Realism, liberalism and marxism in Foreign policy analysis

Structure

- Foreign policy focusses on agency in IR theories

Political realism in FPA

- **states are central** in IR (Waltz, 1979:93-94; Mastanduno & Kapstein, 1999:7): the dream of super-national entities and realities is unrealistic and dangerous
- The centrality of states means that national interests motivates foreign policies
- Nations cannot afford not to focus on their selfish **national interest** only (Kissinger, 2014)
- Focus on **defending one’s sovereignty**- this interest is instrumental to all other objectives
- Power, which is dependent on power resources (area, population, military hardware, and the economic potential to sustain military strength) is an instrumental priority that affects all world politics
- Foreign policies is about **power struggles**
- **Morality is dangerous**; moralist foreign policy supports ruthlessness that exploits such naive approach
- Moralist foreign policy is not just an unrealistic and impractical approach, it is immoral
- eg. PM Neville Chamberlain trusting in the agreement made with Hitler in Munich in 1938 demonstrates the dangers of naive moralism
- Foreign policy is based on the principle of **self-help**: states can only rely on themselves (Hertz, 1950, 1959)

The Security Dilemma

- the search for security by one nation in a system based on realist self-help, will lead to insecurity of others
- by promoting one’s own national interest states create threats to the national interests of others and this provokes reciprocal reaction
- when all nations have promoted their own security only, all are in the same relative position after investing heavily on their own defence