short description: A table listing issues such as fair trade, debt relief, sustainable development, and climate change.

5.3.3 Challenges faced by Third World states in global politics

Despite their influence, Third World states face challenges such as:

- **Economic dependency** on developed states and international financial institutions.
- **Political marginalisation** in decision-making processes of global organisations.
- **Social and environmental vulnerabilities**, including poverty, disease, and climate change impacts.



These challenges limit their ability to fully shape global politics, but they continue to push for reforms and greater representation.

Fill in the blank: Third World states often face political _____ in decision-making processes of global organisations.

Box 5.3

Challenges Faced by Third World States

Key Obstacles to Development & Global Integration

- **Economic Dependency:**

Reliance on primary commodity exports, debt burdens, and unfavourable terms of trade with developed and with developed nations, perpetuate a cycle of limited economic diversification.

Limited representation in global governance institutions and limited economic diversification.

- **Political Marginalisation:**

Limited representation in global governance institutions, lack of influential decision-making, vulnerability to external political pressures and neo-colonial practices.

- **Social Vulnerabilities:**

High rates of poverty, inequality, limited access of education and healthcare, political instability, and exacerbated environmental disasters and climate change impacts.

Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 5

Caption: Box 5.3 Challenges faced by Third World states Short description: A box summarising challenges such as economic dependency, political marginalisation, and social vulnerabilities.

Pilot questions 5.3

1. Name one international organisation where Third World states have played a significant role.



2. What was the purpose of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)?
3. What global economic reform did Third World states push for in the 1970s?
4. Give one issue that Third World states have influenced in global agendas.
5. Name one challenge faced by Third World states in global politics.

5.4 Contemporary Relevance of State Classifications

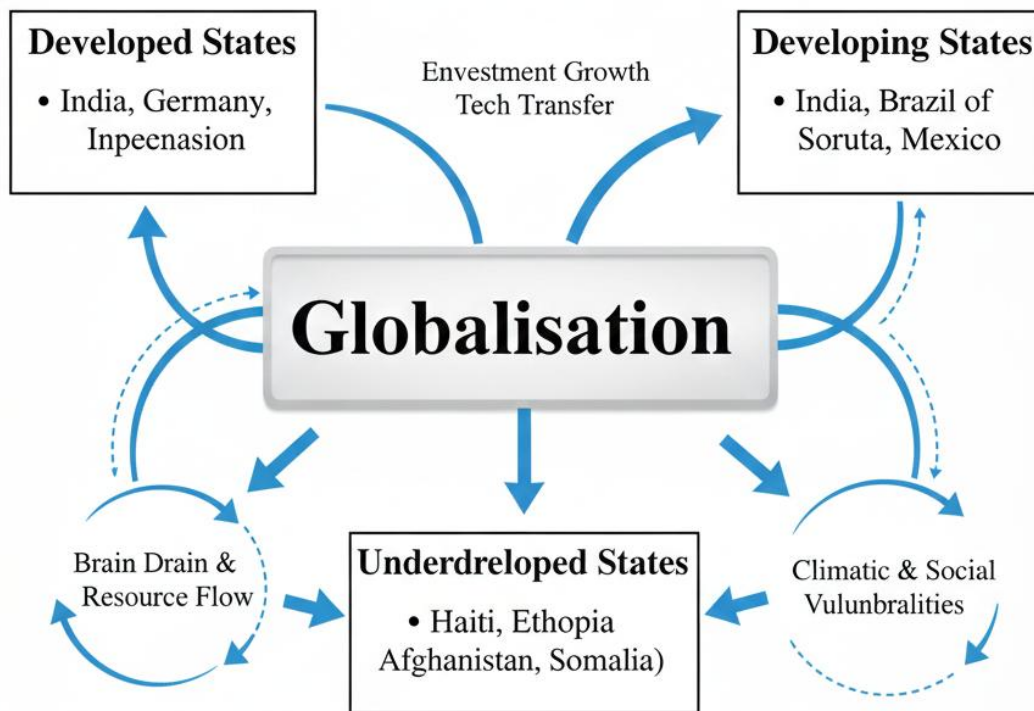
5.4.1 Globalisation and shifting categories of states

Globalisation has blurred traditional classifications of states. Economic interdependence, technological diffusion, and global trade have enabled some developing states to rise rapidly, while some developed states face new vulnerabilities. This shows that classifications are not static but evolve with global dynamics.

Fill in the blank: Globalisation has blurred traditional classifications of states due to economic _____ and technological diffusion.



**Figure 5.4 Globalisation and Shifting Categories of States:
Interconnectedness and Evolution**



Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 5

Diagram showing arrows between developed, developing, and underdeveloped states shifting due to globalisation. Caption: Figure 5.4 Globalisation and shifting categories of states

5.4.2 Emerging economies and their impact on global politics

Emerging economies such as China, India, Brazil, and South Africa have reshaped global politics. They influence trade, investment, and international institutions, often challenging the dominance of traditional developed states. Their rise demonstrates how classifications can change and how new power centres emerge in the global system.

Fill in the blank: Emerging economies such as China and India have reshaped global _____ through trade and investment.



Table 5.4 Emerging Economies and Their Global Impact

Key Contributions to Trade, Investment, and Global Institutions

Emerging Economy	BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa)
	Significant share of global trade; Investment in infrastructure; New development banks, development (e.g., BRICS Bank) Climate change negotiations
Mexico	Member of G20 & OECD; Manufacturing hub (hub (near Mexico)) Trade agreements (USMCA) Regional leader in Latin America
Indonesia	G20 member; Bridge between Europe & Asia Growing consumer market, Investment in renewable energy Regional security player

Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 5

Caption: Table 5.4 Emerging economies and their global impact Short description: A table listing emerging economies and their contributions to trade, investment, and institutions

5.4.3 Future of state classifications in international relations

The future of state classifications may move beyond rigid categories. Concepts like **Global South**, **emerging powers**, and **middle powers** reflect more nuanced realities. As global challenges such as climate change, pandemics, and cyber threats affect all states, cooperation may become more important than classification.

Fill in the blank: Future classifications may emphasise terms like Global South, emerging powers, and _____ powers.



Box 5.4 Future of State Classifications

Evolving Categories in International Relations

- **Global South:** a more inclusive and geographically-oriented term encompassing developing and least-developed countries, emphasizing shared challenges.
- **Emerging Powers:** States like **BRICS** (Russia, India, China, South Africa) that are rapidly gaining economic and political influence, challenging traditional power structures.
- **Middle Powers:** Countries with significant but not dominant influence, often active in international cooperation, diplomacy, niche areas like climate or peacekeeping

Source: OER International Relations, Chapter 5

Caption: Box 5.4 Future of state classifications Short description: A box summarising possible future classifications such as Global South, emerging powers, and middle powers.

Pilot questions 5.4

1. How has globalisation affected traditional state classifications?
2. Name two emerging economies that have reshaped global politics.
3. What contributions do emerging economies make to the global system?
4. What new terms are used to describe states beyond rigid categories?
5. Why might cooperation become more important than classification in the future?



Series Summary

This Series examined how states are classified and the role of the Third World in global politics. We began by exploring the criteria for classifying states—economic, political, military, and cultural—and outlined categories such as developed, developing, and underdeveloped. We then studied the concept of the Third World, its Cold War origins, characteristics, and evolving terminology like “Global South.” Next, we analysed the impact of Third World states on global politics, including their role in international organisations, influence on global agendas, and challenges faced. Finally, we evaluated the contemporary relevance of state classifications, considering globalisation, emerging economies, and future trends.

By engaging with these topics, you should now be able to explain state classifications, describe the origins and characteristics of the Third World, analyse its impact on global politics, and evaluate the relevance of classifications in today’s interconnected world.

Glossary of Terms

- **Developed states:** Economically advanced countries with strong institutions and infrastructure.
- **Developing states:** Countries with growing economies and institutions, but still facing challenges.
- **Underdeveloped states:** Economies with weak infrastructure, fragile institutions, and high poverty rates.
- **Third World:** Cold War-era term for states not aligned with the Western or Soviet blocs.
- **Global South:** Contemporary term used to describe developing countries collectively.
- **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM):** Organisation of states that remained independent of Cold War blocs.
- **Group of 77 (G77):** Coalition of developing countries advocating for economic cooperation and fair trade.
- **Emerging economies:** Rapidly growing states such as China, India, and Brazil that reshape global politics.
- **Multipolarity:** Distribution of power among several major states in the international system.

Concept Check Questions [Series 5]

Objective questions

1. What four criteria are commonly used to classify states? (Linked to SLO 5.1)
2. Which Cold War-era term described states not aligned with either bloc? (Linked to SLO 5.2)
3. What coalition of developing countries advocates for fairer global trade policies? (Linked to SLO 5.3)



Short-answer questions

4. Define “developed states” and give one example. (Linked to SLO 5.1)
5. Why is the term “Third World” criticised today? (Linked to SLO 5.2)

Long-answer questions

6. Analyse the impact of Third World states on global politics, using examples from international organisations. (Linked to SLO 5.3)
 - *Basic response:* Learners should explain their role in UN, NAM, and G77.
 - *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may discuss influence on NIEO, climate change, and debt relief.
7. Evaluate the contemporary relevance of state classifications in light of globalisation and emerging economies. (Linked to SLO 5.4)
 - *Basic response:* Learners should explain how globalisation blurs categories and emerging economies reshape politics.
 - *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may assess future classifications like Global South, middle powers, and cooperation over rigid categories.

Answers to Concept Check Questions [Series 5]

1. Economic, political, military, cultural.
2. Third World.
3. Group of 77 (G77).
4. Developed states are high-income economies with advanced infrastructure; example: Japan.
5. It is criticised for being outdated and pejorative, replaced by terms like Global South.
6. *Basic response:* Third World states influenced UN, NAM, and G77. *Value-added response:* They pushed for NIEO, climate change action, and debt relief.
7. *Basic response:* Globalisation blurs categories; emerging economies reshape politics. *Value-added response:* Future classifications may emphasise Global South, middle powers, and cooperation.

References and Attributions [Series 5]

- Figure 5.1 Criteria for classifying states: AI prompt “Generate a diagram showing four pillars of classification: economic, political, military, cultural.”
- Table 5.1 Categories of states: AI prompt “Generate a table listing developed, developing, and underdeveloped states with examples.”
- Box 5.1 Case studies of classifications: AI prompt “Generate a text box summarising case studies of state classifications such as South Korea, Nigeria, and Afghanistan.”



- Figure 5.2 Cold War origins of Third World: AI prompt “Generate a diagram showing Cold War divisions: First World, Second World, Third World.”
- Table 5.2 Characteristics of Third World states: AI prompt “Generate a table listing economic, political, social, and dependency characteristics of Third World states.”
- Box 5.2 Criticisms of terminology: AI prompt “Generate a text box summarising criticisms of the term ‘Third World’ and alternatives like Global South and developing world.”
- Figure 5.3 Role in organisations: AI prompt “Generate a diagram showing UN, NAM, and G77 as platforms for Third World states.”
- Table 5.3 Influence on agendas: AI prompt “Generate a table listing issues influenced by Third World states such as fair trade, debt relief, sustainable development, climate change.”
- Box 5.3 Challenges faced: AI prompt “Generate a text box summarising challenges faced by Third World states such as dependency, marginalisation, and vulnerabilities.”
- Figure 5.4 Globalisation and classifications: AI prompt “Generate a diagram showing arrows between developed, developing, and underdeveloped states shifting due to globalisation.”
- Table 5.4 Emerging economies: AI prompt “Generate a table listing emerging economies and their contributions to trade, investment, and institutions.”
- Box 5.4 Future classifications: AI prompt “Generate a text box summarising possible future classifications such as Global South, emerging powers, and middle powers.”

Answers to Pilot Questions [Series 5]

Part 5.1 Classifications of States

1. Economic, political, military, cultural
2. Developed states
3. Brazil or India
4. Strong potential but challenges in infrastructure and governance
5. Industrialisation and education

Part 5.2 The Concept of the Third World

6. Alfred Sauvy
7. Cold War
8. Economic underdevelopment, political instability
9. Developing world
10. Outdated and pejorative



Part 5.3 Impact of the Third World

11. United Nations
12. To assert independence outside Cold War blocs
13. New International Economic Order (NIEO)
14. Climate change or fair trade
15. Political marginalisation

Part 5.4 Contemporary Relevance

16. Interdependence
17. Major states
18. China and India
19. Trade, investment, institutions
20. Because global challenges affect all states equally

