International Organizations
International Organizations

- Sovereign states join together to create organizations
- Underpinned by international institutions
- Have grown substantially since the late 1970s
- Span a wide range of scopes and issue areas
- Provide public goods (peace, rules based order, trade) to states and societies
UN

- UN is the archetypal international organization
  - Global in scope
  - Addresses political, economic, social, and military sectors
  - Based on the institutions of sovereignty, multilateralism, diplomacy
NATO
African Union
IR Theory and IOs

- Realism
  - IOs serve powerful states and their interests
  - Do not have independent capabilities and do not change behaviors of powerful states
  - Exist as long as they serve the interests of powerful states
IR Theory and IOs

- Liberalism
  - IOs serve rational interests of all states
  - Facilitate communication, transparency
  - Reduce transaction costs
  - Enable collective action by establishing shared rules
  - Institutions can result in spillover that propels cooperation into new areas
  - Beginnings of domestication of the international?
IR Theory and IOs

❖ Constructivism

❖ IOs shape states’ conceptions of appropriate behavior
❖ Propagate norms
❖ States are influenced by culture of IOs
❖ IOs can reshape how states understand themselves (North Atlantic identity) and how they understand the world
IR Theory and IOs

- Marxism/Gramcianism
  - IOs advance the interests of capital/bourgeoisie
  - Propagate ideas and norms that serve the interests of the wealthy
  - Who is developing? What does that mean? How to ‘fix’?