

Chapter 3: Theories of International Relations: Realism and Liberalism

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. According to the author, the state of theory in international politics is characterized by
 - a. Misunderstanding and fear
 - b. widespread agreement and cooperation
 - c. disagreement and debate
 - d. misperception and suspicion
2. The two oldest theories of international politics are
 - a. Socialism and Marxism
 - b. Structuralism and Constructivism
 - c. Autocracy and Democracy
 - d. Realism and Liberalism
3. Realism focuses on which of the following?
 - a. trade
 - b. power
 - c. democratization
 - d. international law
4. All but one of the following is an assumption of Realism.
 - a. Anarchy
 - b. States as main actors
 - c. International cooperation
 - d. States as rational actors
5. The assumption that claims states are rational actors means that they
 - a. always make the correct decision.
 - b. always make the best decision.
 - c. have consistent, ordered preferences and calculate the costs and benefits of all policies.
 - d. always make decisions in the national interest.
6. "If states are to survive, they must rely on their own means." Which term best fits this statement?
 - a. anarchy
 - b. balance of power
 - c. unitary actors
 - d. self-help
7. The security dilemma refers to
 - a. the tendency for one state's efforts to obtain security to cause insecurity in others.
 - b. the hesitation to go to war against another country.
 - c. efforts of states to stake their survival on agreements with other states.
 - d. the willingness of states to always cooperate with each other.
8. The 2 x 2 box in which strategies of defection and cooperation are critically linked to each other is called
 - a. anarchy
 - b. prisoner's dilemma
 - c. democratic peace
 - d. balance of power
9. An important lesson that derives from prisoner's dilemma is that
 - a. individual rationality leads to collective irrationality.

- b. two wrongs do not make a right.
 - c. absolute power corrupts absolutely.
 - d. individual actors can control outcomes by their own decisions.
10. For realists, the central force in international politics is the
- a. security dilemma
 - b. prisoner's dilemma
 - c. distribution of power
 - d. hegemonic stability
11. According to realist theory, what will result when all powerful states always pursue more power?
- a. Balance of power
 - b. Global conflict
 - c. Perpetual peace
 - d. Economic prosperity
12. The one area where realists do accept the importance of moral actions is when
- a. a state considers the interests of other states.
 - b. a state pursues its own national interests, but not the interests of other states.
 - c. states all pursue peaceful outcomes to conflicts.
 - d. states cooperate together in international organizations.
13. The realist theory that states stability results from unipolarity is
- a. balance of power
 - b. democratic peace
 - c. collective action
 - d. hegemonic stability
14. According to hegemonic stability theory, stability results when
- a. one great power dominates the others
 - b. a balance results from sharing of power by many states
 - c. a world government regulates all societies
 - d. all countries agree to cooperate
15. Hegemons decline for several reasons. Which one reason is not true?
- a. costs of empire
 - b. internal decay
 - c. economic challenge from other countries
 - d. high taxes
16. All of the following are examples of hegemonic powers but
- a. Britain during the 18th century.
 - b. France at the beginning of the 19th century.
 - c. Italy prior to World War I.
 - d. US after World War II.
17. Two American realists, John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt, argued against the 2003 invasion of Iraq because it would
- a. decrease US security
 - b. allow for Iran to invade Iraq
 - c. decrease the chances for democracy in Iraq
 - d. free Al-Qaeda to expand its reach.

18. What is the main criticism against the realist focus on the state?
 - a. there are too many different states.
 - b. There are many influential non-state actors.
 - c. No one theory can explain all types of states
 - d. States no long initiate wars.

19. Some observers criticize the realist emphasis on power because
 - a. states are no longer relevant
 - b. international organizations have more power than states
 - c. defining power in a meaningful way is difficult
 - d. we live in a unipolar world.

20. Liberal domestic theory focuses on the

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. economic protection of states. b. the rights of the individual 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> c. the authority of the state's leadership d. the expansive power of the state
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21. Liberals argue that realists are essentially

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. optimistic about global politics b. pessimistic about global politics 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> c. neither optimistic nor pessimistic d. correct, but wrong about human nature
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22. Liberals assert that the best form of government is

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. democracy b. authoritarianism 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> c. fascism d. socialism
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23. In this book, the author examines three strands of liberal theory. They are
 - a. balance of power, revisionism, norms.
 - b. world systems, capitalist system, hegemonic stability
 - c. Liberal intititutionalism, democratic peace, complex interdependence
 - d. systemic norms, identity politics, transnational actors.

24. Democratic theory assumes that

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. liberal democracies are able to escape the dynamics of anarchy. b. all states are unitary. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> c. liberal democracies are more likely to go to war. d. authoritarian governments are becoming more peaceful.
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25. Liberal institutionalism suggests that a partial solution to the security dilemma would occur if

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. everyone stops building arms at the same time. b. both sides continue to arm but at a slower rate. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> c. one side evolves into a hegemonic power. d. one side continues to build arms and the other stops.
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26. The liberal approach that considers politics as complex, multifaceted, and collaborative is

- a. complex interdependence
 - b. democratic peace
 - c. balance of power
 - d. hegemonic stability
27. Liberal institutionalism shares three of the following views with realism. Which one is not shared by liberal institutionalism?
- a. war is inevitable
 - b. nature of international anarchy
 - c. problem of insecurity
 - d. states are unitary, rational actors
28. A zero-sum game refers to the situation in which
- a. one state can gain only at the expense of another.
 - b. both states can gain at the same time.
 - c. neither state can gain and both will lose.
 - d. both states can cooperate with one another.
29. The strategy in which one cooperates only as long as one's partner cooperates is called
- a. positive sum game
 - b. democratic peace
 - c. reciprocity
 - d. balance of power
30. Liberals argue that anarchy can be overcome through the use of
- a. military power
 - b. elections
 - c. institutions
 - d. conflict
31. The first international attempt to put liberal theory into practice was the
- a. Peace of Westphalia
 - b. Concert of Europe
 - c. Treat of Paris
 - d. Bretton Woods Agreement
32. For liberal institutionalists, cooperation results from
- a. significant amount of altruism between actors
 - b. a great deal of blind trust.
 - c. rational pursuit of self-interest
 - d. The fear of being destroyed by a more powerful country.
33. Realists contend that liberal institutional theory is undermined by
- a. verification provisions
 - b. the possibility of cheating
 - c. ideological rifts
 - d. development of nuclear weapons
34. Complex interdependence consists of
- a. balance of power
 - b. state sovereignty
 - c. multiple channels of interaction
 - d. anarchy
35. Liberal institutionalists argue that the struggle of world politics is not simply the struggle for power, but the struggle for
- a. hegemony
 - b. peace
 - c. wealth
 - d. security

36. Complex interdependence differs significantly from realism by including
- a. multiple actors
 - b. the single goal of security
 - c. the primary role of the state
 - d. power as the main driving force
37. Which theory assumes there is no hierarchy of state goals?
- a. complex interdependence
 - b. liberalism
 - c. realism
 - d. neo-realism
38. Which theory would accept that Russia remains powerful in the military area, Japan is powerful in terms of the economy, and Saudi Arabia is powerful in terms of petroleum?
- a. realism
 - b. liberalism
 - c. constructivism
 - d. complex interdependence
39. The focus on multiple actors in complex interdependence theory is sometimes referred to as
- a. liberalism
 - b. pluralism
 - c. anarchy
 - d. socialism
40. Complex interdependence is generally
- a. pessimistic
 - b. optimistic
 - c. neutral
 - d. indifferent
41. The normative claim that progress is certainly possible in international politics generally belongs to which theory?
- a. Liberalism
 - b. Realism
 - c. Marxism
 - d. Neo-realism
42. Liberalism argues that
- a. progress in international affairs is impossible.
 - b. Collaboration makes all participants better off
 - c. Security remains the key goal.
 - d. States are unable to work together because of diverse goals.
43. The term which Realists use when they criticize liberals for placing too much trust in international cooperation is called
- a. constructivism
 - b. opportunism
 - c. idealism
 - d. structuralism
44. Realists criticize complex interdependence by asserting realism's goal is to
- a. explain the dynamics of world politics.
 - b. describe the specifics of world politics.
 - c. pass moral judgments on international actors.
 - d. predict the future of world politics.

ESSAY

1. The state is essential component for realists. First, what are the defining characteristics of the state? Second, why are realists so attached to the state as the dominant actor in international politics? Third, how do realists incorporate non-state actors into their argument?
2. Given what you know both about the war in Iraq as a policy in fighting terror and what you know about realism and liberalism, how would a realist and realist explain this conflict?
3. What is the balance of power and what are some of its important features?
4. What are the basic features of complex interdependence? In what way does complex interdependence help or hurt our understanding of international politics, and why?
5. Power is an essential concept for both realism and liberalism. How do these two theories consider power and in what ways are their views similar and different from each other?