

International Conflict

CHAPTER FIVE



Types of War: Hegemonic War

- War over control of the entire world order
- Last hegemonic war was WWII
- Likely that due to the power of modern weaponry, this kind of war could not occur any longer without destroying civilization



Types of War: Total War

- Def: Warfare by one state waged to conquer and occupy another
- Goal is to reach the capital city and force the surrender of the government
- Evolved with industrialization, which further integrated all of society and economy into the practice of war



Types of War: Limited War

- Includes military actions carried out to gain some objective short of the surrender and occupation of the enemy
 - Libya



Types of War: Civil War

- Refers to war between factions in a state trying to create, or prevent, a new government for the entire state or some territorial part of it
 - U.S. Civil War of the 1860s –Secessionist War
 - El Salvador in the 1980s
 - Civil War for control of the entire state
- May often be among the most brutal wars



Types of War: Guerrilla War

Includes certain types of civil wars; is warfare without front lines

Irregular forces operate in the midst of, and often hidden or protected by, civilian populations.

Purpose: Harass and punish your enemy as to gradually limit its operation and effectively liberate territory from its control



Causes of War: Approaches

- The question of why war breaks out can be approached in different ways.
 - What was the exact cause? - Historians
 - Why do wars occur? - Political Scientists
- Wars do not have a single or simple cause.
- Levels of analysis can help us organize theories of war.



Causes of War: Individual & Domestic Explanations

Individual level of analysis:

- War is normal and reflects rational decisions of national leaders

OR

- War occurs because national leaders are not rational

The domestic level of analysis:

The characteristics of a state determine if they are more or less prone to violence



Causes of War: Global Explanations

- Global level of analysis: War is the result of cycles in history
- Several variations on the idea that major warfare in the international system is cyclical.
 - One approach links wars with long economic waves in the world economy (~50 years)
- These cycle theories at best can at best explain only general tendencies toward war in the international system over time



Conflicts of Ideas

Five types of international conflict:

- Conflicts over less/non-tangible material interests:
 - Ethnic
 - Ideological
- Conflicts over tangible material interests:
 - Territorial
 - Governmental
 - Economic

Most difficult types of conflict are rooted in ideas

These identity-based sources of international conflict today have been shaped historically by nationalism



Conflicts over less/non-tangible material interests: Nationalism

- Devotion to the interests of one's own nation over others
 - May be the most important force in world politics in the past two centuries
 - Nationality is a difficult concept to define precisely.
- Historical development of "nationalism"
 - Principle of self-determination



Conflicts over less/non-tangible material interests:

Ethnic Conflict

- Stems from a dislike or hatred that members of one ethnic group feel towards another
- Quite possibly the most important source of conflict in the numerous wars now occurring throughout the world.
- Nationalism tied to territory, often to goal is statehood
- Ethnic groups: Large groups of people who share ancestral, language, cultural or religious ties and a common identity



Conflicts over less/non-tangible material interests: Ethnic Conflict

- Causes of ethnic hostility
 - Kinship:
 - History:
 - Ethnocentrism
 - The tendency to see one's own group in favorable terms and an out group in less favorable terms
 - Education can overcome national animosity- France and Germany
 - Very difficult to solve because it's very hard to divide anything



Conflicts over less/non-tangible material interests: Ideological Conflict

- Ideology symbolizes and intensifies conflicts between groups and states more than it causes them.
 - China Maoist communism in 1949;
Russia's Leninist communism in 1917,
U.S. democracy in 1776



Conflicts over tangible material interests: Territorial Disputes

- Means of controlling territory – primarily military
 - Can be (1) Territorial Disputes or
 - (2) Conflicts over the control of an entire state
- Interstate borders
 - Post-WWII norm:
 - Little territory has changed hands through force
 - Most changing of borders has happened peacefully (through ICJ or World Court mostly)
- Secession (def):
 - E.g., US civil war; Chechnya, Bosnia-Serbia
 - Intl norm is against approving of secessionism

Conflicts over tangible material interests: Control of Governments

- Most struggles to control territory do not involve changing borders
 - They are conflicts over which governments will control entire states
- International conflicts over the control of governments – along with territorial disputes – are likely to lead to the use of violence

Conflicts over tangible material interests: Economic Conflict

- In a global capitalist market, all economic exchanges involve some conflict of interests
 - Conflict → Every states has their own goals and preferences towards the exchanging of goods and services
 - Mercantilism: States wanted to build up a monetary surplus that could be used to finance war
 - Lateral pressure theory: the economic growth of states leads to expansions they seek natural resources beyond their border
 - Drug trafficking: Smuggling, which deprives states of revenue and violates states' legal control of their borders

