

Realism, liberalism and marxism in Foreign policy analysis

Structure

- Foreign policy focusses on agency in IR theories
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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)
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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