

Foundations: History of the International System

International History

1. The Mercantilist Era, 1492-1815
2. The Pax Britannica, 1815-1914
3. The Thirty Years Crisis, 1914-1945
4. The Cold War, 1945-1991
5. Age of Globalization, 1991-present

Mercantilism, 1492-1815 Semi-arbitrary starting point

- ▶ Use of military power to enrich imperial governments
- ▶ Examples: East India Company, controls on colonial trade (tobacco, tea)
- ▶ Fighting between European powers over colonies and wealth
- ▶ Sovereignty norm develops (Peace of Westphalia, 1648)

Sovereignty norm develops

The Peace of Westphalia involved (1) Dutch Republic and Spain, and (2) Holy Roman Empire, France, Sweden (+ allies)

- ▶ Each prince has sovereignty over territory
- ▶ Each prince can determine religion of own state (Catholicism, Lutheranism, Calvinism)
- ▶ Some recognition of religious minorities

Pax Britannica, 1815-1914

- ▶ Napoleon's defeat in 1815 establishes British hegemony
- ▶ Britain establishes free trade, economic integration
- ▶ 100 years of relative peace in Europe
- ▶ European scramble to colonize continues
- ▶ Britain balances to avoid overly powerful coalitions
- ▶ The Gold Standard underpins "first era of globalization"

30 Years Crisis, 1914-1945

- ▶ Balancing fails, World War I (1914-1918)
- ▶ Victory is inconclusive
- ▶ Hyperinflation in Germany and elsewhere
- ▶ Great Depression
- ▶ Rise of Nazis/Fascists, World War II (1939-1945)

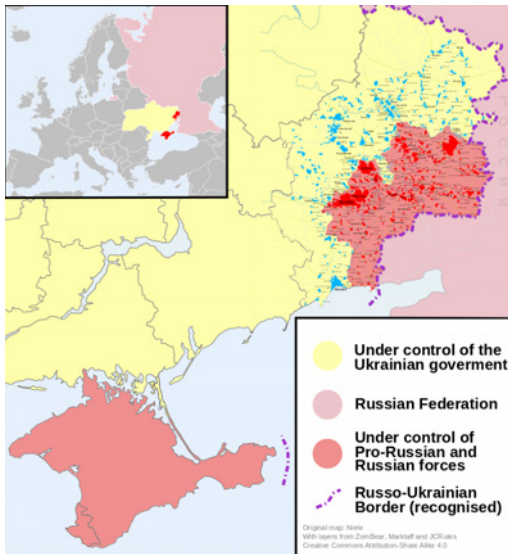
Cold War, 1945-1991

- ▶ Two superpowers emerge
- ▶ Europe is divided into East and West
- ▶ Berlin Airlift (1948-1949)
- ▶ Cuban Missile Crisis (October 14-28, 1962)
- ▶ Decolonization
- ▶ Collapse of Soviet Union (1989-1991)

Territorial Integrity Norm

- ▶ Emergence: 1917-1945 (norm upheld for the first time in the league of nations covenant)
- ▶ Acceptance: 1945-mid 1970s: In 1975 the last case of significant territorial revisionism occurred — Morocco's absorption of the Spanish Sahara
- ▶ Institutionalization: 1976-present: no major cases of successful territorial aggrandizement have occurred during this period. [Oops, Russia seizes Ukrainian territory in 2014.]

Territorial Integrity Norm



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Era of Globalization, 1991-present

- ▶ US is the lone superpower
- ▶ Economic integration of Europe
- ▶ Surge of democratization
- ▶ 9/11 and aftermath
- ▶ Great recession (2007)
- ▶ Arab Spring (2011)
- ▶ Rise of China (ongoing)

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17.41 Introduction to International Relations
Spring 2023

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