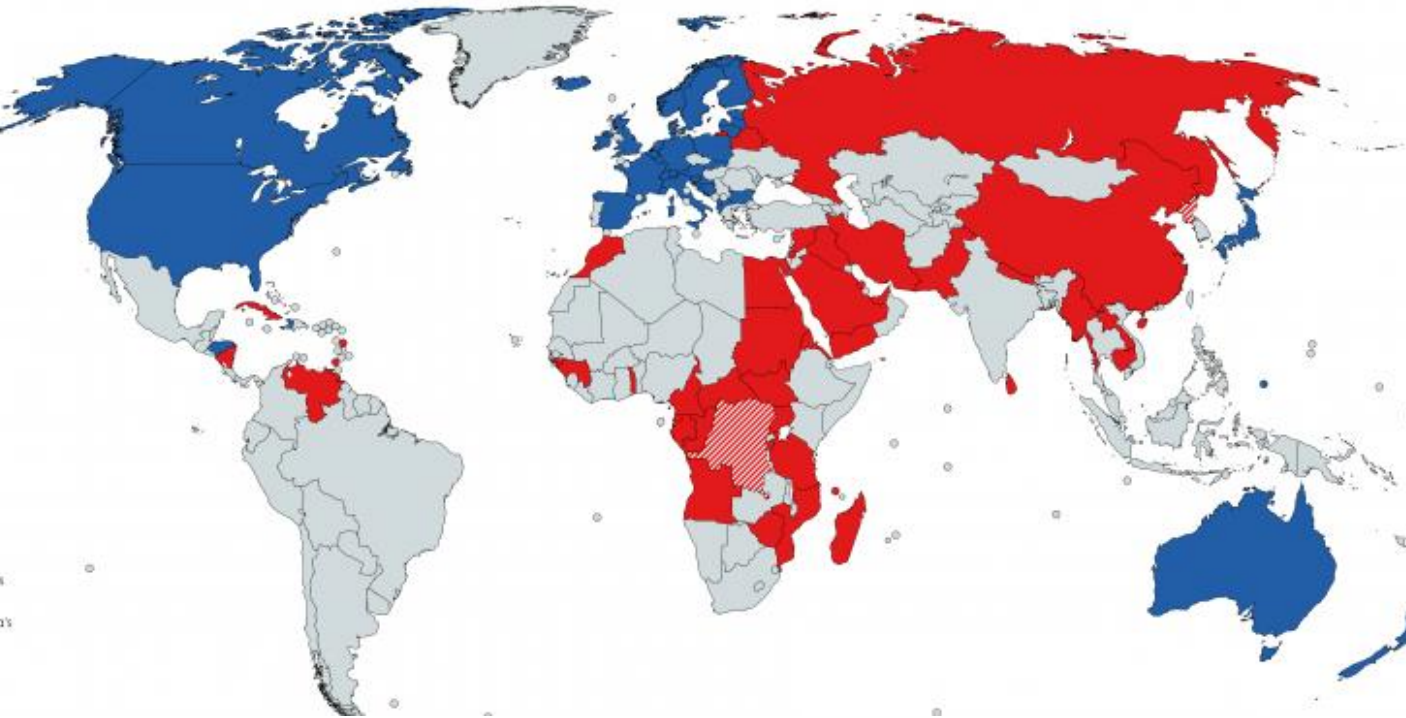


Uni- / Bi- / Multi-Polar Worldviews



1st / 3rd World → 1st / 2nd Tier

Bush Sr: “New World Order”

Concept of security

↳ How has the concept security changes over the centuries?

↳ Security Dilemma -- in political science, a situation in which actions taken by a state to increase its own security cause reactions from other states, which in turn lead to a decrease rather than an increase in the original state's security.

↳ example: arms buildup

Definitions

- Definition of Power
- Hard Power
- Soft Power
- “Power Diffusion”
 - ↳ As explained by Joseph Nye, it is the increasing ability of non-state actors to upset the international order
- Hegemon
- Hegemonic Stability Theory
- Uni-polar
- Bi-polar
- Multi-Polar

Multi-Polar Worldview

ADVANTAGES

- You can form multiple alliances

DISADVANTAGES

- Power is addictive
- Lacks clarity and predictability
- Do you what is in your country's best interest
 - ↪ Side with the strongest ally
 - ↪ Break alliances as you deem it advantageous to you.
 - ↪ Temporary alliances are commonplace
- Balance of power can shift – sometimes violently – both within and between regions

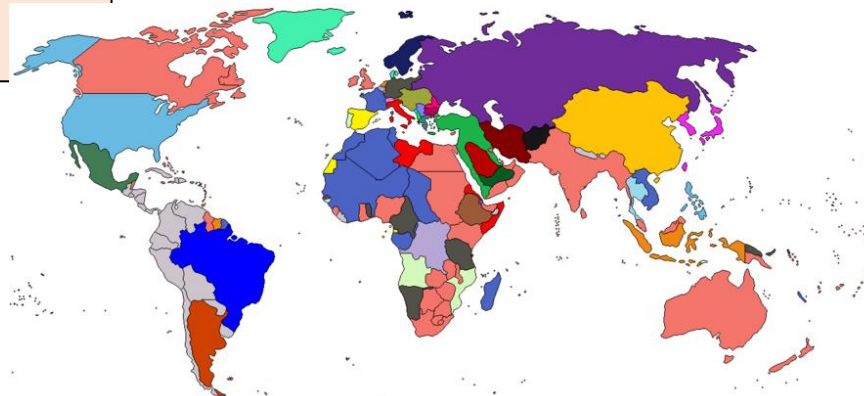
ANALYSIS NOTES

- ❖ Greatest source of danger: Miscalculation
- ❖ Motivation: Accumulation of power
- ❖ *This is the least stable system*

Example:

✓ 1600s Europe

Empires of the world in 1905



Bi-Polar Worldview

ADVANTAGES

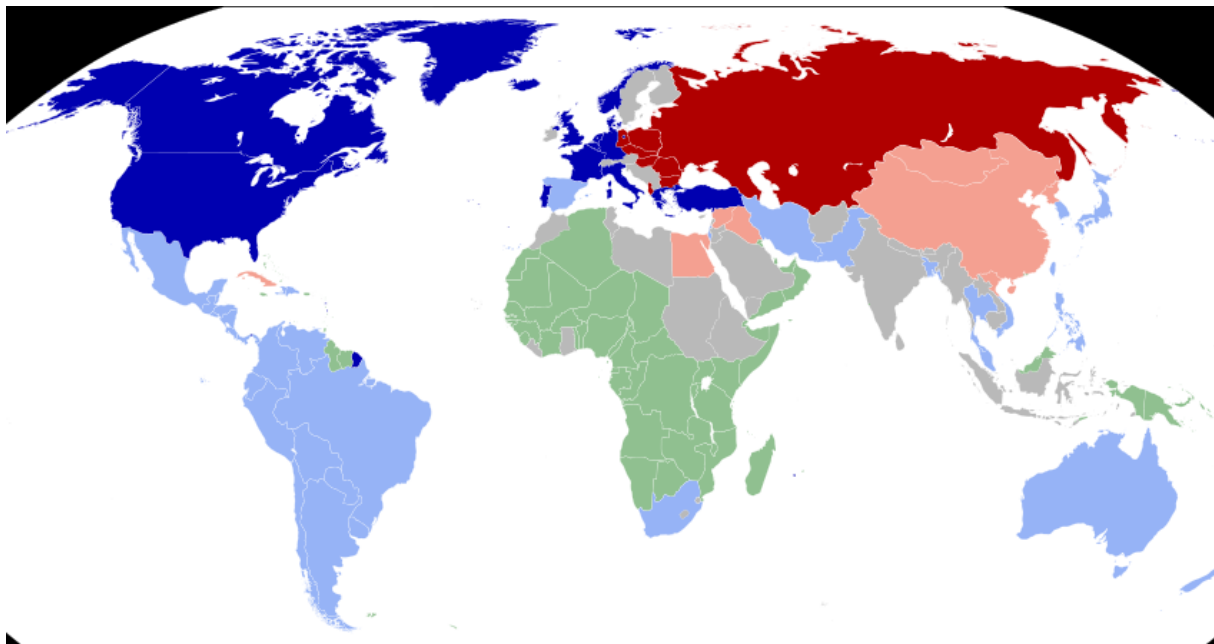
- You know who your enemy (or threat) is.
- Clarity and predictability
- Dominant powers divide the world into Spheres of Influence
- The fear of MAD discourages adventurism and escalation

DISADVANTAGES

- No regional peripheries suggest any conflict will have a global reach.
- Reluctance to trust ones adversary
- Potential for MAD

ANALYSIS NOTES

- ❖ Greatest source of danger: Over-reaction
- ❖ Motivation: Security, not power
- ❖ *This is the most stable system*



Examples:

- ✓ United States – Soviet Union (during the Cold War, 1947-1991)
- ✓ Great Britain – France (18th century, from end of the War of Spanish Succession to the Seven Years War, 1714-1763)

Balance of power
Spheres of Influence in 1959

UNI-POLAR WORLD

ADVANTAGES

- The status-quo benefits the hegemon, which has an interest in preventing any conflicts
- The hegemon can create international organizations to spread their ideals and values
- There is an expectation that others will align themselves with the hegemon

DISADVANTAGES

- Possible hegemonic challengers are everywhere, some of whom may be resentful of the dominant power
- “Unbalanced power – whoever wields it – is a potential danger to others.”
- Kenneth Waltz
- Imperial Decay: taking on too many tasks outside their borders may eventually weaken the country
- The hegemon can not expect equal contributions from other members of the alliance

ANALYSIS NOTES

- ❖ Greatest source of danger: Arrogance
- ❖ Motivation:
 1. Spread of culture
 2. Maintaining position as the hegemon
- ❖ *This is the least durable system*

Examples:

- ✓ Roman Empire
- ✓ British Empire
- ✓ United States briefly after World War II and in the early 1990s



KENNETH WALTZ, 1924 - 2013

Founder of International Structural Theory

- He explains the causes of war by distinguish three levels:
 - ↳ The individual, (2) the state, and (3) the international system.
- He argues that “Wars occur because there is nothing to prevent them”
- He argues that nuclear proliferation – to a point – is a force for peace.
- Proposed “Defensive Realism” – the idea that States want to maximize security.



HANS MORGENTHAU, 1904 - 1980

Considered a Founder of the Classical Realist school of thought in IR

- He believes that nation-states are the main actors in IR and that the main concern is the study of power.
- The international world has four features:
 - ↳ State-centric, (2) anarchy, (3) egoism (pursue own self-interest), and (4) in pursuit of power and security.
- Advocated for the separation of moral and political actions.



ROBERT KEOHANE, born 1941
NeoLiberal IR Theorist

Now at Princeton

- States can and will cooperate without the influence of a hegemonic power, so long as doing so brings them absolute gains in the shape of economic and cultural benefits
- He argues that international regimes can increase the likelihood of cooperation by: (1) Providing information about the behavior of others by monitoring the behavior of members and (2) Reporting on compliance.



According to Carla Norrlöf (University of Toronto), US unipolarity is stable and sustainable due to a combination of three factors:

1. The status of the American dollar as the world's dominant reserve currency,
2. American commercial power, and
3. American military preponderance.

The United States benefits disproportionately from its status as hegemon. Other states do not challenge US hegemony because many of them benefit from the U.S.-led order, and there are significant coordination problems in creating an alternative world order.

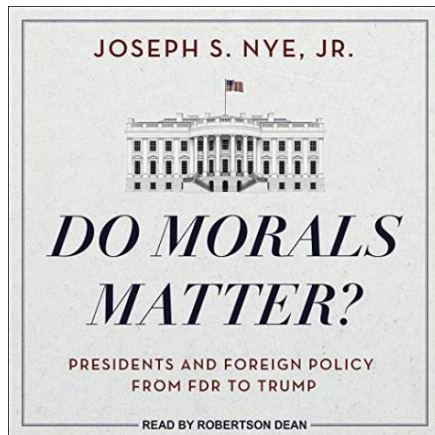


JOSEPH NYE, born 1937

Now at Harvard

NeoLiberal IR Theorist

- Power is the ability to influence the behavior of others to get the outcomes you want. There are several ways one can achieve this:
 - ↳ you can coerce them with threats; you can induce them with payments; or you can attract and co-opt them to want what you want.
- Believes cooperation between states is feasible and sustainable.
- Refined the theory relating to Soft Power in post-Cold War era
- Argues that Soft Power is more important than Hard Power
- Overusing Hard power, he argues, can drive people to joining terrorists overseas
- Criticized Bush Jr and Trump Administrations for not using enough Soft Power prior to Hard Power tactics.





Liberal institutionalist John Ikenberry (Princeton University) argues that the United States purposely set up an international order after the end of World War that sustained US primacy.

- ↳ In his view, realist predictions of power balancing did not bear fruit because the United States engaged in strategic restraint after World War II, thereby convincing weaker states that it was more interested in cooperation rather than domination.
- ↳ U.S. strategic restraint allowed weaker countries to participate in the make-up of the post-war world order, which limited opportunities for the United States to exploit total power advantages.
- ↳ Ikenberry notes that while the United States could have unilaterally engaged in unfettered power projection, it decided instead to “lock in” its advantage long after zenith by establishing an enduring institutional order, gave weaker countries a voice, reduced great power uncertainty, and mitigated the security dilemma.

Trump years have severely weakened US hegemony.

- ❖ CLASSICAL REALISM (which places emphasis on human and domestic factors)
- ❖ NEOREALISM (which emphasizes how the structure of the international system determines state behavior).
- ❖ NEOCLASSICAL REALISM attempts something of a synthesis of the two positions.

Is American hegemonic primacy longstanding?