

Theoretical Approaches in International Relations

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1. Realism

- Focuses on power dynamics among states.
- States are self-interested and seek to maximize their power.
- Emphasizes the role of military force and security in international politics.
- Key realist thinkers: Thucydides, Machiavelli, Morgenthau.

2. Liberalism

- Emphasizes cooperation and interdependence among states.
- Believes in the potential for peaceful conflict resolution and collective security.
- Advocates for international organizations and institutions.
- Key liberal thinkers: Kant, Wilson, Keohane.

3. Constructivism

- Focuses on the role of ideas, norms, and identities in shaping international relations.
- Emphasizes how social constructs influence state behavior.
- Views state interests as socially constructed and subject to change.
- Key constructivist thinkers: Wendt, Katzenstein, Onuf.

4. Marxism

- Views international relations through the lens of class struggle and economic interests.
- Emphasizes the role of capitalism and imperialism in shaping global politics.
- Critiques the unequal power relations among states.
- Key Marxist thinkers: Lenin, Gramsci, Wallerstein.

5. Feminism

- Focuses on gender dynamics and inequalities in international relations.
- Critiques traditional approaches for neglecting the experiences of women and marginalized groups.
- Emphasizes the need for gender equality and inclusivity in global politics.
- Key feminist thinkers: Tickner, Enloe, Peterson.

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6. Critical Theory

- Critiques power structures and hierarchies in international relations.
- Emphasizes the need for social justice, emancipation, and empowerment.
- Challenges dominant narratives and ideologies in global politics.
- Key critical theorists: Cox, Buzan, Linklater.

Understanding these theoretical approaches helps scholars and policymakers analyze and interpret the complex dynamics of international relations, offering different lenses through which to view global events and interactions.