

**School of Distance Education  
University of Kerala**

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**SEMESTER IV**

**Complementary Course VII(Political Science)  
BA Economics, History and Sociology**

**PS 1431: INTERNATIONAL POLITICS**

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# AIM & OBJECTIVES

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- **Aim**
- The course seeks to equip the students with the basic concepts, theories, ideologies, and approaches in the study of International Politics.
- **Objectives**
- 1. To provide an overview of the changing power relations in the international arena.
- 2. To create awareness about major issues in global politics.

# CONTENTS

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- **Unit 1**-Meaning, Nature and Scope of International Politics
- **Unit 2**-Main Approaches to the Study of International Politics: Idealism Vs Realism, System Theory
- **Unit 3**-State System and its Features: Nationalism, Sovereignty, National Power
- **Unit 4**-International Organization: Role of UN in Maintaining International Peace and Security
- **Unit 5**-Regional Organizations- SAARC, ASEAN, EU
- **Unit 6**-Issues in Global Politics, Globalization and its Impact on Developing Countries
- **Unit 7**-International Terrorism, Global Warming, Energy Crisis , Food Crisis, Weapons of Mass Destruction



## Unit 1

# MEANING, NATURE AND SCOPE OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

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- International Politics has been described as the “process of influencing, manipulating or controlling major groups in the world, so as to safeguard and advance the interests of some against the opposition of others”
- Charles Schleicher includes all inter–state relations in International Politics, although he concedes that all inter–state relations are not political.
- Norman J. Padelford and George A. Lincoln define International Politics as “the interaction of individual nation-states in the pursuit of their perceived national interests and goals.”
- Norman D. Palmer and Howard C. Perkins, International Politics is essentially concerned with the state system.

# MEANING, NATURE AND SCOPE OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

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- Robert Strausz-Hupe and Stefan Possony include in International Politics, the actions of citizens and the decisions of politically significant groups.
  - Hans J. Morgenthau, on the other hand, focuses his entire analysis of International Politics on political relations and on the problem of peace. International Politics, according to him, is struggle for, and use of, power among nations.
  - **Scope of international politics**
  - Nature and operation of the state system
  - Factors that affect the power of state
  - International position and foreign policies of great powers
  - History of recent international relations
  - Nature and principal forces of International Politics
  - Political, social and economic organization of international politics
  - Elements of national power
  - Instruments available for the promotion of national interest
  - Limitation and control of national power



# SIGNIFICANCE OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

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- Like any other subject the study of International Politics has its own importance, purpose and value. It has both theoretical as well as practical utility.
- Firstly this discipline is useful for renewal education. Its emphasis on renewal of facts regarding world geography, history and scientific analysis of national and international relations and events would make the students conscious of the current world affairs.
- Secondly it contributes much to the day-by-day conduct of international affairs. It assists in the practical activity of military and diplomatic officials, administrators, statesmen, politicians, journalists and men in various other fields.
- Thirdly it gives enough data to researchers who are eagerly looking for and observing the different aspects of developments in the national and international system.
- Above all the study of international politics explains how men and nations survive and are progressing.

## Unit 2

# MAIN APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

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- **Idealism**

- Main advocates- Condorcet, Woodrow Wilson, Butterfield and Bertrand Russel
- According to this theory the society and the state are the outcome of evolution. This process of evolution is leading us towards the perfection from imperfection
- Idealism stood for establishing an international political system based on the idea of peaceful co-existence

- **Basic Principles of Idealism**

- Human nature is essentially 'good' and capable of altruism, mutual aid and collaboration.
- The fundamental instinct of humans for the welfare of others makes progress possible.
- Bad human behaviour is the product, not of evil people but of evil institutions and structural arrangements
- Wars represent the worst feature of the international system;
- International society has to reorganize itself to eliminate the institutions that make war likely, etc



# MAIN APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

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- **Realism**

- Hans J. Morgenthau is generally recognized as the chief exponent and advocate of the realist approach
- Realist theory is based on the concept of 'interest defined in terms of power'.
- politics is governed by objective laws which are based on nature and psychology.
- concept of national interest which he defines in terms of power.
- national interest is not fixed and is moulded by the environments.
- universal moral principles cannot be applied to state's actions
- Morgenthau does not find any identity between moral aspirations of nation and the moral law which govern the universe and asserts that all political actors pursue their national interests.
- political sphere is as autonomous as the spheres of the economist, or the lawyer or the moralist.



# MAIN APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

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- **Morton Kaplan's Systems Theory**
- Nation-states are the main actors in international politics but their roles change with the change of international system.
- **Balance of power system:** This system prevailed in the western world in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The operation of this system is based on some important principles. They are,
  - (a) Each state may increase its power without war
  - (b) The primary object of each state is to protect its national interest even at the risk of war
  - (c) One should stop fighting other than essential actors as these are needed for this system
  - (d) The national actor shall prevent others from forming a coalition and disturbing the internal system, as this tends to assume a position of predominance in relation to the rest of the system
  - (e) The national actors shall prevent other actors from subscribing to supra-national principles
  - (f) Defeated actor should be permitted to re-enter into the system.

# MORTON KAPALAN'S SYSTEMS THEORY

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- **Bipolar system:** It is the likely transformation from the essential multi-state actors into just two national actors and their cooperating actors constituting dominance over two different blocks. To him bipolar system is of two types. Loose and tight bipolar system. Loose bipolar system operates with the existence of two super powers surrounded by a group of smaller powers.
- **Tight Bipolar system:** In this model nonaligned states or non member national actors would either disappear or shall have little importance. Each universal actor shall not be in a position to mediate between the two block actors and may possibly cease to exist.
- **The Universal international system:** This system would be possible when UN becomes sufficiently strong to check war and the bipolar system has ceased to exist. It
  - would be like a world federation with governmental powers yet leaving sufficient autonomy to nation- states.
  - **Hierarchical international system:** It comes into existence when a universal actors absorbs the whole world and only one nation left out. This system can be both directive and non directive. It will be directive if it is formed as a result of world conquest by national actors. But it would be non-directive if power were distributed among nations according to hierarchy under the overall domination of a single national actor.
  - **Unit veto system:** It comes into existence in the post nuclear proliferation period. In this stage all states will be equally able to display each other.



## UNIT 3

# STATE SYSTEM AND ITS FEATURES: NATIONALISM, SOVEREIGNTY, NATIONAL POWER

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- **Features of State System**

- territoriality

- Sovereignty

- equal status of states

- Nationalism

- power politics.

- **Characteristics of sovereignty**

- 1. Absoluteness

- 2. Universality

- 3. Permanence

- 4. Inalienability

- 5. Indivisibility

# STATE SYSTEM AND ITS FEATURES: NATIONALISM, SOVEREIGNTY, NATIONAL POWER

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- **National Power**
- Power possessed by a nation is known as national power
- Padelford and Lincoln, “National Power is the sum totals of the strength the capabilities of state harnessed and applied to the advancement of its national interests and the attainment of its national objections”
- **Elements of National Power**
- Natural elements – Geography, natural resources and population.
- Scientific and technological elements - Technology and industrial capacity, agriculture and military strength.
- Political elements – Type of government, bureaucratic organization and efficiency, wisdom of leadership and quality of diplomacy.
- Social and ideological elements - Ideologies, national morale, national character, social structure and social cohesiveness.
- External and other elements – Reputation and image, foreign support, international strategic position and intelligence.



## UNIT 4

### INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

# ROLE OF UN IN MAINTAINING INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

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- The United Nations was officially formed on the 24th October, 1945
- The term United Nations was first coined by the U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt
- The United Nations is based on the principle of sovereign equality of each nation state.
- The United Nations consists of six main organs - the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the International Court of Justice, the Secretariat and the Trusteeship Council.
- **Purposes of UNO**
- To maintain international peace and security.
- To develop friendly relations among nations.
- To co-operate in solving international economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems and in promoting respect for human rights and
- To be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations in attaining these common ends and more specific goals.

# INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION - UNO

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- **Basic Principles of UNO**

- The UN is based on the sovereign equality of all its members.
- All members are to fulfil in good faith their charter obligations.
- They are to settle their international disputes by peaceful means and without endangering peace, security and justice.
- They are to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against other states.
- They are to give the UN every assistance to any action it takes in accordance with the charter; and shall not assist states against which the UN is taking preventive or enforcement action.
- The UN shall ensure that states which are not members act in accordance with these principles in so far as are necessary for the maintenance of international peace and security.
- Nothing in the charter is to authorize the UN to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state.



# ROLE OF UN IN MAINTAINING INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

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- Preventive Diplomacy and Mediation
- Peacekeeping
- Peace-building
- Countering Terrorism
- Disarmament
- Women, peace and security measures
- Reduced organized Crime
- UN Peace Keeping Mission

## UNIT 5

# REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS- SAARC, ASEAN, EU

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- **SAARC**
- South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established with the signing of the SAARC Charter in Dhaka on 8<sup>th</sup> December 1985
- SAARC comprises of eight Member States: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka
- Association is based on respect for the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, political independence, non-interference in the internal affairs of other states and mutual benefit
- The objectives of the Association as outlined in the SAARC Charter are:
  - i. to promote the welfare of the peoples of South Asia and to improve their quality of life;
  - ii. to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region and to provide all individuals the opportunity to live in dignity and to realize their full potentials;
  - iii. to promote and strengthen collective self-reliance among the countries of South Asia;



# SAARC, ASEAN

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- iv. to contribute to mutual trust, understanding and appreciation of one another's problems;
- v. to promote active collaboration and mutual assistance in the economic, social, cultural, technical and scientific fields; to strengthen cooperation with other developing countries;
- vi. to strengthen cooperation among themselves in international forums on matters of common interests; and to cooperate with international and regional organizations with similar aims and purposes.

- **ASEAN**

- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand
- Member states - Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Viet Nam, Lao, Myanmar, and Cambodia

- **Purposes of ASEAN**

- As set out in the ASEAN Declaration, the aims and purposes of ASEAN are:
- To accelerate the economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region through joint endeavours in the spirit of equality and partnership in order to strengthen the foundation for a prosperous and peaceful community of Southeast Asian Nations;

# ASEAN

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- To promote regional peace and stability through abiding respect for justice and the rule of law in the relationship among countries of the region and adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter;
- To promote active collaboration and mutual assistance on matters of common interest in the economic, social, cultural, technical, scientific and administrative fields;
- To provide assistance to each other in the form of training and research facilities in the educational, professional, technical and administrative spheres;
- To collaborate more effectively for the greater utilisation of their agriculture and industries, the expansion of their trade, including the study of the problems of international commodity trade, the improvement of their transportation and communications facilities and the raising of the living standards of their peoples;
- To promote Southeast Asian studies; and
- To maintain close and beneficial cooperation with existing international and regional organisations with similar aims and purposes, and explore all avenues for even closer cooperation among themselves.



# FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF ASEAN

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- Mutual respect for the independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity, and national identity of all nations;
  - The right of every State to lead its national existence free from external interference, subversion or coercion;
  - Non-interference in the internal affairs of one another;
  - Settlement of differences or disputes by peaceful manner;
  - Renunciation of the threat or use of force; and
  - Effective cooperation among themselves.
- **The ASEAN Structure**
  - The ASEAN Summit is the supreme policy-making body of ASEAN.
  - It meets twice a year and is comprised of the ASEAN Heads of State or Government.
  - The ASEAN Coordinating Council is the second highest body within ASEAN and is comprised of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers.
  - The Coordinating Council decides the criteria and rules for ASEAN engagement with external entities, including civil society organizations.

# THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU)

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- European Union (EU), international organisation comprising 28 European countries and governing common economic, social, and security policies.
- The EU was created by the Maastricht treaty, which entered into force on November 1, 1993.
- The goals of the European Union are:
  - promote peace, its values and the well-being of its citizens
  - offer freedom, security and justice without internal borders
  - sustainable development based on balanced economic growth and price stability, a highly competitive market economy with full employment and social progress, and environmental protection
  - combat social exclusion and discrimination
  - promote scientific and technological progress
  - enhance economic, social and territorial cohesion and solidarity among EU countries
  - respect its rich cultural and linguistic diversity
  - establish an economic and monetary union whose currency is the Euro.



## UNIT 6

# ISSUES IN GLOBAL POLITICS

## GLOBALIZATION AND ITS IMPACT ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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- Globalization is a process of global economic, political and cultural integration. It has made the world become a small village; the borders have been broken down between countries.
- **Advantages**
- globalization has certain advantages such as economic processes, technological developments, political influences, health systems, social and natural environment factors.
- **Disadvantages**
- globalization has also brought up new challenges such as, environmental deteriorations, instability in commercial and financial markets, increase inequity across and within nations.

# GLOBALIZATION AND ITS IMPACT ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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- **Political Impact of Globalization-**Globalization Challenges the national sovereignty and identity.
- **Economic Impact of Globalization-** Globalization helps developing countries to deal with rest of the world increase their economic growth, solving the poverty problems in their country
- Many developing nations began to take steps to open their markets by removing tariffs and free up their economies. The developed countries were able to invest in the developing nations, creating job opportunities for the poor people.
- globalization has many economy and trade advantages in the developing countries, we must also note the many disadvantages that globalization has created for the poor countries. One reason globalization increases the inequality between the rich and poor, the benefits globalization is not universal; the richer are getting rich and the poor are becoming poorer
- **Social Impact of Globalization**
- Globalization contributed to develop the health and education systems in the developing countries.
- In addition, the government of developing countries can provide more money for health and education to the poor, which led to decrease the rates of illiteracy.
- It is truth that, living standards and life expectancy of developing countries increase through economic gains from globalization.
- Culturally globalization has many benefits and detriment to the culture in the developing countries. Many developing countries cultures has been changed through globalization, and became imitate others cultures such as, America and European countries.



## UNIT 7

# INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, GLOBAL WARMING,

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- Terrorism is a violent and criminal act which not only affects the victim but public at large also
- United Nations Secretary General report described terrorism as “any act intended to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians or non-combatants with the purpose of intimidating a population or compelling a government or an international organization to do or abstain from doing any act”.
- **Types of International Terrorism**
- **i. Political terrorism**-Political terrorism means use of violence in order to create fear in the civilians for political purpose.
- **ii. Nuclear terrorism**-Nuclear terrorism means different type of use of nuclear material by the terrorists.
- **iii. Religious terrorism**-In this type of terrorism, the terrorist groups perform terrorist activities, on the basis of faith oriented tenets.
- **iv. Bioterrorism** -In this type of terrorism, the biological toxins are used to hurt and frighten innocent citizens, in the name of a political or other cause.
- **v. Cyber terrorism**- In this type of terrorism, the terrorists utilize information technology to affect public at large and get attention to their aim.

# INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, GLOBAL WARMING

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- **Causes of Terrorism**
  - a. Ethno-nationalism
  - b. Terrorism due to Alienation or Discrimination
  - c. Religion
  - d. Socio-Economic Status
  - e. Political Grievances
  - f. Poverty and Economic Problems due to Globalisation
  - g. Anti Democracy
- **Global warming**
  - Global warming is the phenomenon of increasing average air temperature near the surface of earth over the past one to two centuries
  - Many climate scientists agree that significant societal, economic, and ecological damage would result if global average temperatures rose by more than 2 °C (3.6 °F) in such a short time. Such damage would include increased extinction of many plant and animal species, shifts in patterns of agriculture and rising sea levels
  - Green house gases , that have been injected into the lower atmosphere in increasing amounts through the burning of fossil fuels for industry, transportation , and residential uses.



## GLOBAL WARMING

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- Major initiatives

- Club of Rome (1972)
- Stockholm Conference (1972)
- UNEP, 1972
- Cocoyoc Declaration, 1974
- Green Belt Movement, 1977
- Charter for Nature
- Rio Conference, 1992
- Kyoto Protocol, 1997
- Vienna Climate Change Talks, 2007
- UN Climate Change Conference 2009
- UN Climate Change Conference 2010

# ENERGY CRISIS

## FOOD CRISIS

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- ENERGY CRISIS

- The energy demand is expected to grow by almost half over the next two decades. Our energy resources are starting to run out, with shocking consequences for the global economy and global quality of life.
- Emissions of carbon dioxide into the Earth's atmosphere – primarily as a result of burning fossil fuels for energy – are thought to be the cause of rising global temperatures.
- **Solutions**
  1. Reduce growing energy demand through improved energy efficiency and conservation.
  2. Research, develop and deploy a broad range of energy sources, both domestic and international, to work with properly functioning global markets to help meet future energy demands

- FOOD CRISIS

- The global food crisis undermines one of the most fundamental human rights – the right to be free from hunger and malnutrition
- It also crucially hampers the achievement of development goals, as reduced availability or affordability of food compromises health, education, maternal well-being and many other social indicators
- The high food prices, shortages, reduced food consumption and worsened nutrition associated with the crisis has far-reaching and multi-faceted repercussions for all countries
- A food shortage is likely to impact most heavily on women and girls, who are often the last fed in poor households



# WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

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- **Weapons of mass destruction**
- Weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) constitute a class of weaponry with the potential to, in a single moment, kill millions of civilians, jeopardize the natural environment, and fundamentally alter the world and the lives of future generations through their catastrophic effects
- A number of multilateral treaties exist to outlaw several classes of WMDs.
- These treaties include the Biological weapons convention and the chemical weapons convention.
- Multilateral treaties targeting the proliferation, testing and achieving progress on the disarmament of nuclear weapons include the Treaty on the Non proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests In The Atmosphere, In Outer Space And Under Water, also known as the Partial Test Ban Treaty, and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, etc.



**THANK YOU**