The Evolution of International Relations

Canadian & World Politics
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Evolution of International Relations

1. What is Foreign Policy?
2. Pre-Cold War International Relations
3. Changing Times
What is Foreign Policy?

• “Foreign policy is a plan of action developed by governments in order to deal with questions concerning international issues and relations.”

• Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security, 1988
Relations Between States

• Just as with the each individual in society, self-interest is at play with international relations.
  – States in the world are just like the people in society – they act in self-interest, but seek rules to keep harmony.

• The security of person in society translates to national security for states.
  – Individuals usually give up some “sovereignty” in order to live in society. They are subject to laws and conventions and are recipients of coercive enforcement by legitimate government authority.
  – But states will not give up their sovereignty….
Relations Between States

• Types of Governments
  – *de jure* – in law (i.e. elected into power)
  – *de facto* – in fact (but not necessarily legitimate)
  – the recognition of a *de jure* state usually occurs with the exchange of diplomats
Relations Between States

• Types of International Relations
  – **treaties** – could be binational or multinational; voluntary compliance
  – **conventions** – accepted practices (e.g. piracy outlawed, status of diplomats, protocol, passports, trade practices, ship registries, etc.)

  – But what about enforcement of these treaties and conventions? Enter diplomats and the use of diplomatic language
Relations Between States

• **Diplomatic Language**

1. Agree
2. Abstain
3. View with displeasure
4. Disapprove of
5. Condemn
6. Recall the ambassador
7. Expel Diplomats
8. Ultimatum
9. Declare war
10. Continue war
Politically Charged Music

• "Peace in Our Time"
• Elvis Costello and the Attractions

• “Burn”
• Bruce Cockburn

• “Gulf War Song”
• Moxy Früvous
Politically Charged Music

• “…For instance, take an old song like 'Burn'. It's overtly anti-American. And it's trying to make the point Canada has very much the same client-state relationship that your average Latin American country has with the United States. Nothing quite as drastic is at stake. We're better off so there's no resistance to the relationship. We don't have a dictator; we don't have the military trip. But if we were ever to swing too far to the left it would Prague '68 revisited. That's what the song is trying to say in a very lighthearted way. Canadians relate to 'Burn' really well; we love to flirt with anti-Americanism in a humorous way because it makes us feel independent. But that's about as far as most of us take it.”
1. What makes “Burn” anti-American? Interpret the first stanza in the margins.
2. In the 21st century, we know about Vietnam, Kabul, and Baghdad.... what are the references to the Philippines, Santiago, and Greece?
3. Given the last stanza, what does Cockburn think about U.S. foreign policy?
4. What is Cockburn referring to when he mentions “Prague ‘68” in the interview?
5. How do you feel about Cockburn’s view of Canada’s relationship with the United States?
6. How do you feel about Cockburn’s comments on how Canadians treat Americans?
1. Americans are often viewed as the world’s policemen. “The Americans are coming to ‘save the day’, but in the future, we will all pay for relying only on the Americans, giving them even more power.

2. Philippines - martial law declared in 1972, beginning of a dictatorship; Santiago (Chile) - military coup d’état September 11, 1973; Greece - in 1973 the military dictators declared the monarchy terminated and proclaimed the republic of Greece, also Turkey-Greece fight over Cyprus began

3. Cockburn views U.S. Foreign Policy as just to “keep the Commies [bad guys] on the run”.... the Americans would bribe or kill everyone - for “freedom, safety, or just plain fun”.

4. In the “Prague Spring” of 1968, liberalizing political and cultural reforms took place in Czechoslovakia. Soviet leaders were threatened by the reforms, and in August they sent Warsaw Pact troops to occupy the country. In Prague, residents stoically resisted, but the occupation eventually managed to reestablish a rigid Communist regime loyal to the Soviet Union.

5. Cockburn’s view of Canada’s relationship with the United States - Canada has the same kind of relationship that many Latin American countries have - if Canadians ever showed signs of becoming too liberal, the American conservatives would quash the movement.

6. How Canadians treat Americans - we like making fun of Americans, but we never or rarely stand up for our displeasure with the only remaining superpower.
Pre-Cold War Int’l Relations

• Treaty of Westphalia, 1648
  – Peace Treaty between the Holy Roman Emperor and the King of France and their respective Allies
  – Initiated the modern fashion of diplomacy as it marked the beginning of the modern system of nation-states.
Pre-Cold War Int’l Relations

• The Congress of Vienna, 1815
  – Gathering of ambassadors to redraw the continent's political map after the defeat of Napoleonic France the previous spring.
  – Was a favourite topic of former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger
Pre-Cold War Int’l Relations

- The Concert of Europe
  - Broad co-operation between Europe's great powers after 1815. Its purpose was to maintain the peace settlement concluded at the Congress of Vienna.
Pre-Cold War Int’l Relations

• The Hague Conferences, 1899 and 1907
  – The Hague Conferences were the first international peace conferences, attempting to reduce armaments.
  – Also created was the Permanent Court of Arbitration, popularly called the Hague Tribunal. At the second conference, the United States pushed strongly to upgrade this to the first world court
Pre-Cold War Int’l Relations

• The League of Nations
  – Created after World War I with the goals of disarmament, preventing war through collective security, settling disputes between countries through negotiation and diplomacy, and improving global welfare.
  – In 1946, the League dissolved itself and transferred its services, mandates, and properties to the United Nations. The League’s headquarters in Geneva is now the United Nations’ European Headquarters.
World Governments in 1900

1900
Freedom
House

Monarchies:
- Constitutional Monarchy
- Traditional Monarchy
- Absolute Monarchy

Republics:
- Democracy
- Restricted Democratic Practice
- Authoritarian Regime
- Totalitarian Regime

Non-Sovereign:
- Protectorate
- Colonial Dependency
- Empire
World Governments in 2000

Monarchies: Constitutional Monarchy, Traditional Monarchy, Absolute Monarchy
Republics: Democracy, Restricted Democratic Practice, Authoritarian Regime, Totalitarian Regime
Non-Sovereign: Protectorate, Colonial Dependency, Empire

2000 Freedom House

[Map of World Governments in 2000]