IBDP Global Politics Core Study Guide

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Foundational Unit: Power, Sovereignty and International Relations

Every unit in the Global Politics course has 4 key concepts that correlate to its content. While these key concepts are integral to the entire course, they are especially significant in their respective units. Thus, the 4 key concepts for this foundational unit are power, sovereignty, legitimacy and interdependence.

Contested Definitions of Power:
First, let us define power. Power, as per the IB Global Politics study guide, is defined as ‘the ability to effect change and, rather than being viewed as a unitary or independent force, is as an aspect of relations among people functioning within a social organization. Contested relationships between people and groups of people dominate politics, particularly in this era of increased globalization, and so understanding the dynamics of power plays a prominent role in understanding global politics.’

However, as power means something different to different groups of people, there are conflicting types and theories of power. Thus, the very definition of power can be brought into question as it is evident that it is nowhere near a simple key concept.

To understand just how differently power is weighed and considered in modern global politics, the following videos must be considered.
2. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5lQA3bipHc - Schindler’s List: what is power?

Thus, it is clear that power means very different things to very different people.

Before we go any further, it is important to make the following distinctions between state, and nation

Nations
A State is an independent, sovereign government that can exercise control over a certain spatially defined and bounded area, whose borders are usually clearly defined and internationally recognized by other states.
A nation is a group of individuals that visualise themselves as a cohesive and coherent entity due to shared cultural or historical factors. The existence of nations, their definition, and their members can shift drastically with regard to circumstances. Nations can be classified as “imagined communities” that are held together by beliefs of unity that can centre around religion, ethnic identity, language, cultural practice and so on. The concept and practice of a nation aim to establish who belongs and who does not (insider vs. outsider). Such conceptions often do not consider political boundaries such that a single nation may “spill over” into multiple states. Furthermore, states are not the same as nations: not every nation has a state (e.g., Kurds; Roma; Palestine). Some states may contain all or parts of multiple nations.

**Political Theories and other Theoretical Foundations:**
We are now going to consider various political theories that try and highlight the role of power in global politics today.

The first theory that we shall be examining is realism. Realism is a perspective on international relations that focuses on the conflict and competitiveness of states. States worry about how much power they have and how much power they have relative to other states. Within realism, there are differing perspectives as to why states want power. The classical realism theory by Hans Morgenthau argues that it is human nature to seek power. The leaders of various states have an innate desire to dominate their rivals. However, the structural realism theory by John Mearsheimer maintains that states have to pursue power because of the fundamental nature of international relations. In his words, “States are trapped in an iron cage where they have little option but to compete with each other for power to ensure their own survival”. In essence, the difference between the two theories is as follows: For Hans Morgenthau, achieving power is the ultimate goal of a state while for John Mearsheimer, achieving the survival of the state is the ultimate goal of a state and power helps a state get there.

Let us delve further into structural realism. As per this theory, a state derives its power from 2 causes: Its material capabilities (includes military and nuclear capabilities) and its latent power (includes a state’s GDP, and how large its population is. There are 5 assumptions vital to this theory and they are as follows:

1. The global system that states make up is anarchic, that is, it has no controlling rules or principles that enable order. This means there is no central authority.
2. Every state has some offensive military capability– This means that if necessary, every state can cause harm to its neighbors.
3. States do not know the objectives of others– Some states are content with the balance of power that exists and their role in the international system and have no reason to resort to force to change the status quo. Thus, these are known as status-quo states. Other states that want to change the balance of power in their favor are known as revisionist states. A state’s objectives cannot be determined easily as unlike a state’s nuclear arsenal, their objectives cannot be empirically determined.
4. States primarily want to survive- If a state is not able to survive, it cannot attain any of the other goals it wants to (protect human rights, allow its people to prosper, etc)
5. States are rational actors- states have the ability to develop sound strategies that augment their chances of survival.

However, the theory of structural realism does not end there. There are 2 categories within structural realism: offensive structural realism and defensive structural realism. John Mearsheimer is the main proponent of offensive structural realism which argues that states should seek as much power as possible and aim to attain hegemony as the ultimate goal. Hegemony is leadership or dominance, especially by one state or social group over others. However, defensive structural realism, famously argued for by Kenneth Waltz, believes that it is not a smart move for states to try and maximise the amount of power they have because ultimately, the international political system will take action against them if they try to become too powerful. Thus, trying to attain hegemony is not a good idea.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RXIIIdh6rD18 - This video by John Mearsheimer provides a succinct and concise definition of structural realism.

Now we shall apply our learnings to the growth of China in becoming a global superpower. Can this transition continue peacefully? Watch this video and decide: https://youtu.be/0DMn4PmiDeQ

Now, we will be looking at another crucial political theory that pertains to modern political interactions: liberalism. Liberalism is based on a more cooperative view of the world. In a liberalist view, a host of actors influence outcomes in global politics and share a primary concern for justice, liberty and equality. Now, it is time to consider another key concept of the foundational unit: interdependence. As per the IB: *In global politics, the concept of interdependence most often refers to the mutual reliance between and among groups, organizations, geographic areas and/or states for access to resources that sustain living arrangements. Often, this mutual reliance is economic (such as trade), but can also have a security dimension (such as defence arrangements) and, increasingly, a sustainability dimension (such as environmental treaties). Globalization has increased interdependence, while often changing the relationships of power among the various actors engaged in global politics.*

While many can argue that states have been connected for years, liberalism focuses on the interdependence that has grown on the global stage. It began after World War 2 with the formation of the UN and fully came into place in the 1970s. This interdependence is recognised as Complex Interdependence.
A key distinction between liberalism and realism is that liberalism recognises that states are not the sole crucial actors in international relations. Intergovernmental organisations (IGOs) like the
United Nations, the European Union, NGOs like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, and transnational corporations like Amazon and Google are all accounted for in liberalism. This video provides a comprehensive introduction to liberalism:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZbDMUaqwE8

There are some other theoretical foundations that govern modern politics. One of them is the economic theory of capitalism. Capitalism is the infamous ideology of production, exchange, distribution and consumption in the modern world, according to which the basis of resource allocation is the generation of profit. While there are numerous interpretations of how political decision-making should be utilised in regulating the operation of the profit motive, all models of capitalism are of the opinion that the generation of profit is vital for economic growth and maintenance of the global system, and generally conducive to development. A more nuanced theory is neoliberalism. This theory is a derivation of capitalism that advocates minimum political interference in the market mechanism.

Most other theoretical foundations are all grouped into the umbrella term of ‘critical theories’. These are theories that completely disagree with one or more major aspects of other theoretical foundations, the current world order and/or ways of organizing life. Examples of critical theories include communitarianism, constructivism, feminism, Marxism, post-colonialism and environmentalism.

**Types of Power:**

There are 3 kinds of power that will be considered in this guide. They are soft power, hard power, and smart power.

1. **Soft Power:** Soft power aims to use positive attraction and persuasion to achieve foreign policy objectives. It ignores traditional foreign policy techniques of carrot and stick, choosing instead to ensure influence by building networks, communicating compelling narratives, establishing international rules, and drawing on the resources that make a country naturally attractive to the world.

2. **Hard Power:** Hard power is deployed in the form of coercion: using force, the threat of force, economic sanctions, or inducements of payment.

3. **Smart Power:** Smart Power is the combination of both soft and hard power in pragmatic ways that help nations advance their international interests. Smart Power is typically associated with America’s foreign policy. The US’ decade-long conflicts in the Middle East has proved the limits of American hard power. However the use of soft power, particularly through techniques like diplomacy, has been marginalized. This lack of alternatives has forced the US to examine new methods to leverage power in a positive and effective manner to counter threats and maximize opportunities. Smart power believes that America's military and economic might and its cultural and ideological appeal should be combined into a power that allows both.
Another possible distinguishing factor between the different kinds of power is by analysing the theories of unilateralism and multilateralism. Unilateralism is a methodology in international relations wherein states act without considering the interests of other states or their support. Unilateralism is usually contrasted with its opposite approach, multilateralism. Multilateralism is acting cooperatively with other states. Now, we move onto the key concept of sovereignty.

**Sovereignty:**

While we have previously defined states and nations, there are two more definitions that must be added in this guide, that is, what a nation-state and what a stateless-nation are. A nation-state is a territorially bound sovereign state that is ruled in the name of a community of citizens who identify themselves as a nation. Meanwhile, a stateless nation is an ethnic group or nation that does not possess its own state and is not the majority population in any nation state. An example of a stateless nation is Kurdistan, Palestine, and Catalonia.

Now, we must move into the key concept of sovereignty. As per the IB, *‘sovereignty characterizes a state’s independence, its control over territory and its ability to govern itself. How states use their sovereign power is at the heart of many important issues in global politics. Some theorists argue that sovereign power is increasingly being eroded by aspects of globalization such as global communication and trade, which states cannot always fully control. Others argue that sovereign states exercise a great deal of power when acting in their national interest and that this is unlikely to change.’* We now consider the final key concept in this foundational unit: legitimacy.

**Legitimacy:**

As per the IB, *‘Legitimacy refers to an actor or an action being commonly considered acceptable and provides the fundamental basis or rationale for all forms of governance and other ways of exercising power over others. The most accepted contemporary source of legitimacy in a state is some form of democracy or constitutionalism whereby the governed have a defined and periodical opportunity to choose who they wish to exercise power over them. Other sources of legitimacy are suggested in states in which such an opportunity does not exist. Within any proposed overall framework of legitimacy, individual actions by a state can be considered more or less legitimate. Other actors of global politics and their actions can also be evaluated from the perspective of legitimacy.’*

Throughout the GP course, learners are encouraged to dive deeper into the field of global politics by examining YouTube videos, leading articles and journals and gaining a deeper understanding of how the world operates in order to supplement their answers with relevant fields of thought, examples and expert opinions. Thus, I highly recommend going through as many of the links that are given throughout the guide in order to gain a deeper understanding of the subject, particularly the youtube videos if you are more of an audio-visual learner. While it is not required learning, it
will greatly aid your understanding and will be extremely helpful in your essays, source analysis, etc.

Intergovernmental Organisations to read up on:

4. African Union (AU): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i6q0gIxg3Mc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i6q0gIxg3Mc), [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PX7LiTr3gFe](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PX7LiTr3gFe), [https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2015/04/17/399816448/when-the-world-bank-does-more-harm-than-good](https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2015/04/17/399816448/when-the-world-bank-does-more-harm-than-good)

NGOs to read up on:

2. Human Rights Watch: [https://www.hrw.org/about/about-us](https://www.hrw.org/about/about-us), [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AArQSVbg1_s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AArQSVbg1_s), [https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2020](https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2020)
3. BRAC: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXypKSTu0vE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXypKSTu0vE), [http://www.brac.net/](http://www.brac.net/), [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNnLXY7x5Hg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNnLXY7x5Hg)
4. International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement: [https://www.icrc.org/en/who-we-are/movement](https://www.icrc.org/en/who-we-are/movement), [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R36OHuF3U6A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R36OHuF3U6A), [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=on9I0KvR5h4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=on9I0KvR5h4)
5. Greenpeace: [https://www.greenpeace.org/international/](https://www.greenpeace.org/international/), [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zu9eawb1QY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zu9eawb1QY), [https://money.howstuffworks.com/greenpeace.htm](https://money.howstuffworks.com/greenpeace.htm)

Social Movements to read up on:

Resistance Movements:

Violent Protest Movements:


Informal Forums:


2. The Group of Seven (G7): [https://www.internationalrelationsedu.org/what-is-the-g7-its-purpose-and-history-of-influence/](https://www.internationalrelationsedu.org/what-is-the-g7-its-purpose-and-history-of-influence/), [https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/g7-and-future-multilateralism](https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/g7-and-future-multilateralism), [https://time.com/5657375/what-is-g7/](https://time.com/5657375/what-is-g7/)


3. Bastel accords on financial regulation: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OkJsowD67I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OkJsowD67I), [https://www.investopedia.com/terms/b/basel_accord.asp](https://www.investopedia.com/terms/b/basel_accord.asp), [https://www.bis.org/bcbs/history.htm](https://www.bis.org/bcbs/history.htm)

4. WTO trade agreements: [https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/agrm1_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/agrm1_e.htm), [https://commerce.gov.in/PageContent.aspx?Id=126](https://commerce.gov.in/PageContent.aspx?Id=126)
Treaties and Collective Security:

Economic Cooperation:

Interstate and intrastate war:
Difference between intrastate and interstate wars:
Intrastate war refers to continued political conflict between armed groups that represent a state, and one or more non-state groups. This kind of violence usually is restricted within the borders of one state, but usually has notable international consequences and can cause conflict in neighbouring states. Interstate war is a war between two or more states wherein both are part of the international political environment). Both the conflicting states utilise their own national forces.

Terrorism:
Let’s first examine the history of human rights with this video:
https://www.humanrights.com/what-are-human-rights/brief-history/

Some documents to examine while noting down the complex history of human rights are as follows:
1. Cyrus Cylinder
2. Magna Carta
3. Petition of Right
4. US Declaration of Independence
5. The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of Citizen
6. First Geneva Convention

Now, we shall define the key concept of human rights. Human rights are basic claims and entitlements that, many argue, one should be able to exercise simply by virtue of being a human being. Many contemporary thinkers argue they are essential for living a life of dignity, are inalienable, and should be accepted as universal. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the UN in 1948 is recognized as the beginning of the formal discussion of human rights around the world. Critics argue that human rights are a Western, or at least culturally relative, concept.

The most important document that must be considered while speaking about human rights is The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Please go through the pdf linked here: https://www.un.org/en/udhrbook/pdf/udhr_booklet_en_web.pdf The UDHR is based on the theoretical foundation of Universalism. In the context of global politics, the ethical theory of universalism puts forward the notion of a universal human nature that transcends traditional boundaries of identity. In a universalist view, universal values are therefore possible.

However, there are many criticisms of the UDHR and most are based on the theoretical foundation of relativism. In the context of global politics, the ethical theory of relativism suggests values to be culturally and individually determined. In a relativist view, global agreements on the most fundamental aspects of human life are hence difficult to achieve. The UDHR was mainly developed by Western countries and thus, it is unrealistic to claim that the UDHR is “a common statement of goals and aspirations – a view of the globe as the international community would want it to become” because the international community at that point was nowhere near fully formed. Concerns of Western authority over the preparation process were mentioned immediately by UN members. For instance, the Saudi Arabian delegation in discussion on article 16 that was about marriage, commented that the UDHR
represented “… standards recognised by Western civilisation and had ignored more ancient civilisations”

It must be noted that the nations which abstained from voting for the UDHR are labelled ‘non-Western’ namely Byelorussian SSR, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Ukrainian SSR, Union of South Africa, USSR, and Yugoslavia. However, it can be argued that these abstentions were not a result of Western dominance. The Communist bloc abstained because the declaration did not explicitly condemn fascism and nazism. Similarly, experts argue that South Africa abstained with the concern that the declaration would condemn its discriminatory legislation.

Other key concepts in the human rights unit are as follows:

Justice: 'There are a number of different interpretations of the concept of justice. It is often closely associated with the idea of fairness and with individuals getting what they deserve, although what is meant by desert is also contested. One avenue is to approach justice through the idea of rights, and what individuals can legitimately expect of one another or of their government. Some theorists also argue that equality not only in the institutions and procedures of a society but also in capabilities or well-being outcomes is required for justice to be realized.'

Liberty: 'The concept of liberty refers to having freedom and autonomy. It is often divided into positive and negative liberty, with negative liberty defined as individuals having the freedom from external coercion and positive liberty defined as individuals having the autonomy to carry out their own rational will. Some scholars reject this distinction and argue that in practice, one form of liberty cannot exist without the other. It is also questioned if such an understanding of liberty is sufficient for an interdependent world, in which the seeming freedom and autonomy of some may depend on lack of some forms of liberty for others. Hence, debates on equality inform our understanding of liberty as well.'

Equality: 'Egalitarian theories are based on a concept of equality that all people, or groups of people, are seen as having the same intrinsic value. Equality is therefore closely linked to justice and fairness, as egalitarians argue that justice can only exist if there is equality. Increasingly, with growing polarization within societies, equality is also linked to liberty, as different people have differing possibilities to be free and autonomous.'

Multilateralism and Human Rights

With the establishment of the UDHR, an intricate international system has emerged to ensure the protection and promotion of human rights all over the world. While the UDHR is not legally binding, it is observed as a type of obligatory international legislation that is utilised as a method to use diplomatic and moral pressure to governments that ignore any of the rights it outlines. By outlining the precedent that states could no longer take actions that violate human rights under the threat of international condemnation, the UDHR has questioned the exclusive jurisdiction of states to govern its citizens as per their desires. In 1966, the international covenants on Civil and
Political Rights and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights were adopted by the UN. These covenants, coupled with the UDHR, helped establish the basis for modern international human rights law.

Till the mid-1960s, the UN dedicatedly focused on the establishment of human rights precedents. Later on, the IGO put larger emphasis on ensuring the implementation of these precedents. A vital move forward occurred through the creation of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, an infamous product of the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights. The High Commissioner aims to ensure global esteem for human rights laid out in international legislation by aiding the organs formed as a result of human rights treaties. Unfortunately, the Office was far better at spotlighting human rights violations rather than executing human rights law. Because its major mode of punishment is still publicising and denouncing violations by certain states, essentially, naming and shaming, the Office focuses extensively on observing and persuading governments to work upon their human rights record. The Human Rights Council, the replacement for the UN Human Rights Commission in 2006, also examines situations of human rights violations. However, it can only make recommendations to the General Assembly which, in turn, can only provide similar advice to the Security Council. Similar to the Human Rights Commission, it has received criticism for its biases and inconsistencies in shedding light upon human rights abuses. Not only does it offer membership to states that have shady histories with human rights, but member states also stop critiques of others. Thus, while the ideals of the UNHRC undoubtedly aim to work towards a better world, the reality of the body is far from the expectations placed upon it.

**Role of NGOs in protecting human rights:**
States are not the only actors that are involved in the defense of human rights. NGOs too now have influence over global human rights policy and diplomacy. This is clear from the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna where 1,500+ NGOs participated. By 2000, the sheer magnitude of licensed, valid global NGOs increased substantially to become 37,000, with a majority having a key part of their mission being the protection of human rights. NGOs are members of civil society. Civil society is a public political space that makes up neither the market nor the state. These actors can play enormous roles both within a nation and amongst many. One of the most recognised transnational NGOs that work to protect human rights is Amnesty International. It was founded in 1961 in London and has a true global influence with members and followers in over 150 states. Similarly, there are various other organisations that work towards the same goal. Another notable one is the Human Rights Watch, a New York-based research and advocacy group. They also mainly utilise ‘name and shame’ tactics which aims to rattle states and encourage followers from all over to encourage their government to help aid the victims.
The number of members an organisation has in a particular country can also influence the country’s overall political outlook towards the issue the organisation works on. For instance, in the Netherlands, Amnesty International has a very prominent presence with over 255,000 members. Thus, there is a great push for human rights policy in the state. However, in the US, the National Rifle Association has approximately 5 million members, and thus, has immense political power in the US.

Thus, we must analyse the overall efficiency of NGOs in protecting human rights. They often face problems of political and financial accountability. Moreover, they do not have the considerable power of states. Additionally, an overreliance on public opinion can be detrimental as keeping public opinions consistent is very difficult to do. However, they do not have conflicting interests that stop them from focusing on advocating for human rights. Most of these NGOs are renowned for their accurate reporting and unbiased nature. They are vital in raising awareness about global human rights standards and forcing individuals to take action.

The International Criminal Court:
1. https://youtu.be/PR8qPyCrrsM
2. https://youtu.be/QjD95gmn87c

Claims on Human Rights:
1. un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html
2. https://youtu.be/KoRsPo1zoqs

Note- there is no universally accepted definition for “Indigenous”. However, there are common traits found in various indigenous groups all over.
Generally: (there are exceptions)
1. They have smaller populations as compared to the most prominent group present in a state
2. They normally have their own language and traditional practices
3. They hold certain plots of land that are tied to their cultural beliefs and practices.
https://www.culturalsurvival.org/country/australia

Case Studies of violations of human rights:
1. Guantanamo Bay: A symbol of the US’s war on terror, the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay was created in January 2002 as a prison for the US authorities to hold people perceived to be ‘enemy combatants’. The facility has gained international
recognition for its intensive human rights violations. Here are some links to understand the severity of the situation at this facility.

b. https://digitalcommons.law.seattleu.edu/sulr/vol38/iss3/8/
c. https://www.hrw.org/topic/terrorism-counterterrorism/guantanamo
e. http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/11/opinion/dont-close-guantanamo.html?_r=0
h. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rEmSDtoqz_U
i. https://youtu.be/YozKFwQKq_0
j. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sG65stDK4to
k. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1EtE7r-hVM

2. Child Soldiers: What are child soldiers exactly?

The internationally agreed definition for a child associated with an armed force or armed group (child soldier) is any person below 18 years of age who is, or who has been, recruited or used by an armed force or armed group in any capacity, including but not limited to children, boys and girls, used as fighters, cooks, porters, messengers, spies or for sexual purposes. It does not only refer to a child who is taking or has taken a direct part in hostilities.

(Paris Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups, 2007.)

c. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bUeE12vXDs0
d. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=htg8sK6iX-g
e. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9FISTRzjqXU
f. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B2OMiLY1Oks
g. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YBhTivunWkQ
i. https://www.hrw.org/topic/childrens-rights/child-soldiers

3. Cultural Rights v/s Human Rights

Politicisation of Human Rights:

Firstly, to understand how the usage of economic sanctions to defend human rights is a violation of human rights itself, we must understand what economic sanctions are.  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T8j61ecu5uc,  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CNzrNFweGiU&feature=emb_title.

Next, we shall look at the use of sanctions against Russia.  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_C1MPrdtWu&feature=emb_title

Examine this article written by the International Association from Political Science Students-
http://www.iapss.org/2015/05/30/economic-sanctions-a-violation-of-human-rights/

Finally, we must examine the ethics of the usage of economic sanctions.

Further Reading:
4. https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b36c0.html
10. http://www.who.int/hhr/Migrants.pdf?ua=1
11. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ty6w9YvQrno
12. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rNk-g0poHV4
Development Unit

The Contested Meaning of Development:

As per the IB Global Politics Guide, the key concept of development is defined as follows: ‘Development is a sustained increase in the standard of living and well-being of a level of social organization. Many consider it to involve increased income; better access to basic goods and services; improvements in education, healthcare and public health; well-functioning institutions; decreased inequality; reduced poverty and unemployment; and more sustainable production and consumption patterns. The focus of development debates in contemporary global politics is on issues faced by developing countries, and on the imperative of shifting the focus from modernization (seen as Westernization). However, all societies and communities face questions about how to best promote well-being and reduce ill-being.’

This definition highlights the inherent conflict over the definition of development. Many correlate development solely to economic growth, while others believe that it will lead to a reduction in the wealth gap, empower communities to attain basic needs, and attain political and social freedoms. With the increased focus and need for reform to adapt to the climate change crisis, the concept of sustainable development has also gained a lot of traction. Sustainability is another key concept in this unit. Sustainability is defined as ‘the idea that development should meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Sustainability today has three fields of debate—environmental, socio political and economic. In global politics, mechanisms and incentives required for political institutions, economic actors and individuals to take a longer term and more inclusive well-being perspective in their decision-making are particularly important.’

Watch these useful YouTube videos that discuss various perspectives on development:

1. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRmjoF5nv6s
2. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y44Ee2wB7-M
3. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iG3G56YdFeE
4. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7V8oFI4GYMY

Thus, we can clearly see that development means different things for various groups and experts in different fields.

Before we move ahead, we will define other key concepts for this unit:
Globalisation- ‘Globalization is a process by which the world’s local, national and regional economies, societies and cultures are becoming increasingly integrated and connected. The term
refers to the reduction of barriers and borders, as people, goods, services and ideas flow more freely between different parts of the world. Globalization is a process that has been taking place for centuries but the pace has quickened in recent decades, facilitated by developments in transportation and communication technology, and powered by cheap energy. It is now widely acknowledged that globalization has both benefits and drawbacks and that its benefits are not evenly distributed.'

Inequality- ‘Inequality refers to a state of affairs where equality between people or groups of people is not realized and the consequent potential compromises of justice and liberty. Inequality often manifests itself through unequal access to resources that are needed to sustain life and develop individuals and communities. Consequently, the concept is closely connected to discussions of power and of who holds the rights to these resources and their proceeds. Inequality can be examined both as a phenomenon within and between societies.’

Sustainability- ‘Definitions of sustainability begin with the idea that development should meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Sustainability today has three fields of debate—environmental, socio political and economic. In global politics, mechanisms and incentives required for political institutions, economic actors and individuals to take a longer term and more inclusive well-being perspective in their decision-making are particularly important.’

Measuring Development:

The global political system places a large emphasis on measuring development to view the progress of every nation in various key indicators like Employment, Poverty, Health, Education, Social Cohesion, Safety and Security and Good Governance. Thus, there are various methods that measure the development of a country.

The first method that will be examined in this guide is using the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of a state for measuring development. Firstly, we must understand what the GDP of a country is. The GDP is defined as the monetary value of all the finished goods and services produced within a country's borders in a specific time period.

However, just comparing the GDP of 2 countries without considering the size of the state’s population can lead to inaccurate understandings of a nation’s wealth. Thus, we consider GDP per capita, which creates a method of evaluating the GDP of a nation with respect to its population. It is calculated by dividing the GDP of a country by its population. For instance, while China has the 2nd largest economy in the world today, China's huge population brings
down its GDP per capita to $10,100 (seventieth position). The US, on the other hand, the largest economy in the world, has a GDP per capita of $67,430, more than 6 times that of China.

It is clear that using GDP per capita and using GDP of a nation changes international rankings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>GDP per capita (USD)</th>
<th>GDP ($B, USD)</th>
<th>Population (M)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>$116,730</td>
<td>$72.99</td>
<td>0.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>$86,670</td>
<td>$749.42</td>
<td>8.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>$80,260</td>
<td>$402.05</td>
<td>5.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macao SAR</td>
<td>$80,070</td>
<td>$55.38</td>
<td>0.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>$78,330</td>
<td>$422.06</td>
<td>5.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>$70,740</td>
<td>$195.23</td>
<td>2.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>$67,430</td>
<td>$22.32</td>
<td>331.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>$66,600</td>
<td>$24.24</td>
<td>0.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>$64,830</td>
<td>$369.63</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>$61,730</td>
<td>$360.51</td>
<td>5.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>$53,870</td>
<td>$930.99</td>
<td>17.28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: IMF

Pros and Cons of Using the GDP to Measure Development:
GDP is certainly an accurate method of measuring both income and growth. However, it does not consider vital aspects of a community like equality, destruction, social cohesion, and environment. Thus, it cannot accurately be used as the only method of measuring development.

The second method that shall be examined in this guide is Human Development Index (HDI). The HDI is defined as a composite statistic of education, life expectancy, and income per capita indicators, which are used to rank countries into certain tiers of human development. The parts that constitute the HDIs of countries are as follows:
1. Life Expectancy
2. Gross National Income (GNI)
3. Access to Healthcare
4. Access to Quality Education

A world map obtained from using the HDI is shown below.

![World Map](image)

It uses a VIBGYOR colour scheme with the darkest colours indicating higher levels of human development.

Pros and Cons of using the HDI to measure development:
It has a composite approach to evaluating the development and progress of a nation and allows analysis of various aspects. It enables researchers and scholars to compare regions and even individual nations. The HDI has existed since 1990, thus, it can measure change with time. However, it does not consider vital factors that affect the world more frequently like environmental concerns, human rights, corruption, and gender equality and the reliability and accuracy of the data it compiles can certainly be questioned. Thus, as is clear, even the HDI has its advantages and disadvantages.

The third method that shall be examined is the GINI coefficient. The GINI coefficient is used to determine the income distribution between a nation’s citizens. The value of the coefficient ranges from 0 to 1. 1 represents perfect inequality while 0 represents perfect equality. A coefficient of 0 would theoretically be attained when all wealth within a nation is perfectly distributed equally amongst all citizens. A coefficient of 1 would theoretically occur when one person in a population receives all the income, while other people earn nothing. The GINI coefficient is highlighted graphically on the Lorenz Curve. Look at this video for further detail: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y8y-gaNbe4U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y8y-gaNbe4U)

Here is a global map that roughly indicates the GINI coefficient of every country.
Pros and Cons of the GINI Coefficient:
The GINI Coefficient does have its advantages. It offers anonymity to its respondents and keeps the identities of both wealthy and poor individuals hidden. Moreover, it does not try and factor in the magnitude of a nation’s economy, how it is measured, if it is a rich or poor country or the size of the population. However, it does have certain limitations. The reliability of a GINI coefficient is directly correlated to a sample size. For instance, tinier states with lesser economic diversity often have low coefficients, while huge states with prominent economic diversity have high coefficients. Additionally, two nations with vastly different income distributions can end up with the same GINI coefficient due to similar amounts of income. Finally, it does not indicate any fundamental structural change in a population and changes in earnings.

The final measure of development that will be examined in this study guide is the Happy Planet Index. This index aims to measure the ability of countries to provide its citizens with long, happy, sustainable lives. To do so, it utilises internationally recognised data on aspects like experienced well-being, life expectancy, and Ecological Footprint in its calculations. The exact equation is as follows:

$$HPI = \frac{EXPERIENCED\ WELL - BEING \times LIFE\ EXPECTANCY}{ECOLOGICAL\ FOOTPRINT}$$

Further detail on the HPI is available in this YouTube video.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZPYI8BfnBs&feature=emb_logo

Similarly, a highly comprehensive list of the pros and cons of the HPI is available at this link:
https://modernsociety.fandom.com/wiki/Happy_Planet_Index
While the guide only discusses 4 methods in depth, there are various other methods that can be used to measure development.

Further Research:
1. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NXIo_TvcN4Q
2. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kzs15GnmC8

Political Factors Affecting Development:
As is well known, the politics of a nation is intrinsically linked to its development and thus, inherently, there are some factors that promote development and others that prevent its occurrence. We will be discussing 11 such factors in the realm of politics.


**Economic Factors Affecting Development:**

Similar to the political factors, we will be discussing certain economic factors that impact the development of a state. There are 11 such economic factors.


Social Factors Affecting Development:

Similar, now there will be a discussion of the social factors affecting development. There are 4 such factors.


Institutional Factors Affecting Development:

Now, there will be a discussion of institutional factors affecting development. There are 6 such factors.

6. Efficacy of local and national institutions-
https://academic.oup.com/cjres/article/8/2/185/332649, 
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/47443846_The_Role_of_Institutions_in_Growth_and_Development, 
https://www.e-ir.info/2012/09/19/the-importance-of-institutions-to-economic-development/, 
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10792Chapter4_GSDR2016.pdf

Environmental Factors Affecting Development:
Now, there will be a discussion of environmental factors affecting development. There are 3 such factors.


Pathways towards development:
Models Of Development:


Approaches for developing the economy:


Approaches for developing society:


Debates surrounding development: Challenges of globalisation, inequality and sustainability:

Globalisation: Wins and losses


1. Development of standard of living-
   http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/biblio/globalisationproceedings.pdf ,
   http://insights.som.yale.edu/insights/how-has-globalization-benefited-the-poor ,
   https://ourworldindata.org/is-globalization-an-engine-of-economic-development ,
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JJ0nFD19eT8 ,
   https://trace.tennessee.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3102&context=utk_chanhonoproj ,
   https://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1079&context=bepp_papers

   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mml73ZU8gRo ,
   https://onlinecourses.swayam2.ac.in/ugc19_hs40/preview ,
   https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/globalisation-human-rights ,
   https://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:2430/ebrary9280810804.pdf ,

3. Well-being and opportunities for marginalised groups-
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eEoILrDe1l4 ,
   http://www.sjweb.inf o/documents/sjs/docs/GlobalizationandMarginalizationDiscussionGuide.pdf ,
   https://www.jstor.org/stable/48505247 ,
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   https://magazine.scienceconnected.org/2019/04/globalization-and-its-environmental-impact/ ,
   https://globaldimension.org.uk/resource/issues-in-globalisation-environmental-impacts-sustainability/ ,
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cxDLxFnYd50 ,
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UBRoLuqITxw ,
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ss2DQ2Gax54
5. Northern Perspective v/s Southern Perspective-
   https://www.etsg.org/ETSG2012/Programme/Papers/252.pdf,
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_tBpMQ_Wls,
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ShBRtxQzgII,
   https://ideas.repec.org/h/wsi/wschap/9789814366984_0015.html,
   https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/02632760022051059,
   https://www.rgs.org/CMSPages/GetFile.aspx?nodeguid=9c1ce781-9117-4741-af0a-a6a8b75f32b4&lang=en-GB

6. Rising Powers’ Perspective- https://jwsr.pitt.edu/ojs/jwsr/article/view/624,
   https://www.jstor.org/stable/29779319,
   https://knowledge.insead.edu/blog/insead-blog/the-changing-tides-of-the-global-economy-13551,
   https://renegadeinc.com/globalisation-the-rise-of-the-east/,
   https://theconversation.com/will-coronavirus-be-the-turning-point-for-globalisation-134739,

7. Developed Powers’ Perspective-
   https://www.investopedia.com/articles/economics/10/globalization-developed-countries.asp,
   https://www.geo41.com/global-interactions-and-global-powers,
   https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/field/field_document/20140521LondonConference1.pdf,
   https://atlascorps.org/has-globalization-diminished-the-power-of-the-state/,
   https://www.globalpolicyjournal.com/blog/11/09/2019/why-globalization-was-not-end-state-power,

Inequality and development: Role of Politics:

1. Opportunities for and limits of state-
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2XFh_tD2RA,
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1F-bXNQ4wzs,
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hBgpfYNoAs,
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYjsb2XxEa8

2. IGO and NGO action:
   a. Global regulation of MNCs and cross-border financial flows-
      https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hom07yGhgQQ&feature=emb_title,
      https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4d5FZU64Bnw&feature=emb_title,
https://escholarship.org/uc/item/3nz79708.pdf ,
https://www.jstor.org/stable/2706289 ,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLDiBNYGd-Y ,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70925DNHR1A ,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gWpH_6BkHdw ,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4UX9MvephYA
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eTmDnETmxRE ,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F2CJqKg9CuM

b. Role of local regulation of conditions of work- 
https://www.oecd.org/employment/emp/45282892.pdf ,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9HsNXLjgOQ ,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N5QziEiDOLY ,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kR4rSVEyf4 ,
https://items.ssrc.org/what-is-inequality/two-approaches-to-inequality-and-their-normative-implications/ ,
https://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002458/245825e.pdf ,

c. Power of lobbies- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJy8vTu66tE ,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=um7tTjN2Uus ,
https://time.com/4514704/lobbying-how-it-works/ ,
http://www.nyu.edu/econ/user/debraj/Papers/04sig01.pdf ,
https://twothousandonehundred.com/2019/06/06/inequality-and-corporate-lobbying/ ,
https://digital.library.adelaide.edu.au/dspace/bitstream/2440/108314/1/02WholeECONHon.pdf ,

Sustainable development: Role of Politics:

1. Opportunities for and limits of state- 
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2843WESS2013.pdf ,
https://www.amherst.edu/system/files/media/0972/fulltext.pdf ,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f2oyU0RusiA ,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WIG33QtLRYA ,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F0Imgz0smSQ ,

2. IGO and NGO action,
a. Progress in global climate change negotiations-
https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-action/,
https://www.wri.org/our-work/project/international-climate-action,
https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/international_en,
https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/ipcc_wg3_ar5_chapter13.pdf,

b. Role of regional, national and local policies for sustainable development-
Peace and Conflict Unit

Contested Definitions of Peace:

In the simplistic possible terms, one can argue that peace can be defined as the absence of war. However, this definition is a rather pessimistic and negative one as it has to refer to the absence/lacking of a particular component in order to be defined.

A positive definition of peace is outlined by the KROC institute for international peace studies. According to them, a more accurate definition of peace is ‘the presence of the conditions for a just and sustainable peace, including access to food and clean drinking water, education for women and children, security from physical harm, and other inviolable human rights.’

Similarly, there are various other interpretations of what peace can mean. Peace can also refer to a situation wherein there is no ongoing violence, but the cause of the violence has not been resolved yet. A simple yet effective method of understanding this is by examining the 38th parallel separating North and South Korea. While it is a demilitarised zone, troops from both sides regularly confront each other, all of them prepared for any potential escalations. Another way of looking at peace is something that creates a peaceful agreement, state, and society as per a universally agreed upon model. A simple example could be the creation of the European Union and several of the states that constitute it after the end of the Second World War. Finally, one can argue that peace is essentially an ‘agree to disagree’ kind of agreement between 2 parties.

Despite highly contrasting socio political systems, two parties can agree to coexist and while they may disagree with the other, they would not actively antagonise each other. A famous example is the recent peace agreement between Israel and the United Arab Emirates that was agreed to on August 13th, 2020. While the two states disagree on a number of key issues, they have agreed to put aside their differences and work together to establish more peace in the Middle East.

Keeping all of this in mind, the IB has defined peace, one of the key concepts of this chapter as ‘Peace is often defined as both the absence of conflict and violence as well as a state of harmonious relations. Many also refer to peace as a personal state of non-conflict, particularly with oneself and with one’s relationship to others. Peace is the ultimate goal of many organizations that monitor and regulate social relationships.’

The correlation between Peace and Balance of Power:

What is Balance of Power?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BpUgReWaifs, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-WwCm889Vqo

Essentially, the theory of balance of power argues that a state of international security is strengthened when the military capability of states is increased such that no one state has the
ability to dominate over others. This article, linked below, excellently brings out the different purposes the Balance of Power can serve for the international community. http://www.e-ir.info/2011/01/31/the-balance-of-power-a-cause-of-war-a-condition-of-peace-or-both/

**Contested Definitions of Conflict and Violence**

We shall be examining the definition of conflict laid out by the Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research (HIIK) and utilising their yearly remade Conflict Barometer. This Barometer outlines the latest trends in international conflict developments, escalations, de-escalations, and settlements. It focuses on 5 world regions and brings out all the conflicts in charts and simple details. The latest Barometer can be found at this link- https://hiik.de/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/ConflictBarometer_2019_4.pdf

The Institute defines conflict as ‘A positional difference between at least two assertive and directly involved actors regarding values relevant to a society which is carried out using observable and interrelated conflict measures that lie outside established regulatory procedures and threaten core state functions, the international order, or hold the prospect of doing so.’

The organisation’s research differentiates between 5 levels of intensities in conflicts: dispute, non-violent crisis, violent crisis, limited war, and war.

For future detail and clarity, do look at their methodology page linked below! https://hiik.de/hiik/methodology/?lang=en

As for violence, there are 2 primary kinds of violence that are vital in the IB Global Politics course: direct violence and structural violence.

Structural violence lays out that there are systematic, fixed methods in which social structures harm or otherwise disadvantage individuals. This term was coined by Johan Galtung in 1969. A very simple and topical example is the issue of racial profiling and the usage of excessive violence against the African-American community in the United States. This kind of violence is often invisible, is ignored by society and does not have one specific person to hold responsible.

1. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D6alqkFII2E
2. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9CO0VrebFK8
Direct violence injures or kills people rapidly and dramatically.

We can distinguish between direct and structural violence in the following manner:
Direct violence is when one physically harms another with the intention of harming and
structural violence is when harm is caused to people as a consequence of injustices in their
societies.

Now we shall be examining the types of conflict:

**Territorial Conflict:**

I implore you to go through the links provided for at least some of these conflicts to better understand their causes and their effects on the international community.


Interest-based Conflict:


Ideological Conflict:


Identity Conflict:


Justification of violence:


Just War Theory:

The Just War Theory is a theory that addresses the justification of how and why wars are fought. The theory has received detailed development by theologians who have attempted to lay out a comprehensive base for the theory. The base consists of 3 arguments:

1. Taking human life can never be condoned
2. States have an obligation to defend justice and their citizens
3. In the process of protecting the lives of civilians and upholding essential moral values, there needs to be a willingness to utilise force and violence

To determine if a war is just, there is a series of criteria that need to be met. There is Jus Ad Bellum, that is, the right to go to war and Jus In Bello, that is, the right conduct during the course of the war.

Jus Ad Bellum

1. Just Cause- The most vital part of justifying a war is having a just cause. The reasoning behind why a state goes to war must be just and thus, the war can’t be only about recapturing territory previously lost or even about taking action against people who have done wrong. War can only be justified if the lives of innocent civilians are threatened and the intervention occurs under the cause of protecting them.
2. Comparative Justice- Although both parties in the conflict may have experienced rights and wrongs prior to the commencement of the conflict, in order to justify the usage of force, the wrongs suffered by one party must be significantly greater than those suffered by the other
3. Competent authority- Only authorities that are duly constituted have the right to wage war. Authoritarian regimes (Nazi Germany 1939) or deceiving military actions (1968 Bombing of Cambodia by the US) are argued to have violated this criteria.
4. Right Intention- Force can only be utilised for a truly just cause and only to further this purpose. Utilising a war for maintaining economic growth or gaining access to raw materials is not permitted under this criteria.
5. Probability of Success- Arms should not be utilised in a worthless cause or even in a situation where excessive action is required in order for the war to be successful
6. Last Resort- Force should only and only be used once all peaceful and practical options have been exhausted
7. **Proportionality** - The predicted advantages of waging a war should be in proportion to the harm it can cause for both sides

**Jus In Bello**

1. **Distinction** - There should be a clear distinction made by the troops between combatants and civilians. Acts of violence should not be focused on civilians who did not choose this outcome.
2. **Proportionality** - Troops have to ensure that any harm that is caused to civilians or their property is proportional to the concrete and absolute military benefit awaited through an attack on a legitimate military objective.
3. **Military Necessity** - An attack’s aim should be defeating the enemy.
4. **Fair Treatment of Prisoners of War (PoWs)** - All captured/surrendered formerly enemy combatants do not threaten one side’s security. Thus, they should not be ill-treated or tortured.
5. **No means Malum In Se** - Combatants should not use methods of warfare that are widely deemed evil. Some of these methods include mass rape (like the Rape of Nanjing) or using weapons whose effects are unknown or are unable to be controlled (Hiroshima and Nagasaki).

Now, keeping in mind these two subsections of the just war theory, we must apply our knowledge to certain examples.

Watch the 4 videos given below, where Michael Walzer, the founder of the just war theory and an expert on the subject, explains the theory and applies it to humanitarian intervention, the war in Iraq, and terrorism.

1. [https://youtu.be/LcBovmGZSPU](https://youtu.be/LcBovmGZSPU)
3. [https://youtu.be/W_1rqRYaQnA](https://youtu.be/W_1rqRYaQnA)
4. [https://youtu.be/TOfS3IlqP0M](https://youtu.be/TOfS3IlqP0M)

**Causes of Conflict:**

1. **Greed v/s Grievance** (eg Colombia, Sierra Leone) -
   - [https://www.e-ir.info/2013/03/09/the-libyan-case-greed-and-grievance-as-motivations-for-civil-war/](https://www.e-ir.info/2013/03/09/the-libyan-case-greed-and-grievance-as-motivations-for-civil-war/)
   - [https://helda.helsinki.fi/handle/10138/11247](https://helda.helsinki.fi/handle/10138/11247)
   - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zvSzgsVvC7q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zvSzgsVvC7q)
   - [https://youtu.be/mEoKDx0KoXE](https://youtu.be/mEoKDx0KoXE)


Parties to Conflict:


Manifestations of Conflict, including Non-Violence:


Conflict Dynamics:

Third-party involvement in conflict, including humanitarian intervention


Peacemaking, including negotiations and treaties:


Peacebuilding, including reconciliation and work of justice institutions:


And, with that, the core content for the IB Global Politics syllabus has been covered!
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