

Chapter 4: Theories of International Relations: Economic Structuralism, Constructivism, and Feminism

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Economic structuralism is more commonly known as
 - a. capitalism
 - b. Marxism
 - c. Socialism
 - d. Fascism
2. As power plays an important role in realism, wealth plays an equally important role in
 - a. economic structuralism
 - b. constructivism
 - c. institutional liberalism
 - d. feminism
3. Economic determinism implies
 - a. money is the root of all evil
 - b. national economic well-being is of secondary importance
 - c. behavior is driven by economic motivations
 - d. the pursuit of wealth is the state's primary goal
4. Economics is the driving motivation behind which theory of international relations?
 - a. Realism
 - b. Liberalism
 - c. Economic Structuralism
 - d. Constructivism
5. The fundamental actor in politics for Economic Structuralism is the
 - a. class
 - b. state
 - c. individual
 - d. industrialists
6. Classes differ from each other based on the
 - a. political power of the class
 - b. ownership of capital by a class
 - c. number of people in each class
 - d. degree of cooperation within a class
7. According to Marxist language, the bourgeoisie refers to the
 - a. owners of capital
 - b. the workers
 - c. the shop keepers
 - d. the middleclass
8. According to Marxism, the world is divided into
 - a. nationalists and communitarians
 - b. nations with shared interests
 - c. military powers and the powerless
 - d. classes with opposing economic interests
9. The bourgeoisie and the proletariat are examples of
 - a. social groups
 - b. economic classes
 - c. government bureaucrats
 - d. religious groups

10. According to Marx's theory, the difference between the value of a raw material and the actual product is called
 - a. surplus value
 - b. exploitation
 - c. marginal cost
 - d. inelastic demand

11. Structural power is a concern for economic structuralists because it can lead to
 - a. conflict between states
 - b. a rise in the power of developing countries
 - c. inequality and injustice
 - d. the empowerment of the state

12. The economic structuralist argument about free trade is that
 - a. it benefits both the bourgeoisie and the proletariat
 - b. it is necessary to increase a country's wealth
 - c. it works well for some countries.
 - d. It is a way for owners of capital to increase their power over workers.

13. For economic structuralists, colonialism is a result of
 - a. the drive for economic expansion.
 - b. powerful states wanting more land.
 - c. states wanting to liberate and civilize other societies.
 - d. the failure of feudalism

14. Vladimir Lenin is famous for being
 - a. a Russian democratic leader
 - b. a Russian revolutionary leader
 - c. a Serbian nationalist
 - d. a Russian leader during World War II

15. From the constructivist perspective, realism, liberalism, and economic structuralism are considered to
 - a. Be remarkably different from constructivism
 - b. take an essentially similar approach
 - c. be in some ways closely connected to constructivism
 - d. be important precursors to constructivism

16. Which of the following statements is correct in terms of constructivism?
 - a. Focuses primarily on the distribution of military power.
 - b. Focuses primarily on the distribution of economic power.
 - c. Focuses primarily on material incentives leading to cooperation.
 - d. Focuses primarily on the role of ideas .

17. Constructivists believe that ideas
 - a. affect the way we think about material factors
 - b. are only important in terms of material factors
 - c. weakened by the use of material factors
 - d. play limited role in international politics.

18. If the other theories focus on power in international politics, constructivism focuses on
- materialism
 - purpose .
 - Wealth
 - Institutions
19. According to constructivism, the difference in the way the US views the nuclear weapons of Britain versus North Korea is based on
- the US view that Britain is our friend and North Korea is our enemy
 - the assumption that North Korea is more likely to attack the US than Britain.
 - The US view that we never will know who will use nuclear weapons against us.
 - A false assumption; there is no difference in how the US views the nuclear weapons of other countries.
20. Socially constructed interests refer to the way in which
- power impacts on interests.
 - economic classes affects interests.
 - Groups of people define interests.
 - State agencies impact on interests.
21. Constructivism focuses on all but one of the following kinds of ideas:
- interests
 - identities
 - norms
 - security
22. For constructivists, as identities change, interests and behavior
- will change as well
 - will not change.
 - have no impact on each other.
 - Fundamentally diverge from each other.
23. In constructivism, identity is described as
- attitudes concerning race.
 - a hierarchy of economic power.
 - unimportant as a source of change.
 - the role of actors as perceived by themselves and others.
24. The example of the policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of other states is considered in this chapter as
- an identity
 - an interest
 - a norm
 - a right
25. Norms can be defined as
- the expectations about the balance of power.
 - the goals that actors maintain.
 - shared rules or principles that influence behavior
 - the cultural difference leading to the clash of civilizations.
26. According to constructivism, norms are important because they
- affect the distribution of power in the international system
 - create more democracies leading to a more peaceful world.
 - emphasize the importance of non-interference.

- d. are a crucial factor in shaping the behavior of international actors
27. Some liberals accept the constructivist argument since
- a. it reinforces the possibility of cooperation in an anarchic world .
 - b. liberals accept the notion of identity
 - c. liberals support the concept of ideas as the motivating force in world politics
 - d. liberals are simply “realistic constructivists.”
28. The British historian E.H. Carr disagreed with most realists in that power alone cannot explain international politics. In addition to power, Carr asserts we should also include
- a. the politics of national identity
 - b. all aspects of material factors
 - c. the purposes for which states use power
 - d. the total size of the national economy
29. This term is discussed as a biological category and refers to genetic and physiological traits.
- a. gender
 - b. sex
 - c. feminism
 - d. determinism
30. Gender is the analytical concept that is defined as
- a. socially constructed set of ideas that are attached to genetic and physiological traits
 - b. the sexual relations between men and women
 - c. an emotional, romantic, sexual, or affectional attraction toward others.
 - d. self-perceived sexual identity.
31. According to feminist scholars, traditional international relations theories tend to ascribe positive values to men while ascribing what types of values to women?
- a. Similar to men
 - b. Less desirable than men
 - c. More desirable than men
 - d. Not worthy of any comparison
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33. According to the feminist empirical school, women in international politics have been considered
- a. highly visible
 - b. powerful
 - c. invisible
 - d. meaningful
34. Feminist theory argues that the less desirable feminine characteristics ascribed to women have resulted in
- a. greater cooperation among states.
 - b. expanded understanding of international politics.
 - c. greater visibility of women.
 - d. subordination of women.

35. What is the name of the feminist school that asserts that traditional views of human nature are biased?
- a. feminist standpoint theory
 - b. feminist empiricism
 - c. feminist postmodernism
 - d. feminist realism
36. According to feminist theory, the artificial separation of private and public spheres
- a. ignores the role of international institutions
 - b. accurately reflects human nature
 - c. is gender based and gender biased
 - d. takes into account all costs of war.
37. The definition of power as the ability of two or more actors to work together to achieve what they cannot achieve alone is supported by which theory?
- a. liberalism
 - b. institutionalism
 - c. feminism
 - d. constructivism
38. Feminist theory argues that the prisoner's dilemma can be resolved by bringing together
- a. military and economic power
 - b. organizations and individuals
 - c. men and women
 - d. power politics and collaboration
39. The feminist school of thought which is skeptical of all claims to objective truth is
- a. postmodernism
 - b. standpoint theory
 - c. feminist liberalism
 - d. empiricism
40. Feminist postmodernists differ from other feminist scholars by
- a. aligning themselves more closely with traditional liberals
 - b. asserting there is an identifiable truth which will be discovered
 - c. believing all claims about truth are social constructions
 - d. insisting on a more collaborative effort to realize their goals.
41. What is the likely stance of postmodern feminists on the morality of female genital mutilation?
- a. Western feminists should not impose their own standards on women in other societies
 - b. All global efforts should be used to ban the practice
 - c. It should be accepted as a religious practice.
 - d. The practice is an example of the oppression of women.
42. While postmodern feminists assert that all truth and moral views are socially constructed, other types of feminists
- a. are in essential agreement.
 - b. argue that postmodernism creates a situation where no one can say anything about truth
 - c. claim that truth and morality are ambiguous and impossible to grasp
 - d. assert that the framing of questions sheds no light on our understanding of international politics.

43. According to the book, the impact of feminist thought in international politics has been most pronounced in the debate on
- a. military power
 - b. trade unions
 - c. education
 - d. development
44. Postmodern feminist scholars
- a. reject universal statements on moral values.
 - b. agree that clear judgments can be made about what constitutes oppression of women.
 - c. overestimate the extent of conflict in the world.
 - d. argue that global competition has decreased exploitation of women.
45. Realists and liberals agree on all the following points except
- a. the centrality of states as actors
 - b. self-interested actors
 - c. positive effect of collaboration
 - d. the problem of anarchy
46. Feminist theory is most consistent with which theory of international relations?
- a. Realism
 - b. Liberalism
 - c. Economic structuralism
 - d. Constructivism

ESSAY

1. To a certain extent, many of these theories share a few similar characteristics with constructivism. In particular, how do realism, liberalism, and economic structuralism identify with the constructivist argument?
2. Feminist theories of international relations remain on the edge of conventional academic studies and policy discussions. What are the primary reasons for this marginalization of feminist approaches?
3. All of the theories presented in this chapter attempt to explain the conditions for conflict and cooperation. Consider the main assumption of economic structuralism and constructivism and compare their explanations for the outbreak of war.
4. Power is interpreted differently by these theories of international politics. In particular, how would a feminist and a constructivist define power?