

GLOBAL POLITICS REVISION NOTES

UNIT 1: POWER, SOVEREIGNTY, AND IR

POWER: the ability to effect change within a social organization.

LEGITIMACY: an actor of action considered acceptable, provides fundamental basis for all forms of governance and ways of exercising power. Most accepted: democracy or constitutionalism (choice of who has power over them).

TYPES OF POWER:

| <p style="text-align: center;">HARD POWER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power exercised through coercion, or threatened acts of coercion, so as to influence the actions of other global actors. • Hard power is blunt and direct, less subtle, more tangible. | <p style="text-align: center;">SOFT POWER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The ability to shape the actions of other global actors most commonly exercised through diplomacy, culture, policies and history. ▪ It involves the power to attract. |
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| <p>Military Power:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The military capacity a state possesses, its ability to use this power to achieve national interests. • A state can utilise military power in: Threatened use of force, Carrying out military exercises, Advertising improvements to military capacity and capability, Testing of military arsenal. <p>Economic Power:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The size, structure and stability of an economy can determine how effectively a state can achieve its national interest. • Instruments: Provision of Loans, Foreign Aid, Guest Workers, Special Economic Zones, Tariffs, Economic Sanctions. <p>Political Power:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nature of a state's political system and the legitimacy of the government affects how effectively a state can exercise power. • Democratic states often have greater legitimacy than those who have come to power via a military coup. • The recognition of the sovereignty of a state is a huge political asset. <p>Diplomatic Power:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power accrues to states through their relationships with others in the form of alliances, associations or treaties. | <p>Cultural Power:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States with a desirable and transportable culture can use their values to achieve ends through which political and military means may fail. • Transportable cultural values create a receptive audience for a state's aims, especially in an increasingly globalised world. • Eg. Australian Tourism Ads - "G'day USA", "Say Hi to Shanghai". • Culture in terms of values and ways of thinking. |

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UNIT 2 : HUMAN RIGHTS

INDIVIDUALISM VS. COLLECTIVISM:

| Individualism | Collectivism |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual goals and the rights of the individual person. • Collective rights are held by a group as a group rather than by its individual members. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group goals, what is best for the collective group, and personal relationships. • Individual rights are rights held by individual people. |

SANCTIONS:

Punishment or penalty on those who are contravening human rights, they (actors like UN) levy them over such actors/individuals, which means they were often used as a political tool.

- **Economic Sanctions:**
 - Withdrawal of customary trade and financial relations for foreign and security policy purposes.
 - Comprehensive (prohibiting activity to an entire country, eg. US embargo of Cuba), or Targeted (blocking transactions of and with particular businesses, groups, or individuals).
 - Since 9/11: shift towards targeted "smart" sanctions, aim to minimize suffering of civilians.
 - Forms of sanctions: travel bans, asset freezes, arms embargoes, capital restraints, foreign aid reductions, and trade restrictions.
- **When are Sanctions Used:**
 - United Nations and European Union have imposed economic sanctions to coerce, deter, punish, or shame entities that endanger their interests or violate international norms of behavior.
 - Foreign policy goals: including counterterrorism, counter-narcotics, nonproliferation, democracy and human rights promotion, conflict resolution, and, most recently, cybersecurity.
 - Alternative to military force: lower-cost, lower-risk, middle course of actions.
 - As response to foreign crisis when national interest is less vital and military action is not feasible.
 - Buy additional time to evaluate and prepare for punitive action.
 - Example: UNSC imposed comprehensive sanctions against Iraq after invasion of Kuwait in 1990, Council did not authorize use of military force until months later.
- **Effectivity:**
 - Effective when targeted, specific instances.
 - Major political ambitions mean sanctions are too board and are usually not achieved.
 - Can achieve economic outcome, but usually do not change behavior.
 - Then why: political tools.
 - **How to make them effective:**
 - Clear approach.
 - Realistic goals.
 - Targeted.
 - MULTILATERAL SUPPORT.
 - Adaptable.

EXAMPLE: BURMA

- Economic sanctions, restrictions on exports to Burma.
- Why? Burmese military seized control of country from democratically elected government = coup.
- Effective? Countries assessing commercial ties with Burma = inference that with time, ties will be cut = persuade a resolution.

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UNIT 4: PEACE & CONFLICT

HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION:

- R2P: The responsibility to protect embodies a political commitment to end the worst forms of violence and persecution. It seeks to narrow the gap between Member States' pre-existing obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law and the reality faced by populations at risk of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.
- Pillars of R2P: Evaluate the claim that humanitarian intervention is a justifiable intrusion into the sovereignty of a state.
 - Every state has a responsibility to protect its populations from four mass crimes: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing.

LIBYA CASE STUDY FOR HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION:

Summary:

Colonel Muammar Qaddafi's violence against the Libyan population in the face of a fledgling rebellion in March 2011 prompted an international intervention. The United Nations Security Council authorised the use of 'all necessary measures' (UNSC Resolution 1973) to protect civilians and enforce a no-fly zone. Following a preliminary American-led military intervention, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) sponsored a seven-month campaign, 'Operation Unified Protector.'

Why?

- Following the rebellions in Egypt and Tunisia, Libya's ruler Muammar Gaddafi faced a similar uprising. Within one week of protests, Gaddafi had sworn to hunt those who protested his rule 'inch by inch, room by room. Home by home, alleyway by alleyway, person by person'. This speech, along with the increasing possibility of Libya erupting into a civil war, prompted the United Nations into asking the international community to assist.
- Operation Unified Protector: Advertised aims of 'enforcing an arms embargo (blocked sales of weapons), maintaining a no-fly zone (blocked resources, air strikes) and protecting civilians and civilian populated areas from attack or the threat of attack.'

Just?

- Responsibility to Protect, the NATO involvement in Libya has been supported by scholars such as Pattison, who states that the "actions of the Gaddafi government met the International Commission on Intervention and State sovereignty test", thereby justifying a NATO intervention.
 - Gaddafi had made abundantly clear his views on the protests, calling for his supporters to 'go out and cleanse the city of Benghazi'.
 - According to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, 'acts committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, where the attack is part of a state or organizational policy, constitute crimes against humanity if committed with knowledge of the attack'. Consequently, it is evident that NATO had credible reasoning to intervene in Libya if the organizations primary aim had been to defend the civilian population.