

**Centre for International Politics, Organization and Disarmament
School of International Studies
Jawaharlal Nehru University**

Key Concepts in World Politics

Course:	Ph.D.
Course No:	IO 658
Course Title:	Key Concepts in World Politics
Course Type:	
Semester:	Winter 2023
Course Teacher & Contact Details:	<p><i>Name: Dr. Prasanta Sahoo</i> <i>Room No.: #309, SIS-II</i> <i>Email: prasantasahoo@mail.jnu.ac.in</i> <i>Tel. No.: (O): 26704349</i></p> <p><i>Name: Mr. Sandip Kumar Singh</i> <i>Room No.: #318, SIS-II</i> <i>Email: sandipksingh@mail.jnu.ac.in</i> <i>Tel. No.: (O): 26704349</i></p>
Credits:	2
Contact Hours:	2 hours/week
Class Schedule & Room Number	Monday and Thursday 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm. Room No. 201
Tutorial (for difficulties & discussion)	

Course Objectives

This course aims to examine four fundamental political concepts in the study of International Relations (IR), such as 'Power', 'Security', 'War' and 'Order' and their interplay that shapes global politics. There are several key concepts in world politics, such as state, sovereignty, power, security, war, order, globalisation, terrorism, gender, development, justice, etc. The course will have the flexibility to include and exclude key concepts in IR. The course will study and understand the key concepts through different perspectives such as Western (American & European), Asian (Chinese, Indian and Japanese) and Third World etc. We will follow both the theoretical and case study methods throughout the course.

Concepts have particular importance for students of politics and international relations. Students will understand the power dynamics/balance, security situation, and political order among states, particularly among great/superpowers in pre/post- Westphalia, World Wars, the Cold War and the post- 9/11 period. The course includes both the 'traditional' and 'non-traditional' security issues such as terrorism, insurgency, guerrilla wars, human security, cross-border migration, energy and environmental security by examining globalisation and global security trends. Through analysing the course, students will understand the meaning, reason and factors that motivate War. The study sought to analyse why War has been far too common in human history and has become the central problem of international relations. By using critical and analytical tools, the course will try to make clear distinctions between just and unjust war, the pros and cons of humanitarian interventions and other issues linked to the concept of War. The course sought to analyse the construction of Order among superpowers and how it gets challenged, and ultimately a new world order begins. Precisely, the course will explore the roots of competition and cooperation among states, the causes of wars; the

rise of military power; the spreading of nuclear weapons; the growth of terrorism; and strategic competition among the superpowers and their allies. This course seeks to examine the continued occurrence of War in international relations, despite the emergence of arguments concerning its uselessness. It will also analyse/examine various case studies to understand why a new Order comes after major Wars.

The course structure will be thematic with four subsequent parts and consults only relevant literature pieces. For broader outputs, students need to consult various national and international research journals relating to the course.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will:

- (1) understand the key concepts, their importance, and their application to various international conflicts
- (2) be able to analyse the key concepts and measure their impact on various contemporary issues
- (3) understand the broader meanings of the key concepts
- (4) comprehend the local, national, and global dimensions of the key concepts
- (5) attain a deep understanding of the various dimensions of power and security
- (6) be able to utilise the key concepts to understand contemporary and historical events relating to conflicts, competition, violence, wars, peace, and order
- (7) develop the theoretical ability to make distinctions among various types of security threats and wars facing modern states
- (8) be able to use critical and analytical tools to broaden his/her understanding of contemporary world politics and debates
- (9) augment her/his intellectual capability to understand contemporary international politics
- (10) be able to make clear and concise arguments in written assignments and oral class participation
- (11) attain the necessary research skills
- (12) be able to review journal articles
- (13) be able to survey literature to prepare a bibliography
- (14) be able to stylise, arrange and present a bibliography

Evaluation Methods

- **Mid-Semester Evaluation (50%)** (Compulsory)
 - Two Book Reviews / Review Essays (25% each)
- **End-Semester Evaluation (50%)** (Compulsory)
 - One Term Paper (40%)
 - Class Presentation (10%)
- *SIS Research Manual should be used as a guide for written assignments. Available at: https://www.jnu.ac.in/sites/default/files/SIS_Research_Manual_0.pdf.*
- *Students must maintain a high degree of academic integrity, which includes but is not limited to abstaining from copying and plagiarism. For details on plagiarism and research ethics, refer to SIS Research Manual.*

Course Content

Concepts in IR

Concepts have particular importance for students of politics and international relations. This is also essential to understand issues and case studies in international relations. There are several key concepts in world politics which needs different perspectives to study, understand and analyse these concepts, viz., Western (American & European), Asian (Chinese, Indian and Japanese) and Third World etc.

Sub-Themes:

- *What is 'Concept' in IR*
- *Meaning and Definition of Concept*
- *Use and Abuse of Concepts*
- *Conceptual and Definitional Issues and Challenges*

I. Power

Power is a central concept in the study of global politics and a key focus of the course. So understanding power dynamics play a prominent role in understanding global politics. Power can be seen as the ability to effect change. Rather than being viewed as a unitary or independent force, it is an aspect of relations among people functioning within a social organisation.

Sub-Themes:

- *Conceptual Understanding*
- *Types of Power (Hard and Soft); Balance of Power*
- *Cold War Politics*
- *Links with other Political Concepts*
- *Different Dimensions; and Various Interpretations, i.e. Individual, National and International*

II. Security

Security is central to the issue agenda of international relations. Traditionally security or national security is linked to the protection of sovereign territory through armed force. Still, many other issues were included later, such as force and military preparedness, human rights, migration, the environment, etc.

Sub-Themes:

- *Theoretical Explanations*
- *Its Definitions & Conceptual Clarity*
- *Traditional and Non-Traditional Security*
- *Different Perspectives on Security from Individual to State and International*
- *National Security; Cross-Border Migration; 9/11 Terror Attacks*
- *Security and Strategic Culture*

III. War

War is generally characterised by extreme violence, aggression, destruction, and mortality, using regular or irregular military forces. It has been considered a universal and ancestral aspect of human nature and a result of specific socio-cultural, economic or ecological circumstances. War is an intense armed conflict between governments, states, paramilitary groups, tribes, militias, or others.

Sub-Themes:

- *Definition, Meaning and Rationale*

- *Factors, Reasons and Determinants*
- *Objectives and Conceptual Clarity*
- *Theoretical Explanation*
- *Conventional and Unconventional War (Terrorism, Insurgency, Civil War, Guerilla Warfare)*
- *Just and Unjust War (Trade War, Cultural War, Humanitarian Interventions)*
- *Debating War & Peace*
- *New Warfare or Hybrid Warfare*

IV. Order

The concept “Order” is the body of rules, norms, and institutions that govern relations among the key players in the international environment. The term “order” or “world order” refers to a period of history in world political thought and the balance of power in international relations. Any change in the world order may bring massive changes and catastrophes in world politics, including War.

Sub-Themes:

- *Definitions, Meaning & Conceptual Clarity*
- *Various Understandings & Historical Analysis*
- *Cold War Perspectives*
- *Old vs. New World Order*
- *Order, Anarchy, Hierarchy and Hegemony*
- *Post-Covid-19 New World Order*

Readings

Concepts in IR (Week 1)

Iver B. Neumann (2019), Introduction (Chapter 1). In *Concepts of International Relations, for Students and Other Smarties*, (USA: University of Michigan Press), pp. 1-10.

Martin Griffiths, Terry O’Callaghan and Steven C. Roach (2008), International Relations: Conceptual Issues and Challenges (Introduction). In *International Relations: The Key Concepts* (London: Routledge), pp. VII-XIII.

I. Power (Weeks 1-4):

- **Essential Readings**

Week 1

Robert A. Dahl (1957), The Concept of Power, *Behavioural Science*, vol. 2, no. 3, July, pp. 201-215.

Steven Lukes (2005), Power: A Radical View (Chapter 1). In *Power: A Radical View*, (New York: Palgrave Macmillan), pp. 14-59.

Week 2

Kenneth N. Waltz (1967), International Structure, National Force, and the Balance of World Power, *Journal of International Affairs*, Vol. 21, No. 2 pp. 215-231.

Robert L. Rothstein (1966), Alignment, Nonalignment, and Small Powers: 1945-1965, *International Organization*, vol. 20, no. 3, Summer, pp. 397-418.

Week 3

Richard Rosecrance (2006), Power and International Relations: The Rise of China and its Effects, *International Studies Perspectives*, vol. 7, no. 1, February, pp. 31-35.

Joseph S. Nye (1990), The Changing Nature of World Power, *Political Science Quarterly*, vol. 105, no. 2, Summer, pp. 177-192.

Week 4

Celia Kitzinger (1991), Feminism, Psychology and the Paradox of Power, *Feminism & Psychology*, vol. 1, no. 1, February, pp. 111-129.

Lech Zacher (2016), Technology and a New International Distribution of Power (Chapter 3). In Monika Szkarłat and Katarzyna Mojska (eds.), *New Technologies as a Factor of International Relations*, (UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing), pp. 35-52.

• Additional Readings

Çağıl T. Etkin and Nusret Sinan Evcan (2021), Analyzing Multi-Definitional Problems of Concepts in International Relations: Re-Conceptualizing Change, *SAGE Open*, 11(4), Available Online: <https://doi.org/10.1177/21582440211050402>.

Andrew Heywood (2015), Uses and abuses of Political Concepts. In *Key Concepts in Politics and International Relations*, (UK: Bloomsbury Publishing), pp. X-XIII.

Stefano Guzzini, "Power" in International Relations: Concept Formation Between Conceptual Analysis and Conceptual History, (Denmark: Copenhagen Peace Research Institute), Paper presented at the 43rd Annual Convention of the International Studies Association, New Orleans, 24-27 March 2002. Available Online: <https://ciaotest.cc.columbia.edu/wps/gus03/gus03.pdf>.

Robert W. Cox (1983), Gramsci, Hegemony and International Relations: An Essay in Method, *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, vol. 12, no. 2, June, pp. 162-175.

David A. Baldwin (2016), Modern Power Analysis (Chapter 2). In *Power and International Relations: A Conceptual Approach*, (USA: Princeton University Press), pp. 11-48.

Morten Skumsrud Andersen and William C. Wohlforth, (2021), Balance of Power: A Key Concept in Historical Perspective (Chapter 27). In Benjamin de Carvalho, Julia Costa Lopez and Halvard Leira (eds.), *Routledge Handbook of Historical International Relations*, (London: Routledge), pp. 289-301.

Deepshikha Shahi, "Arthashastra" beyond Realpolitik: The 'Eclectic' Face of Kautilya, *Economic and Political Weekly*, October 11, 2014, vol. 49, no. 41, pp. 68-74.

Harsh V. Pant (2016), Evolving Balance of Power in the Asia-Pacific and India's Changing Role (Chapter 9). In David Walton and Emilian Kavalski (eds.), *Power Transition in Asia*, (London: Routledge).

Raymond Williams (2008), On Understanding Hegemony: Cultural Studies and the Recovery of the Critical (Chapter 5). In Hanno Hardt (ed.), *Critical Communication Studies: Essays on Communication, History and Theory in America*, (London: Routledge), pp. 173-216.

Talcott Parsons (1963), On the Concept of Political Power, *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society*, vol. 107, no. 3, June, pp. 232-262.

Shekhar Adhikari (2016), *Military Thinking of Ancient India*, New Delhi: Pentagon Press.

Jeffrey Hart (1976), Three Approaches to the Measurement of Power in International Relations, *International Organization*, vol. 30, no. 2, Spring, pp. 289-305.

Hans J. Morgenthau (1948), International Politics as a Struggle for Power (Chapter 2). In *Politics among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace*, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf), pp. 13-72.

John J. Mearsheimer (2001), Anarchy and the Struggle for Power (Chapter 2). In *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, (New York: W. W. Norton & Company).

II. Security (Weeks 5-8):

- **Essential Readings**

Week 5

David A. Baldwin (1997), The Concept of Security, *Review of International Studies*, vol. 23, no. 1, January, pp. 5-26.

Robert Jervis (1982), Security Regimes, *International Organization*, vol. 36, no. 2, Spring, pp. 357-378.

Week 6

Barry Buzan (1983), The National Security Problem in International Relations (Introduction). And Individual Security and National Security (Chapter 1). In *People, States, and Fear: The National Security Problem in International Relations*, (Brighton, Sussex: Wheatsheaf Books), pp. 1-17 and 18-35.

Mohammed Ayoob (1995), Concepts and Definitions "Third World" and "Security" (Chapter 1). In *The Third World Security Predicament: State Making, Regional Conflict, and the International System*, (Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers,), pp. 1-19.

Week 7

Samuel P. Huntington (1993), The Clash of Civilizations?, *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 72, no. 3, Summer, pp. 22-49.

Christopher Rudolph (2005), Sovereignty and Territorial Borders in a Global Age, *International Studies Review*, vol. 7, no. 1, March, pp. 1-20.

Week 8

Barry Buzan and Ole Wæver (2003), Security Complexes: A Theory of Regional Security (Chapter 3). In *Regions and Powers: The Structure of International Security*, pp. 40-82.

Jon Barnett and W. Neil Adger (2007), Climate Change, Human Security and Violent Conflict, *Political Geography*, Vol. 26, no. 6, August, pp. 639-655.

• Additional Readings

Steven Forde (1992), Varieties of Realism: Thucydides and Machiavelli, *The Journal of Politics*, vol. 54, no. 2, May, pp. 372-393.

Helga Haftendorn (1991), The Security Puzzle: Theory-Building and Discipline-Building in International Security, *International Studies Quarterly*, vol. 35, no. 1, March, pp. 3-17.

Balbir S. Sihag (2017), Kautilya and Machiavelli on Justice, Prosperity and National Security, *Theoretical Economics Letters*, vol. 07, no. 03, pp. 381-397.

Rajesh Rajagopalan (2012), "Security" (Chapter 10). In Bhupinder S. Chimni and Siddharth Mallavarapu (eds.), *International Relations: Perspectives for the Global South* (New Delhi: Pearson India), pp. 135-148.

Victor M. Manjarrez (2015), Border Security: Defining it is the Real Challenge, *Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management*, vol. 12, no. 4, December, pp. 793-800.

Rita Floyd and Stuart Croft (2011), European Non-Traditional Security Theory: From Theory to Practice Geopolitics, *History, and International Relations*, vol. 3, no. 2 pp. 152-179.

Christopher Rudolph (2003), Globalization and Security: Migration and Evolving Conceptions of Security in Statecraft and Scholarship, *Security Studies*, vol. 13, no. 1, pp. 1-32.

Alexander Wendt (1995), Constructing International Politics, *International Security*, vol. 20, no. 1, Summer, pp. 71-81.

Ken Booth (1991), Security and Emancipation, *Review of International Studies*, vol. 17, no. 4, October, pp. 313-326.

Thomas Ohlson (2008), Understanding Causes of War and Peace, *European Journal of International Relations*, vol. 14, no. 1, pp. 133-160.

Thomas Faist (2006), The Migration-Security Nexus: International Migration and Security Before and After 9/11 (Chapter 6). In Bodemann Y.M. and Yurdakul G. (eds.), *Migration, Citizenship, Ethnos*, (New York: Palgrave Macmillan), pp. 103-119.

V. Spike Peterson (2010), Gendered Identities, Ideologies and Practices in the Context of War and Militarism (Chapter 1). In Laura Sjoberg (ed.), *Gender, War, and Militarism: Feminist Perspectives*, (California: Praeger Publishers), pp. 17-29.

III. War (Weeks 9-12):

• Essential Readings

Week 9

Quincy Wright and Louise Leonard Wright (1983), The Concept of War (Chapter 1). In *A Study of War*, (Chicago, USA: University of Chicago Press), pp. 3-19.

Robert Gilpin (1981), The Nature of International Political Change (Chapter 1). In *War and Change in World Politics*, (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press), pp. 9-49.

Week 10

Jeremy Black (2005), War and International Relations: A Military-Historical Perspective on Force and Legitimacy, *Review of International Studies*, vol. 31, December, pp. 127-142.

Mary Kaldor (2013), In Defence of New Wars, *Stability: International Journal of Security and Development*, vol. 2, no. 1, Article 4, pp. 1-16.

Week 11

Morris P. Fiorina, Samuel J. Abrams and Jeremy Pope (2011), Culture War? (Chapter 1). In *Culture War? The Myth of a Polarized America*, (United Kingdom: Longman), pp. 1-9.

Jeff McMahan (1996), Realism, Morality, and War (Chapter 4). In Terry Nardin (ed.), *The Ethics of War and Peace: Religious and Secular Perspectives*, (Princeton University Press), pp. 78-92.

Week 12

Bruce Buchan (2002), Explaining War and Peace: Kant and Liberal IR Theory, *Alternatives*, vol. 27, no. 4, October-December, pp. 407-428.

Roger Boesche (2003), Kautilya's Arthashastra on War and Diplomacy in Ancient India, *The Journal of Military History*, vol. 67, no. 1, January, pp. 9-37.

• Additional Readings

Claudio Cioffi-Revilla (1996), Origins and Evolution of War and Politics, *International Studies Quarterly*, vol. 40, no. 1, March, pp. 1-22.

Colin S. Gray (2007), Carl von Clausewitz and the Theory of War (Chapter 2). In *War, Peace and International Relations: An Introduction to Strategic History*, (USA: Taylor & Francis), pp. 15-30.

Theo Farrell (2005), The Norms of War (Chapter 1). In *The Norms of War: Cultural Beliefs and Modern Conflict*, (Lynne Rienner Publishers), pp. 1-24.

Janick Marina Schaufelbueh, Sandra Bott, Jussi Hanhimäki and Marco Wyss (2015), Non-Alignment, the Third Force, or Fence-Sitting: Independent Pathways in the Cold War, *The International History Review*, vol. 37, no. 5, pp. 901-911.

Kanti Bajpai and Varun Sahni (2008), "Hegemony and Strategic Choice" (Chapter 9). In Chandra Chari (ed.), *War, Peace and Hegemony in a Globalized World: The Changing Balance of Power in the Twenty-First Century* (London: Routledge), pp. 93-108.

Susan Koshy (1999), From Cold War to Trade War: Neocolonialism and Human Rights, *Social Text No. 58*, vol. 17, no. 1, Spring, pp. 1-32.

Steven Metz (2000), Image of Future War (Chapter 2). In *Armed Conflict in the 21st Century: The Information Revolution and Post-modern Warfare*, (US Army War College Press), pp. 27-72.

Barry O'Neill (1994), Game Theory Models of Peace and War (Chapter 29). In Robert Aumann and Sergiu Hart (eds.), *Handbook of Game Theory with Economic Applications*, (Vol. 2), (Amsterdam: Elsevier), pp. 995-1053.

Warren Chin (2019), Technology, War and the State: Past, Present and Future, *International Affairs*, vol. 95, no. 4, July, pp. 765-783.

Anthony H. Cordesman (2016), Modern Warfare: The Changing Nature of War in the Middle East and North Africa, *Harvard International Review*, vol. 37, no. 4, Summer, pp. 21-27.

Jarat Chopra and Thomas G. Weiss (1992), Sovereignty is no longer Sacrosanct: Codifying Humanitarian Intervention, *Ethics & International Affairs*, vol. 6, no. 1, March, pp. 95-117.

A.J. Coates (2016), The Just War (Chapter 4). In *The Ethics of War*, (Manchester University Press), pp. 115-136.

Ibrahim Elbadawi and Nicholas Sambanis (2002), How Much War Will we See?: Explaining the Prevalence of Civil War, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, vol. 46, no. 3, June, pp. 307-334.

Laura Sjoberg (2012), Gender, Structure, and War: What Waltz couldn't See, *International Theory*, vol. 4, no. 1, March, pp. 1-38.

Robert Rizzo (1986), Nuclear Warfare: The Psychological Effects and Their Impact on Moral Reasoning, *International Journal of Social Economics*, vol. 13, no. 1/2, January, pp. 40-54.

IV. Order (Weeks 13-16):

• **Essential Readings**

Week 13

Hedley Bull (1977), The Concept of Order in World Politics (Chapter 1). In *The Anarchical Society: A Study of Order in World Politics*, (New York: Palgrave), pp. 3-21.

Joe Wills (2017), Power, Hegemony and World Order (Chapter 1). In *Contesting World Order?: Socioeconomic Rights and Global Justice Movements*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), pp. 16-48.

Week 14

Kenneth Waltz (1979), Anarchic Order and Balances of Power (Chapter 7). In *Theory of International Politics*, (London: Addison-Wesley Publishing Company), pp. 102-128.

Francis Fukuyama (1989), The End of History?, *The National Interest*, no. 16, Summer, pp. 3-18.

Week 15

Amitav Acharya (2012), Ideas, Norms, and Regional Orders (Chapter 8). In TV Paul (ed.), *International Relations Theory and Regional Transformation*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), pp. 183-209.

Ian Bremmer (2021), The Technopolar Moment: How Digital Powers Will Reshape the Global Order, *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 100, no. 6, November/December, pp. 112-128.

Week 16

Robert D Kaplan (2000), The Coming Anarchy (Chapter 3). In Patrick O'Meara, Howard D. Mehlinger and Matthew Krain (eds.), *Globalization and the Challenges of a New Century: A Reader*, (Bloomington: Indiana University Press), pp. 34-60.

Thomas Wright (2020), COVID-19's Impact on Great-Power Competition (Chapter 17). In Hal Brands and Francis J Gavin (eds.), *COVID and World Order: The Future of Conflict, Competition and Cooperation*, (Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press), pp. 316-330.

• Additional Readings

Anne-Marie Slaughter (2004), Sovereignty and Power in a Networked World Order, *Stanford Journal of International Law*, vol. 40, no. 2, June, pp. 283-327.

John D. Ciorciari (2011), India's Approach to Great-Power Status, *The Fletcher Forum of World Affairs*, vol. 35, no. 1, Winter, pp. 61-89.

Edward Keene, (2002), The Orthodox Theory of Order in World Politics (Chapter 1). In *Beyond the Anarchical Society: Grotius, Colonialism and Order in World Politics*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), pp. 12-39.

Rosemary Foot and Andrew Walter (2013), Global Norms and Major State Behaviour: The cases of China and the United States, *European Journal of International Relations*, vol. 19, no. 2, June, pp. 329-352.

David A. Lake (2017), Hierarchy and International Relations: Theory and Evidence. In *Oxford Research Encyclopaedia of Politics*, (London: Oxford University Press). Available Online: <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.013.324>.

Matthew D. Stephen (2014), States, Norms and Power: Emerging Powers and Global Order, *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, vol. 42, no. 3, June, pp. 888-896.

Colin Gray (2011), War, Peace and International Order (Chapter 20). In *War, Peace and International Relations: An Introduction to Strategic History* (2nd ed.). London: Routledge.

G. John Ikenberry (2018), The End of Liberal International Order?, *International Affairs*, vol. 94, no. 1, January, pp. 7-23.

Amitav Acharya (2014), Power Shift or Paradigm Shift?: China's Rise and Asia's Emerging Security Order, *International Studies Quarterly*, vol. 58, no. 1, March, pp. 158-173.

Samuel P. Huntington (1999), The Lonely Superpower, *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 78, no. 2, March/April, pp. 35-49.

Joseph S. Nye (1992), What New World Order?, *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 71, no. 2, Spring, pp. 83-96.

Ian Hall (2017), Narendra Modi and India's Normative Power, *International Affairs*, vol. 93, no. 1, 1 January, pp. 113-131.

Amitav Acharya (2018), The Rise and Fall of the Unipolar Moment (Chapter 2). In *The End of American World Order* (2nd ed.), (Cambridge: Polity Press).

Henry A. Kissinger (2020), The Coronavirus Pandemic Will Forever Alter the World Order, April 3, *The Wall Street Journal*, Available Online: <https://mariotti.blogs.com/files/kissinger-the-coronavirus-pandemic-will-forever-alter-the-world-order---wsj.pdf>.

Haoyu Song (2022), An Analysis of "Rule-Based International Order" Advocated by Japan in the "FOIP" Strategy, *Studies in Social Science & Humanities*, vol. 1, no. 1, August, pp. 65-69.