

LECTURE / DISCUSSION / DEBATE
POLITICAL CULTURE AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESS THEORIES

Terms and concepts to know:

State / government	Sovereign(ty)
Foreign policy	Regimism / Civilizationism
Political culture	Liberal democracy / Pluralism
Authoritarianism / Elitism	"End of History"
Cultural fault lines	Bureaucracy
Decision-making / SOP's	Incrementalism
Rational actor model	Organizational process model
Bureaucratic politics model	

Study and discussion questions:

1. First off, we should discuss the differences between system level theories and state level theories. What are the benefits to studying international relations at the state level? What are the drawbacks?
2. Discuss (overhead) the criticisms of state level theories. How do they differ from system level criticisms?
3. According to Russett, are democracies more or less prone to war than other systems of government? How would a realist respond to this essay?
4. According to Fukuyama, what are the major factors leading to the "end of history"?
5. What are Huntington's primary criticisms of Fukuyama's essay "The End of History?"
6. Fukuyama contends in "The West Has Won" that radical Islam does not constitute a serious alternative to Western liberal democracy. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
7. Why does Barber believe that the realist paradigm fails to provide U.S. guidance for U.S. foreign policy in the 21st century?
8. Compare and contrast the organizational process model and the bureaucratic politics model. How do these models differ from realism?
9. Did the film "The Power of Nightmares" do a sufficient job of explaining *why* the U.S. decided to invade Iraq or has undertaken the war on terror? If not, why not?

Readings:

Genest. *Conflict and Cooperation*, chapters 6 and 7, pp. 370-485.

Video:

The Power of Nightmares, a documentary from the BBCs, Adam Curtis.