International Cooperation: Organizations, Alliances, & Coalitions

Anarchy, Cooperation, Harmony, Discord

World Government

Collective Security

Peacekeeping & Functional Collaboration
Chapter Summary:

This chapter looks at the options available to states, outside of military force, that can possibly increase the sense of international security.

International cooperation plays an important role in this, through alliances and collective security agreements.
Anarchy, Cooperation, Harmony, and Discord

- International anarchy – the absence of central or world government in international relations.
- Here the focus is on cooperation in terms of security, economics, and social realms.
- As a result of the presence of international anarchy, states have a tendency to feel vulnerable in the international system.
  - How to deal with uncertainty & in security:
    - by increasing military power
    - through international cooperation
International Cooperation

- Can be framed in terms of being situated between the continuum of complete harmony and complete discord.
  - When harmony exists, states easily work together to accomplish goals and little bargaining is required.
  - When discord is present, there is not much incentive for bargaining to reach a cooperative outcome.
  - This continuum can be broken down into several categories, ranging from extensive collaboration to obstructing actions or conflict.
Continuum: International Cooperation

Increasingly Positive Activities

Complete Harmony

Middle Zone

Extensive Collaboration
Working issues jointly
Coordinating
Consulting Notifying
Separating & withdrawing

Increasingly Negative Activities

Complete Discord

Working at cross purposes
Obstructing actions
Conflict
In order for states to cooperate, they must realize:
- their behavior is contingent on other states.
- their actions are affected by the actions of others.

States generally cooperate not out of a desire for greater good, but because it helps maximize their individual benefits.
International Cooperation

- Does not always serve benign purposes.
  - States may join together in order to conquer someone else.
- May be a one-time occurrence or a long-term pattern among states.
  - Long-term patterns are known as *institutionalized cooperation*.
    - defined as a pattern of behavior that has become formally or informally organized
    - reflects certain rules and norms of behavior.
  - These norms are often further cemented in *international regimes*.
    - These regimes are sets of rules agreed upon by states to govern their conduct in specified issue areas such as trade and commerce.
World Government

- To eliminate insecurity, there are unilateral efforts and several multilateral options.
- *World government* involves the centralized management of international or world politics.
  - has never occurred historically, and many believe it is undesirable and unlikely—if not impossible—to achieve.
  - Some promote a less ambitious approach such as *world federalism*. 
Alliances, Coalitions, & International Organizations (IO)

- Alliances and coalitions also offer security.
- Alliances are coalitions of states,
  - usually involving formal, long-term commitments, such as NATO.
- Alliances can be offensive in nature
  - but today, the majority of alliances take on a defense-oriented stance, pooling military and other resources for collective defense.
- Some coalitions are temporary and lack formal structure.
- When alliances are successful, security is a collective or public good, which means that states that did not pay for it cannot be excluded from using it.
Alliances, Coalitions, & International Organizations (IO)

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- This results in a "free rider" situation.
  - This means that some states pay more than their fair share and other states pay little or nothing since the good (such as security) is provided anyway. These states are often termed "free riders."
Collective Security

Another option that states have.

The essential idea is "all against one."

International law is enforced by all states, so that a single state that breaks a law will be confronted with overwhelming force.

Examples of collective security arrangements:
- the Concert of Europe
- the League of Nations
- the United Nations.
Collective Security

- Multilateral Diplomacy in the United Nations and other international organizations contributed to substantial progress in:
  - arms control
  - health
  - human rights
  - trade and commerce
  - environmental protection
  - other socioeconomic issues

- Multilateral Diplomacy has been institutionalized in regional organizations as:
  - the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
  - the Organization of American States (OAS)
  - the Organization for Security & Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
Limits to Collective Security

- There is confusion about whether or not this option actually leads to peace or whether collective security arrangements simply spring up in peaceful times (such as following the World Wars).
- There is also a gap between what states say they will do and what they actually do.
- Collective security can also imply a commitment to the status quo.
Peacekeeping & Functional Collaboration

- Peacekeeping can be understood as an extension of collective security thinking to cover conflicts that threaten international peace and security, particularly in the regions where these conflicts are being played out.

- UN peacekeeping forces are stationed throughout the world in such situations.

- UN peacekeeping forces have never been intended to fight wars, and as a result they have typically been small and lightly armed.
Another way to improve security is through cooperative multilateral institutions. Their focus is not only on security or defense, but on other important functions for regional and global contexts.

These functional collaborations are numerous in the UN and amongst individual states. The 6 principal organs of the UN:

- The General Assembly
- Security Council
- Economic & Social Council
- International Co of Justice
- Secretariat
- Trusteeship Council
Glossary List:

- international regime
- epistemic community
- multilateralism
- social constructivism
- world government
- collective defense
- collective security
- preventive diplomacy
- peacekeeping
- functionalism
Review – How much do you understand?

1. OPEC:
   A. was formed as a cartel in the 1970s by European states to combat high oil prices.
   B. is led by the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
   C. includes members from Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East.
   D. is composed exclusively of Arab oil-exporting states.
Review– How much do you understand?

2. Diplomatic bargaining is needed?
   A. in war among allies.
   B. in peacetime among allies.
   C. Between or among adversaries in efforts to end wars.
   D. all of the above
Review– How much do you understand?

3. This country is not a member of NAFTA?
   A. United States
   B. Chile
   C. Canada
   D. Mexico
Review – How much do you understand?

4. Most alliances now are
   A. designed for peacemaking.
   B. defensive.
   C. offensive.
   D. economic.
5. This country is not a permanent member of the UN Security Council?

A. Japan
B. France
C. China
D. The United Kingdom
Review– How much do you understand?

6. According to the book, international cooperation can be discussed in terms of

A. complete discord.
B. peacemaking.
C. collaboration.
D. none of these answers.
Review– How much do you understand?

7. Which of the following is an option beyond unilateral efforts that is available to states to help mitigate their sense of insecurity, as discussed in the book?
   A. world government
   B. collective defense
   C. collective security
   D. all of the above
Review– How much do you understand?

8. An example of an international regime is
A. the Iraqi government under Saddam Hussein.
B. Communism.
C. NAFTA.
D. the Cold War.
Review– How much do you understand?

9. Which of the following is an excellent example of collective security?
   A. United Nations
   B. NATO
   C. League of Nations
   D. Concert of Europe
10. Which type of diplomacy seeks to prevent fighting from occurring in the first place?

A. deterrent
B. crisis
C. preventive
D. coercive