

POL 160 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS STUDY GUIDE 3

D'Anieri, Chs. 7 and 13 plus class lectures.

Terms to know:

What are IGO's---intergovernmental organizations---groups made up of nation states. IGO's can be global—the United Nations or regional—The European Union; North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), World Trade Organization (WTO)

What are NGO's—Nongovernmental organizations---more specialized agencies interested in particular international affairs-- advocacy groups---Greenpeace, Amnesty international, International Red Cross/Red Crescent—"whistleblower" function; more notably MNCs (Multinational corporations)—corporate interests with production capabilities and organizational hierarchies in multiple nation states—undermine the power of nation states with ability to supercede national political will. Potential contributor to the downfall of the Westphalian system or no?

Types of transnational actors----intergovernmentalist actors and supranationalist actors. Intergovernmental organizations maintain state sovereignty as in the UN; supranationalist organizations ceded some individual state power to the organization to act on its behalf, as in the European Union.

The United Nations---created 1945 after WWII in San Francisco (now headquartered in NYC), 51 member states originally. No coercive power, provides a forum for debate and encouraging states to conform to international law, norms and mores. The UN Charter---States are: equal under international law, have full sovereignty, have full and independent territorial integrity, must carry out international obligations. Constant failure of member states to pay their share of dues, up to 80% of nations default. Payments based on GDP.

Structure:

General Assembly---every nation has membership, do not make own resolutions, adopt resolutions from other committees within the UN

Security Council—most important aspect of the UN. Five permanent members with "veto power" –USA, Russia, China, Great Britain, France. Ten rotating members to form a total of 15.

Economic and Social Committee, Secretariat (Office of the Secretary General), the World Court at the Hague. Current Secretary General of the UN—Ban Ki-moon, South Korea.

The European Union

Origins of the EU—European Coal and Steel Community; Treaty of Rome

Original countries involved: The BENELUX alliance, later addition of Great Britain and so on ...

How did the E.U. partially achieve its ends to incorporate the vast majority of European states? What is “spillover?”

Costs of integration, reasons for backlash in a given country.

1992 Maastricht treaty---settled on the euro as common currency; Great Britain not a signatory to the euro currency. Controversy over financial management of a common currency central to many problems in current EU politics—debt crisis, economic austerity.

E.U. Member states---controversies---Greece and inadequate capital resources; Turkey for cultural and religious differences, Great Britain for the traditional reasons nation states resist integration. “Brexit”.

Recent additions of the Eastern European countries—Poland, in particular.

What is “international law?”

Sources: treaties, customs, “conventions” UN and other, general principles of legal scholarship. No real enforcement power, but does establish expectations and an incentive for nation states to conform—namely, expectation of uniform behavior and reciprocal treatment. The World Court (international Court of Justice) at the Hague acts as what we in the US would term an arbitration forum.

Aspects of international law:

--Sovereignty concerns---diplomatic recognition, diplomatic immunity, extradition
--Human Rights---The Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948—rights of civil and political nature, race, gender, torture, rights of the child, migrants, the duty to protect.

Theoretical origins in Christian theology---Aquinas and the concept of “natural law”. Refined by Grotius’ defining of just war and just prosecution of war as moral imperatives. Leads to Geneva Protocol---treatment of prisoners of war; basis for war crimes prosecutions. International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutes individuals suspected of war crimes. U.S. is a non signatory, fearing the Court would be used as a political weapon against the U.S. in its military interventions.

Concept of “human rights”—Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and other such documents. Attempts to clarify what nation states should and must provide to citizens and imposes the obligation to protect those rights and those individuals.

Definition of a “refugee.” Migration and ethnic cleansing. Justification for military intervention on humanitarian grounds. Largest group of refugees in recent years are from Middle East and Southwest Asia. Other reasons for migration.