
PS 239
Selected Topics in International Relations:
Bases of Order

Syllabus v. 0.9
Winter 2016

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Office hours: T, Th 11a-12n and by appt.

This course is a tour of work focusing on the bases of order in international politics. Each week we will discuss, in depth, one book. We will talk about where the book fits in the field, where it attempts to take the field, we will assess the logic of the argument, the nature of the empirical work, its implications, etc. We will also discuss authorial choices, how the books are organized, how accessible they are, and what makes them good or bad books.

Requirements: Course attendance, reading, in-class presentations, and a paper.

Meetings and Readings:

- Jan. 4, 2016 Introduction
- Jan. 11, 2016 World politics is a society embodying order
Bull, Hedley. 1977 (2012 version). *The Anarchical Society: A Study of Order in World Politics*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Jan. 18, 2016 Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday
- Jan. 25, 2016 Is capitalism the source of peace and order?
McDonald, Patrick J. 2009. *The Invisible Hand of Peace: Capitalism, the War Machine, and International Relations Theory*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Feb. 1, 2016 The impact of multilateralism and domestic politics
Chapman, Terrence L. 2011. *Securing Approval: Domestic Politics and Multilateral Authorization for War*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Feb. 8, 2016 Dictators and order
Weeks, Jessica L. P. 2014. *Dictators at War and Peace*. Cornell Studies in Security Affairs Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- Feb. 15, 2016 Presidents' Day
- Feb. 22, 2016 Is similarity the basis for stable order?
Kupchan, Charles. 2010. *How Enemies Become Friends: The Sources of Stable Peace*. Princeton Studies in International History and Politics Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Feb. 29, 2016 Emergent international justice
Jones, Dorothy V. 2002. *Toward a Just World: The Critical Years in the Search for International Justice*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Mar. 7, 2016 TBD

Bull, Hedley. 1977 (2012 version). *The anarchical society: A study of order in world politics*. New York: Columbia University Press.

In this fundamental text, Hedley Bull explores three key questions: What is the nature of order in world politics? How is it maintained within the contemporary states system? And do desirable and feasible alternatives to the states system exist? Contrary to common claims, Bull asserts that the sovereign states system is not in decline. Rather, it persists and thrives, as it is essential to maintaining an international world order.

More than three decades after its publication, Bull's classic work continues to define and direct research in international relations. In this thirty-fifth anniversary edition, the text has been updated and includes a new interpretive foreword by the world's leading expert on Bull and his contributions to the theory, structures, and practices of world politics. *The Anarchical Society* identifies and confronts the unwritten rules supporting the international order across history, despite sweeping changes in laws and institutions. It considers and rejects the idea that the states system is giving way to an alternative world government or some method of neo-medieval rule or that the states system has ceased to be viable or compatible with objectives such as peace, economic justice, and ecological control. Bull also reviews and comments upon a variety of proposals for states system reform.

McDonald, Patrick J. 2009. *The invisible hand of peace: Capitalism, the war machine, and international relations theory*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

The Invisible Hand of Peace shows that the domestic institutions associated with capitalism, namely private property and competitive market structures, have promoted peace between states over the past two centuries. It employs a wide range of historical and statistical evidence to illustrate both the broad applicability of these claims and their capacity to generate new explanations of critical historical events, such as the emergence of the Anglo-American friendship at the end of the nineteenth century, the outbreak of World War I, and the evolution of the recent conflict across the Taiwan Straits. By showing that this capitalist peace has historically been stronger than the peace among democratic states, these findings also suggest that contemporary American foreign policy should be geared toward promoting economic liberalization rather than democracy in the post-9/11 world.

Chapman, Terrence L. 2011. *Securing approval: Domestic politics and multilateral authorization for war*. Chicago series on international and domestic institutions Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Among the most momentous decisions that leaders of a state are called upon to make is whether or not to initiate warfare. How their military will fare against the opponent may be the first consideration, but not far behind are concerns about domestic political response and the reaction of the international community.

Securing Approval makes clear the relationship between these two seemingly distinct concerns, demonstrating how multilateral security organizations like the UN influence foreign policy through public opinion without ever exercising direct enforcement power. While UN approval of a proposed action often bolsters public support, its refusal of endorsement may conversely send a strong signal to domestic audiences that the action will be exceedingly costly or overly aggressive. With a cogent theoretical and empirical argument, Terrence L. Chapman provides new evidence for how multilateral organizations matter in security affairs as well as a new way of thinking about the design and function of these institutions.

Weeks, Jessica L. P. 2014. *Dictators at war and peace*. Cornell studies in security affairs Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

Why do some autocratic leaders pursue aggressive or expansionist foreign policies, while others are much more cautious in their use of military force? The first book to focus systematically on the foreign policy of different types of authoritarian regimes, *Dictators at War and Peace* breaks new ground in our understanding of the international behavior of dictators.

Jessica L. P. Weeks explains why certain kinds of regimes are less likely to resort to war than others, why some are more likely to win the wars they start, and why some authoritarian leaders face domestic punishment for foreign policy failures whereas others can weather all but the most serious military defeat. Using novel cross-national data, Weeks looks at various nondemocratic regimes, including those of Saddam Hussein and Joseph Stalin; the Argentine junta at the time of the Falklands War, the military government in Japan before and during World War II, and the North Vietnamese communist regime. She finds that the differences in the conflict behavior of distinct kinds of autocracies are as great as those between democracies and dictatorships. Indeed, some types of autocracies are no more belligerent or reckless than democracies, casting doubt on the common view that democracies are more selective about war than autocracies.

Kupchan, Charles. 2010. *How enemies become friends: The sources of stable peace*. Princeton studies in international history and politics Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Is the world destined to suffer endless cycles of conflict and war? Can rival nations become partners and establish a lasting and stable peace? *How Enemies Become Friends* provides a bold and innovative account of how nations escape geopolitical competition and replace hostility with friendship. Through compelling analysis and rich historical examples that span the globe and range from the thirteenth century through the present, foreign policy expert Charles Kupchan explores how adversaries can transform enmity into amity—and he exposes prevalent myths about the causes of peace.

Kupchan contends that diplomatic engagement with rivals, far from being appeasement, is critical to rapprochement between adversaries. Diplomacy, not economic interdependence, is the currency of peace; concessions and strategic accommodation promote the mutual trust needed to build an international society. The nature of regimes matters much less than commonly thought: countries, including the United States, should deal with other states based on their foreign policy behavior rather than on whether they are democracies. Kupchan demonstrates that similar social orders and similar ethnicities, races, or religions help nations achieve stable peace. He considers many historical successes and failures, including the onset of friendship between the United States and Great Britain in the early twentieth century, the Concert of Europe, which preserved peace after 1815 but collapsed following revolutions in 1848, and the remarkably close partnership of the Soviet Union and China in the 1950s, which descended into open rivalry by the 1960s.

In a world where conflict among nations seems inescapable, *How Enemies Become Friends* offers critical insights for building lasting peace.

Jones, Dorothy V. 2002. *Toward a Just World: The Critical Years in the Search for International Justice*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

A century ago, there was no such thing as international justice, and until recently, the idea of permanent international courts and formal war crimes tribunals would have been almost unthinkable. Yet now we depend on institutions such as these to air and punish crimes against humanity, as we have seen in the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the appearance of Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic before the Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

Toward a Just World tells the remarkable story of the long struggle to craft the concept of international justice that we have today. Dorothy V. Jones focuses on the first half of the twentieth century, the pivotal years in which justice took on expanded meaning in conjunction with ideas like world peace, human rights, and international law. Fashioning both political and legal history into a compelling narrative, Jones recovers little-known events from undeserved obscurity and helps us see with new eyes the pivotal ones that we think we know. Jones also covers many of the milestones in the history of diplomacy, from the Treaty of Versailles and the creation of the League of Nations to the Nuremberg war crimes tribunal and the making of the United Nations.

As newspapers continue to fill their front pages with stories about how to administer justice to al Qaeda and Saddam Hussein, *Toward a Just World* will serve as a timely reminder of how the twentieth century achieved one of its most enduring triumphs: giving justice an international meaning.