

UNIVERSITY OF SETIF 02
POLITICAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT
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TEXT03

SECOND PART

Neorealism theory emerged as an influential theory of international relations during the early 1980s. The biggest contributor to neorealism was Kenneth N. Waltz, who published the landmark book *Theory of International Politics* in 1979. This work gave a scientific and systematic approach to classical realist theory, which became known as structural realism or neorealism. Neorealism tried to show why fights and wars happened between countries in an international system with no main global boss. It was mainly about how the layout of the global system, not the inner features of nations, influenced results.

Neorealism, wants to study and understand why countries behave the way they do and how they interact with each other by looking at the structure of the global system. Neorealism claims that the world system's structure, with its lack of rules and how powerful each country is, is the principal reason why states act the way they do. In a system where no one has a boss. This makes them want to wield power and deal with possible risks. There is a structure that can lessen how states behave and this structure is determined by how much power, especially military power, states have over a system.

Neorealism differs from old realism as it does not center on human nature as the cause of fighting. Instead, it focuses on how the world setup provokes states to compete with each other, and to fight and war. The setup makes fights happen no matter what culture, type of government, or other inside features you have. Neorealism tries to explain why states behave in certain ways and how political results happen by closely looking at powers and their spread in the world system.

Basic Assumptions of Neo-realism

1-People don't matter much in getting power between nations, but the setup (Anarchy) of the world system does. Neo-realists don't think human nature is the main reason why states act and interact with others. Instead, they say that the world system's messy setup, where no one is in charge, makes countries search for power. This is to protect their safety and stay alive.

2-Structural realists say security competition and fighting between states happen because there is no big leader over states. Without a global government, countries live in a do-it-yourself system and worry about their safety. This makes a setting where areas fight for control and safety in a never-ending zero-win game. Neo-realists believe that the structure without rules, not humans themselves, causes this change.

Important Parts of “World’s Order” in Neo-realism Viewpoint” Details: I. Anarchy: Based on the belief that international relations are dominated by the actions of powerful states, neorealists believe that in a world with no overarching authority, all states are fundamentally equal and must constantly exert power, form alliances and use strategies.

Neorealism focuses on the structure of the international system, which has three key elements:

1-Organizing Principle- Neorealists say that world politics is controlled by chaos. This makes states mainly worry about keeping themselves alive by helping themselves.

2-Differentiation of States- While neorealism thinks of countries as equals, it knows they have different levels of power and control over what happens around the world. This difference is a key aspect of the global system.

3- Distribution of Capabilities- In neorealism, the arrangement of power in the global system is very important.

Significance of Neorealism

1-Emphasized structure : Neorealism changed the focus in world relations theory to how the global system works, rather than other things like human nature.

2-Understands international system : Neorealism gives us a way to study and understand the international system made up of independent countries. It looks at the connections between countries depending on things like the spread of power.

3-Analyze state behavior: Neorealism helps us understand why nations act the same even though they have different things inside them. The idea can be used to see and guess how states act using building parts rather than beliefs or types of rules.

Criticisms of Neorealism

- Ignores role of institutions.
- Downplays ideology.
- Economic interests matter
- Pessimistic view.

To be continued.....