

*INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS:  
THEORIES & BASIC CONCEPT  
SEMESTER - III  
AHPLS-303/C-7*

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# TOPIC REALISM

- What is realism
- Evolution
- Theorist of realism
- Features of realism
- Criticism of realism
- Reference list

# MEANING OF REALISM

- Realism is considered most dominant school of thought in international relation.
- It is the exercise of power by states towards each and also known as 'Power politics'.
- The basic assumption of realism is that the nation-state (usually abbreviated to 'state') is the principle actor in international relations.
- According to realism other bodies exist, such as individuals and organizations, but their power is limited.
- Realist view human nature as selfish, conflictual and competitive and believed that states are inherently aggressive and obsessed with security.

# EVOLUTION OF REALISM

The theory of realism developed by following thinkers

*Thucydides (The Peloponnesian War)*



*Machiavelli (The Prince)*



*Hobbes (Leviathan)*



*E.H.Carr (The Twenty Year's Crisis)*

# PROMINENT THINKER

## ❖ Classical Realism-

H.J.Morgenthau (Politics Among Nations), Raymond Aron, George Kennan.

## ❖ Liberal Realism-

Hedley Bull (The Anarchical Society), Martin Wight, Barry Buzan.

## ❖ Neorealism/Structural Realism-

Robert Gilpin, Robert Jervis, John Mearsheimer, Kenneth Waltz, Stephen Waltz.

## ❖ Neoclassical Realism-

Aaron Friedberg, Randall Schweller, William Wohlforth, Farred Zakaria

## ❖ Realist Constructivism-

Alexander Wendt, J. Ann Tickner, Nicholas Onuf, Emmanuel Adler.

# FEATURES OF REALISM

- ◉ *Realist believed that states are the principal actors.*
- ◉ *Realist view human nature as egoistic, self-centred, cruel, violent.*
- ◉ *International politics are anarchic.*
- ◉ *The state's primary goal are its own national security and survival.*
- ◉ *International politics are shaped by a state's interest, especially in terms of power.*

# CRITICISM

- *Realism considers states as only actor and does not recognize other actors.*
- *Gives a lot of importance to military power and ignore other factors like ethics, economy.*
- *Talks about IR in terms of maximizing power, war and non-cooperation.*
- *Concept of human nature is built-in-bias and is scientific, because human are rational creature.*
- *Neglecting the relation between ideology and politics.*

# REFERENCE

- আন্তর্জাতিক সম্পর্ক, তত্ত্ব এবং সমসাময়িক বিশ্ব, প্রণব কুমার দালাল,
- আন্তর্জাতিক সম্পর্কের রূপরেখা, পুরুষোত্তম ভট্টাচার্য, অনিন্দ্যজ্যোতি মজুমদার,
- **International Relations**, by C. W. Pevehouse  
Jon, S. Goldstein Joshua
- **International Relations Today 2Nd Edition** by  
Aneek Chatterjee, Pearson Education
- **International Relation** by Rumki Basu