**An Introduction**  
The Quest to Solve the World’s Problems  

**WORLD POLITICS**

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**The Search for Utopia**

- Does the perfect society exist?
- Utopia has been translated to mean “no place”
- Can Utopia exist?
- John Lennon’s “Imagine”
- Is this anti-politics?
- We’ll look to the philosopher’s to help us in our search to solve the world’s problems.

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**What is Political Science?**

- Aristotle called Poli.Sci. ‘the most authoritative art’ and ‘most truly the master art’
- Why?
- Politics envelopes everything…
- The reason is that ‘the happiness of the individual is the same as that of the state’ (Politics VII.2), ‘the end of individuals and of states is the same’ (Politics VII.15).
What is Political Science?

- What is political science?
- The scientific study of politics and government
- What political science is not?
- A perfect science that has all the answers

- Definitions of politics
  - Laswell - "who gets what, when and how" in a society
  - David Easton - "authoritative allocation of values"
  - George Trakas - "politics is the art of finding trouble everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedy"
  - Schmidt et al. - "conflict resolution in society"

- Conflict is always present in society
- There are differences of belief or ideology
- There are differences in the perceived goals of the society
- Scarce resources exist and not every want can be satisfied

- Welch et al. - "politics is a means through which individual and group interests compete to shape government's impact on society's problems and goals"
- Magstadt & Schotten - "the process by which rulers are selected and empowered to make decisions, take action to attain common goals, and reconcile conflicts within a political community"

Basic Concepts in Poli. Sci.

- Legitimacy: People's attitude that the government's rule is rightful
  - Gained through:
    - Existing for a long time
    - Governing well
    - Structure of government
    - National symbols

- Sovereignty: National control over the country's territory

- Authority: Psychological ability of leaders to get others to obey them
  - Most people obey what they consider to be legitimate authority most of the time

- Order: The structures rules and practices enforced by a group of people
  - Community: An association of individuals who share a common identity
  - Government: Those persons and institutions that make and enforce rules or laws for the larger community
  - Nation-State: Geographically defined community administered by a government
    - Nation: Made up of a distinct group of people who share a common background, including any or all of the following: geographic location, history, racial or ethnic characteristics, religion, language, culture, and belief in common political ideas
    - State: A stable, sovereign government exercising authority and power in the name of society
The Question of Power

“Sympathy for the Devil”
- Theme is based on Johann Goethe’s Faust. In the classic drama, Dr. Faust, trades his soul to gain great power. He attempts to do good, but in the end he commits evil by: “doing the wrong things for the right reasons.”

What is the point of the song? Examples?
- It is a warning to not fall prey to the trap of those righteous enough to condemn those that disagree with them.

Give consideration to leaders like:
- Stalin, Mao, Hitler, … and the people they ruled.

Political Power

Power defined:
- The ability of one person to get another to do his or her bidding
- The ability of governments and of governmental leaders, to make and enforce rules and to influence the behavior of individuals or groups by rewarding or punishing certain behaviors

Types of power:
- Biological: Modern biology would say that forming a political system and obeying its leaders is innate human behavior, passed on to future generations with one’s genes
- Psychological: Most people are naturally conformists and naturally surrender their independence of thought and action because an authority figure told them to do so
- Cultural: Political communities are formed and held together on the basis of cultural values transmitted by parents, schools, churches, and the mass media
- Rational: People know what they want most of the time and they have good reasons for doing what they do
- Irrational: People are basically emotional, dominated by myths and stereotypes, some argue that politics is just the manipulation of symbols
- Composite: There is some evidence for all of these forms of power

Justice: Is power exercised fairly, in the interest of the ruled, or merely for the sake of the rulers?

World Politics

- World Politics studies the relations among nations.
- World Politics is different from domestic politics which deals with the internal decision-making of nation-states.
What is World Politics?

- **High Politics**: the politics of war between states; military security and diplomacy
- **Low Politics**: trade, int’l organizations, NGO’s, culture, travel

*The challenge is to understand the complex interaction among nations. International Relations Theory attempts to develop paradigms and theories to make sense of the often unpredictable nature.*

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WP: Anarchy vs Authority

- There is no world gov’t or higher authority policing nation-states.

*What maintains sanity and stability?*
- A sometimes fragile association of states, reason, the UN, Large Powers, or Power Alliances.

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Opposing Views of WP

- Realism
- Internationalism
- Free Trade
- Capitalism

- Idealism
- Isolationism
- Protectionism
- Socialism

*Other Views: Environmentalism, Feminism, Marxism, Liberalism*
Solving the World’s Problems

Levels of Analysis:
- Individual
- State (Domestic)
- International (Systemic)

International Level

Actions
- States are similar
- States determine behavior based on international system

Examples of Theories
- Balance of Power
- Hegemonic Stability
- Security Dilemma

Types of Data Considered
- Military strength
- Nuclear deterrence
- GNP
- Number of major powers

State Level

Actions
- States are unique
- State behavior is based on state characteristics

Examples of Theories
- Peace among democracies
- Military

Types of Data Considered
- Forms of government
- Economic structure
- Ideology, History, Culture
- Public Opinion
Individual Level

**Actions**
- State actions determined by individual leaders

**Examples of Theories**
- Crisis decision making
- Cognitive theories

**Types of Data Considered**
- Leadership styles
- Leader’s values, beliefs and goals
- Experience
- Personal relationships

Critical Thinking

**Definition:** Critical thinking is the intellectually disciplined process of actively and skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, or evaluating information gathered from, or generated by, observation, experience, reflection, reasoning, or communication, as a guide to belief and action.

Critical thinking involves:
- Questioning everything
- Asking questions that stimulate thought
- Examining facts and reasons
- Evaluating information
- Critically reevaluating hypotheses
- Interpretations correctly
- Logical reasoning and argument
- Asking what the implications are
- Questioning the source and validity of information
-内外
- Inconsistencies
- Be precise
- Be clear when communicating
- Seeing issues, details, specifics, concepts, distinct and exact
- Precision being right, decisive, logical, correct, satisfied, insightful, verifiable, principled, fuzzy, perfect

Rules of Critical Thinking

**Six Rules of Critical Thinking (James Lett)**
- **Falsifiability:** It must be possible to conceive of evidence that would prove the claim false.
- **Logic:** Any argument offered as evidence in support of any claim must be sound.
- **Comprehensiveness**
- **Honesty**
- **Replicability**
- ** Sufficiency**
The End

- You are now on your way to solving the world’s problems…