Important Concepts
Chapter One

**Bipolar**: Two superpowers, some realists say it is good because they balance each other out, while some say it is bad because the two superpowers are constantly competing to be on top.

**Convergence**: Increased globalization in the world economy is giving rise to visions of a borderless system in which everyone is being brought together and where cultural differences are vanishing.

**Divergence**: The act of separating

**Globalization**: Process of interaction and integration among the people, companies and governments of different nations, a process driven by international trade and investments.

**Critical Perspectives**: Looking at global politics with an open mind, arriving at new conclusions based on hearing all sides of the argument.

**Hard Power**: Refers to the obvious military hardware, technological capabilities, and economic size.

**Soft Power**: Refers to role of ideas, persuasion, culture, and innovation, which posses less tangible qualities.

**Politics**: The methods or tactics involved in managing a state or government

**High Politics**: Concern state security, grand strategies, and the use of military force

**Low Politics**: Concern trade, investment, culture, environmental problems

**Idealism**: Idealists assume the following:
- Human nature is essentially good
- Evil is not innate to humanity
- Social progress is possible
- The main problem in international relations is war
- War can be prevented
- International cooperation will promote peace

**Levels of Analysis**:

**Individual Level**: Decisions of individuals and the perceptions, values, and experiences that motivate those decisions.

**State/Group Level**: Focuses on the behaviours of individual states, which is often attributed to the form of government one finds at a particular time.

**Systematic Level**: The actions of states are seen as the result of external influences and pressures on them in relation to their attributes or position on world politics

**Liberalism**: Suggests people can rationally cooperate in the name of self-interest. Great importance on economic growth.

**Middle Power**: Areas that have economic growth, trade, natural resources, but not a strong military.

**Multilateralism**: A state pursues its interests and goals beyond its national borders, not alone, but in cooperation and coalitions with other states.

**Neoliberal**: Political movement beginning in the 1960’s that blends traditional liberal concerns for social justice with an emphasis on economic growth.

**Institutionalism**: System of institutions or organized societies devoted to public, charitable, or similar purposes.
Realism: people are essentially selfish and evil by nature
- desire for power is instinctive
- international politics is a struggle for power
- international system is anarchic in nature
- primary objective of all states is to follow own national interests
- states must rely on own effort to ensure security
- military power determines states power and security
- loyalty and reliability of alliances should always be questioned
- international organizations can not be relied on

Chapter Two

Alliances: Close association of nations or other groups, formed to advance common interests or causes.

Anarchy Security: Not complete chaos or absence of law but rather the lack of a central authority or government capable of enforcing rules.

Dilemma: A situation requiring a choice between equally undesirable alternatives.

Anti-Semitism: Discrimination against or prejudice or hostility towards Jews.

Appeasement: To bring to a state of peace, quiet, ease.

Atomic Bomb: A nuclear weapon in which enormous energy is released. First used in World War II when the U.S dropped two atomic bombs on Japan.

Collective Security: If Country A and B are allies and Country C declares war on A than B would step in and help A.

Balance of Power: Between states/groups, policy of states, alliances against other states/groups.

Fascism: Government system led by a dictator having complete power and suppressing opposition. Ex. Mussolini in Italy

Great Depression: Stock market crash in U.S in 1929 that affected the entire world.

Hegemony: Leadership or predominant influence exercised by one nation over others.

Isolationism: A national policy of abstaining from political or economic relations with other countries.

Superpowers: A state with superior economy/military.

Peace of Westphalia: Ended 30 year war in Europe, created new order. Households would determine own domestic affairs and church was no longer head of state.

WWI: Triple Entente (Great Britain, France, Russia) vs. Triple Alliance (Austro-Hungary, Germany, Italy) end result was Germany had to pay for war damage and take full credit for the war.

WWII: Hitler tries to expand Germany to far, got greedy, he was eventually taken out. WWII was a result of the Treaty of Versailles, dictator, and countries did not want to start another war so they let Hitler do what he wanted.

Chapter Three

Afghanistan: Soviet Union went in and tried to convert them to communism.

Assured Retaliatory: In the case of Cold War, if someone started it, the effects would have been devastating.
Berlin Wall: Wall put up in Germany separating the West and the East.

Bureaucratic Politics: Explanations of why particular public policy decisions got made the way they did.

Cold War: War of ideological, geopolitical, military between two superpowers (U.S and USSR) that resulted in an arms race and a fight through diplomacy.

Cuban Missile Crisis: An American U-2 spy plane revealed missile bases in Cuba, moment when Cold War became closest to a nuclear war.

Deterrence: Measures taken by a state or an alliance of states to prevent hostile actions by another state.

Domino Theory: Theory that if one country is taken over by expansionist (ex. Communism) the nearby nations will be taken over one after the other.

Hawk: One who demonstrates an actively aggressive or combative attitude.

Korean War: North Korea invade South Korea, U.S aided South Korea (didn’t want them to fall to Communism) and China aided North Korea. Where Vietnam war took place and had a deadly toll on the U.S.

Doves: Person who advocates peace and negotiation

Glasnost: a policy of the USSR government allowing discussion of social problems

Groupthink: Practice of approaching problems or issues as matters that are best dealt with by consensus of a group.

Marshall Plan: A U.S program of economic aid for reconstruction of Europe.

Mikhail Gorbachev: USSR leader during the Cold War, under his leadership the USSR collapsed.

NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization, created for purposes of collective security.

Omnicide: Introduction of nuclear weapons

Prisoner’s Dilemma: Man 1 and Man 2 commit a crime and they get caught. They are put into separate rooms and are given a choice: Admit to the crime, and the other man doesn’t than you go free and he gets 10 years, don’t admit and the other man does than you get 10 years. If they both admit they each get 5 years. No one admits than they each get 1 year.

Rational Actor Model: Based on assumption of behaviours. In the end you have to do what is best for you and hope the other countries react respectively.

Truman Doctrine: President Truman’s policy of providing economic and military aid to any country threatened by communism or totalitarian ideology.

Warsaw Pact: Military alliance of communist nations in Eastern Europe in response to NATO during the Cold War (included USSR).

Chapter Six

Communal Groups: A sense of common identity unites a particular group. The stronger the forces of unification the greater the likelihood of collective political action. Usually based on the following characteristics: Ethnicity, historical experience or myth, religious beliefs, region of residence, familial tribes (clans, tribes)
Ethnonationalism: regionally concentrated peoples with history of independence objectives (Kurds, Quebecois)

Ethnic Cleansing: The forced removal of an ethnic group from their area of residence using tactics that include executions, the destruction of homes, and rape to instill fear in the target population. In its ultimate form, genocide.

Hegemonic Power: A dominate state that uses its military and economic power to establish global rules and institutions in accords with its interests.

**Horizontal proliferation**: refers to the spread of military capabilities across states

Human Security: freedom of individuals from threats to their safety, rights and lives.

Individual level of analysis: the decisions, perceptions and values of individuals, usually referring to powerful political leaders.

International Organized Crime: “transnational organized crime” is a serious global security issue because: international crime escalated (drugs), organized crime expanded into banking, threats to gov. (mafia), in Asia the “Six Great Triads” form the largest criminal network in the world

Interstate conflict: wars between states

Intrastate conflict: wars within states

**Securitization theory**: security is not an objective term but constructed through social processes; issues are “securitized” through speech, media and social dialogue

State (or Group) level of analysis: focuses on the behaviour of individual states which is often attributed to the form of governments.

System level of analysis: The action of states are seen as the result of external influences and pressure on them in relation to their attributes or position in world politics.

Terrorism: use of state power to terrorize civilians into compliance, state terrorism is designed to eliminate political opposition and the killers are paid for their work, “one persons terrorist is another persons freedom fighter” (September 11th is an example of terrorism)

Chapter 7

Arab League: Founded in March 1945, a voluntary association of 22 Arab states.

Arms Control: Any diplomatic effort designed to regulate levels or types of arms.
ASEAN: Association of Southeast Asian Nations, formed by the Bangkok Declaration 1967; includes Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Maynmar, and Laos.