Back to the International stage.

- When thinking about these conflicts, we think that they’re local but they have international dimensions.
- In order to get a sense of the international dimensions of national conflicts, you must have a sense of the international arena.
- International Relations (IR) Theory
  - The world is an anarchic place
    - No governing body. There is no world government.
    - States behave according to their own state’s interests.
    - Countries routinely sign on to human rights treaties and then ignore them.
  - Separate supra-national organizations.
    - NATO
      - North Atlantic Treaty Organizations-originally formed during the Cold War to protect Western Europe against the Soviet bloc.
    - European Union
      - Euro is doing very well, better than the dollar.
      - What are the aspirations of the EU?
        - Economic unity
        - Open/Common borders
        - Regional Courts
        - Institutionalize cooperation among European states
          - Advantage: The ability to compete against the U.S. economically and diplomatically.
  - OPEC
  - NAFTA
    - North America Free Trade Agreement
      - Reduce tariffs in trade
      - Between Canada and Mexico
      - Part of the idea was that it would bring economic prosperity for all three countries.
      - Student: we were losing a lot of jobs to the other countries.
      - Environmentalists were against NAFTA because when companies moved to Mexico, they didn’t obey American environmental standards, which they didn’t have to.
      - What would the labor activists have demanded from NAFTA: beef up labor laws (higher wages, health insurance, etc.)
- Environmentalists wanted NAFTA to require tougher environmental standards for American companies when moving to Mexico.

- **OAS**
  - Organization of American States
  - Members: U.S. Caribbean Islands, Canada, South and Central America
  - It’s been instrumental in providing cover for U.S. policy in the region. (e.g. when the U.S. overthrew Aristide of Haiti, we sought the support of the OAS.)