

International Politics- meaning, nature and scope

According to Hans Morgenthau International Politics is the struggle for power between states in the international system.

I.P. can be defined as a study of those aspects of International Relations which include the conflicts and controversies at international level and their resolution.

Nature of International Politics

- Sovereign States are chief actors
- Protection of National Interest is the objective
- International Politics is the struggle for power
- Power is both a means and an end in I.P.
- Conflicts are a condition of I.P.
- I.P. is a process of conflict resolution among nations
- I.P. is a continuous process
- I.P. is a behavioral study

Scope of International Politics

- Study of state systems
- Study of relations among states
- Study of National Interests
- Study of National Power
- Study of International Law
- Study of Foreign Policy
- Study of International Organizations
- Study of geopolitics
- Study of Conflict Management and Conflict Resolution

- **Study of War and Peace**
- **Study of Ideologies**
- **Study of Nationalism, Colonialism and Imperialism**
- **Study of Policy Making**
- **Study of National Character**
- **Study of Disarmament**
- **Study of issues related to Environmental protection**
- **Study of issues related to Human Rights**
- **Study of role of Economic factors**
- **Study of demographic factors**

International Politics- Realist and Idealist Approaches

- This chapter looks at International Politics through the lens of two theoretical principles viz.,
- Realism
- Idealism

Basic Assumptions of Realist Approach

- History is a witness that human nature is sinful, wicked and selfish
- Human nature always lusts for more power
- I.P. is a struggle for power and it is a war of all against all
- Every nation uses power to achieve its national interests and national interests are always defined in terms of power acquisition
- The law of 'self preservation' governs the behaviour of all states

- **The basic characteristic of I.P. demands that no nation should trust other nations for its self preservation**
- **To face possible enemies, every nations should give priority to defense preparedness**
- **Peace can be preserved only by management of power through such devices as Balance of Power, Collective Security, World Government, Diplomacy, Alliances etc.**

Characteristics of Realist Approach

- **Based on Realism**
- **Rivalry, Strifes and Struggle for Power are Natural**
- **Importance of Diplomacy**
- **No importance to Ideology**
- **Close relation between morality and reality**
- **Reason based approach**
- **Significance of National Interests**

Morgenthau's Realist Approach and Six Principles

- Hans J. Morgenthau is considered the chief supporter of the theory of Political Realism of International Politics
- In his book '**Politics Among Nations**' Morgenthau has built his Realist theory on '**Six Principles of Political Realism**'

- **First Principle**
- **Objective Laws of Human Nature**
- **Facts of Human Relations**

- **Second Principle**
- **National Interest defined in terms of power**
- **National Interests can be secured only through national power**
- **Less importance to ideology**
- **National interests and national power determine the foreign policy**

- **Third Principle**
- **Dynamicness of Interests**
- **Continuous evaluation of National Interests and national power**

- **Fourth Principle**
- **Abstract moral principles cannot be applied to politics**
- **Prudence alone can be the guide**

- **Fifth Principle**
- **Difference between the Moral Aspirations of a Nation and the universal moral principles**
- **Nations always try to secure national interests and not moral principles**

- **Sixth Principle**
- **Autonomy of International Politics**

Characteristics of Idealist

Approach

- Man is good by nature
- Opposition of wars
- Power is not central to international relations
- Value based approach
- Rejection of Totalitarianism
- Faith in International Organizations
- Supporters of the establishment of World state
- Emphasis on education, reason and science

National Power

- Power is different from force and influence
- National power is both a means and an end
- National power is the ability to secure national interests
- National power is dynamic
- It varies from nation to nation