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# Political Science: Int'L Relations

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# POLITICAL SCIENCE

## International Relations

### INTRODUCTION

1. International relations is a major subfield of political science; political science, in turn, is the international relations subject at #10.
2. IR is also referred to as world politics, global politics, international politics, and international relations.
3. Usually, the "balance between countries" is concerned with the distribution among the members of the world and the interaction of state governments with other states, such as the United Nations (UN), international organizations, and individuals.

1. The international system is composed of nation-states, international organizations, intergovernmental organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and transnational corporations.
2. The modern international system comprising independent nation-states emerged after the 1648 Treaty of Westphalia.
3. Over time, the post-Westphalian system, now anocracy, rapidly grew in the number of states, and the balance of power has been maintained, a great extent by the West, primarily the great European powers and the United States.
4. The balance of power in the world worldwide shifts.
5. From 1945 (the end of the Thirty Years' War) to 1990 (the end of World War II), there was a worldwide shift.
6. From 1990 until the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, there was a bipolar world and an Euro-West axis between the United States and the Soviet Union.
7. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the United States was left as the world's dominant nation.
8. A modified multipolar world may be emerging with the balance of power shared between the United States, Russia, China, the European Union, and the US.
9. A significant characteristic of the 21st-century international system is the increasing power of non-state actors, such as transnational corporations, NGOs, and terrorist organizations.
10. A modified multipolar world may be emerging with the balance of power shared between the United States, Russia, China, the European Union, and the US.
11. The countries of the global north (e.g., Europe and North America) are referred to as economically developed countries or the First World.
12. The global south consists primarily of former colonies and semi-colonies that are less economically developed countries or the Third World.

4. The subject matter of IR includes war, peace, democracy, foreign policy, international political economy, international organizations, international law, the global environment, ethnic conflict, human rights, security studies, world population trends, and international development.

5. Politics is the struggle for power. International politics is the struggle for power on a global stage.

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7. IR is both theory and practice. The academic study of IR is largely theoretical, whereas the real-world study of IR is more often deals with practical interests and political issues.

8. Political scientists who specialize in IR are called internationalists. Internationalists are scholars who specialize in IR, and who hope to improve the world through their work. Internationalists are scholars who specialize in IR, and who hope to improve the world through their work. Internationalists are scholars who specialize in IR, and who hope to improve the world through their work. Internationalists are scholars who specialize in IR, and who hope to improve the world through their work.

### THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

1. The terms First, Second, and Third World have evolved from the 1945 (the end of the Cold War) to the end of the Cold War in 1991.
2. **First World:** Originally the countries aligned with the United States and its allies during the Cold War; the term is now associated with the wealthy, industrialized, capitalist, democratic, economically developed countries, compared to the global south, the average annual per capita gross domestic product (GDP) is high, and the average education rates are high. The term is also used in the Cold War to refer to the Soviet Union and China.
3. **Second World:** Originally the countries aligned with the Soviet Union and China during the Cold War; this term has mostly lost its original meaning in the modern language of IR.
4. **Third World:** Originally marginalized countries, mostly in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, that did not align with the First World; the term is now associated with the poor, rural, underdeveloped (i.e. in the process of industrializing), less economically developed countries that are often transitioning to democracy; many were colonized by the European powers; compared to the global north, the average annual per capita GDP is low, rates of illiteracy and poverty are high, and the average education rates are short. The term "Third World" is not accurate in some contexts and so "less economically developed" is often used as an alternative.
5. **Fourth World:** The poorest of the poor countries of the world, the indigenous peoples of the world, and the poor citizens living in the slums of the world's countries.
6. The evolution of the International System
  1. The International System (1450-1750)
    - A. Begins with the end of the Thirty Years' War in 1648 and the Treaty of Westphalia, which established nation-states as the state actors on the world stage.
    - B. Multipolar system with power distributed between Great Britain, France, Austria, Spain, Russia, and the Ottoman Empire.
    - C. Influenced by the political ideas of John Locke and Jean-Jacques Rousseau.
  2. The Industrial Revolution begins in Britain (1750-1850)
    - A. The Industrial Revolution begins in Britain.
    - B. The French Revolution begins.
    - C. The Haitian Revolution begins.
    - D. World population hits 1 billion.
    - E. The Congress of Vienna begins.
    - F. Napoleon Bonaparte is defeated at Waterloo.
    - G. Confederation of Germany has a modern constitution.
    - H. World War I begins.
    - I. World War II ends; the Cold War begins.
    - J. The Berlin Wall is built.
    - K. The Cuban Missile Crisis.
    - L. The People's Republic of China is founded.
    - M. World population hits 3 billion.
    - N. Cold War ends.
    - O. World population hits 4 billion.
    - P. Cold War begins.
    - Q. World population hits 5 billion.
    - R. World War I begins.
    - S. The United States becomes a superpower.
    - T. The League of Nations is founded.
    - U. World population hits 7 billion.
    - V. World War II begins.
    - W. The Cold War ends.
    - X. World population hits 6 billion.
    - Y. The United States becomes a superpower.
    - Z. The Cuban Missile Crisis.
7. Post-Cold War (1990s-2000s)
  - A. Soviet Union collapses.
  - B. The United States remains as dominant military power.
  - C. Democratization in Eastern Europe.
  - D. Emergence of the European Union.
  - E. The United States invades Iraq.
  - F. September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks occur.
  - G. Mediated by wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

### TIMELINE OF MAJOR EVENTS

1450	The Fall of Rome	1750	The Industrial Revolution begins in Britain	1850	World War I ends	1990	World population hits 7 billion
	The popular Medicis, who funds the arts, is born.		The American Revolution begins	1945	The League of Nations is founded	1991	Transcendence: Spanish Inquisition, the Thirty Years' War ends
1500	Christopher Columbus	1760	The French Revolution begins	1949	World population hits 2 billion	1992	Germany in unification, Mexico: Mexican Revolution
1500	Empress of the Romans	1770		1950	World War II begins	1993	The Balkans: Yugoslav Wars
1500	The Middle Ages end and the Renaissance begins	1789		1955	World War II ends	1994	The First World War
1500	Martin Luther begins the Protestant Reformation	1790		1960	The Cuban Missile Crisis	1995	The Balkans: Kosovo War
1500	The Renaissance ends	1799		1962	The People's Republic of China is founded	1996	The First World War ends
1500	The Thirty Years' War is ended.	1800		1963	World population hits 3 billion	1997	World population hits 6 billion
1500		1800		1965	World population hits 4 billion	1998	Second World War begins
1500		1800		1970	World population hits 5 billion	1999	Second World War ends
1500		1800		1975	World population hits 6 billion	2000	United States invades Afghanistan
1500		1800		1980	World population hits 7 billion	2001	The global economy begins
1500		1800		1985	World population hits 8 billion	2002	World population hits 7 billion
1500		1800		1990	World population hits 9 billion	2003	World population hits 8 billion
1500		1800		1995	World population hits 10 billion	2004	World population hits 9 billion
1500		1800		2000	World population hits 11 billion	2005	World population hits 10 billion
1500		1800		2005	World population hits 12 billion	2006	World population hits 11 billion
1500		1800		2010	World population hits 13 billion	2007	World population hits 12 billion
1500		1800		2015	World population hits 14 billion	2008	World population hits 13 billion
1500		1800		2020	World population hits 15 billion	2009	World population hits 14 billion
1500		1800		2025	World population hits 16 billion	2010	World population hits 15 billion
1500		1800		2030	World population hits 17 billion	2011	World population hits 16 billion
1500		1800		2035	World population hits 18 billion	2012	World population hits 17 billion
1500		1800		2040	World population hits 19 billion	2013	World population hits 18 billion
1500		1800		2045	World population hits 20 billion	2014	World population hits 19 billion
1500		1800		2050	World population hits 21 billion	2015	World population hits 20 billion
1500		1800		2055	World population hits 22 billion	2016	World population hits 21 billion
1500		1800		2060	World population hits 23 billion	2017	World population hits 22 billion
1500		1800		2065	World population hits 24 billion	2018	World population hits 23 billion
1500		1800		2070	World population hits 25 billion	2019	World population hits 24 billion
1500		1800		2075	World population hits 26 billion	2020	World population hits 25 billion
1500		1800		2080	World population hits 27 billion	2021	World population hits 26 billion
1500		1800		2085	World population hits 28 billion	2022	World population hits 27 billion
1500		1800		2090	World population hits 29 billion	2023	World population hits 28 billion
1500		1800		2095	World population hits 30 billion	2024	World population hits 29 billion
1500		1800		2100	World population hits 31 billion	2025	World population hits 30 billion



## Synopsis

Navigating the complex world of international relations has always been, and continues to be, an important part of being an intelligent world citizen. Whether you are a student of international relations or just looking for a refresher to get up to speed with current events, you will now find it easier to follow along with BarChartsâ™ Political Science: International Relations QuickStudyâ® guide. This three-panel guide includes up-to-date information on the history of international relations, fields of thought, and important organizations.

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