

# Global Politics

# Major Schools of International Politics

- Idealism
- Realism
- Pluralism
- Marxism

# IDEALISM/Liberalism

- Moral values and legal norms are important

Thomas Aquinas (1224-74) – just war theory:

Three conditions

- 1) It had to be declared by a ruler
- 2) The cause had to be just
- 3) The intention had to be to achieve good or avoid evil, not greed or cruelty

# Idealism/Liberalism

- Immanuel Kant – the idea of perpetual peace, morality and reason can prevent war and conflicts
- The idea of internationalism - the belief that human affairs should be organized according to universal not merely national principles.
- It is the theory or practice of politics based on transnational or global cooperation

# Idealism/Liberalism

- Human affairs are characterized by harmony and cooperation
- The importance of interdependence and trade
- Collective security
- The importance of international law

# REALISM

- Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War* (431 BC)
- Sun Tzu, *The Art of War* (late 6th BC)
- Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince* (1513)
- Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (1651)
- The main idea is power politics and the pursuit of national interests (not morality)

# REALISM

- E. Carr and Hans Morgenthau
- Politics is conducted in a state of nature - anarchy
- State is the main and unitary actor in IR
- Survival is the main goal for states that are self-help agents

# REALISM

- Conflict and cooperation in the international system is a result of **balance of power** – a pattern of interaction amongst states that tends to curb aggression and expansionism by rendering them impracticable.



# Pluralism

- This perspective emerged in the USA in the 1960s
- It is based on liberal ideas and values
- Emphasize the interdependence of states
- The role of MNCs and NGOs
- Politics is shaped by different interests and groups

# Marxism

- Emphasis on economic power
- Lenin: “Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism” (1917)
- Imperialism is the policy of extending the power or rule of a state beyond its boundaries; the system of economic exploitation and or political domination
- Quest for profits through the export of surplus capital that lead to the conflict of capitalist powers with one another – control of the colonies in Africa, Asia and elsewhere.

# Neo-Marxism

- Neo-Marxism focuses on the development of a global capitalist system; the diversity of actors in IR arena
- Global structure of production and exchange is ordered., i.e divided into core and peripheral areas. (North/South Divide)

# 21 century order

- Unipolarity – one great power(right after the Cold War (very unstable)
- Bipolarity – two poles, (major blocs) – during the Cold War (stable)
- Multipolarity -three or more power centers; What are other strong states?
- Multipolarity can be 1) fluid and unstable
- 2) multilaterism - system of relations between three or more states based on principles of behavior laid down by treaties and international organizations

# Hard vs Soft Power

- Power is the ability to achieve a desired outcome.
- Hard power - the ability of one international actor to influence another through the use of threats or rewards, typically involving the use of military sticks or economic carrots
- Soft power – the ability to influence other actors by persuading them to follow or agree to norms and aspirations that produce the desired behavior. It relies on attraction rather than coercion.