



Introduction to International Relations

Homework Assignment #1

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The purpose of this assignment is to determine how much of the material from the class (including in-class discussions, out-of-class events, and readings) you have seriously considered. As such, use the question to demonstrate your mastery of the material. For instance, in sections where you discuss the liberalist perspective, you will first define what we mean by liberalism, including what differentiates it from the other perspectives.

Caveat: The easiest way to fail this course is to fail to cite and reference the sources you use to provide information. Since you will be using sources other than the text, you will need a reference list—properly formatted. (Yes, if you use the text, you must cite and reference it.) The reference list will be a separate page. Before you hand this in, have someone proofread it. Poor grammar, spelling, and presentation will lower your grade. Maybe you should review the rules on using commas and other punctuation. Maybe you should review the course style sheet, as well.

Question

The Charter of the United Nations (especially the preamble and the first two articles) provides a (primarily liberalist) guide to the hoped-for post-World War II world. The ideas contained in it are not, however, original. Many have been with us at least since the dawn of the current interstate system. In a well-organized essay, trace one of the ideas (your choice) expressed in the UN Charter from the Treaty of Westphalia through the UN Charter.

You will need to organize this essay logically, using specific sections; I suggest a chronological ordering would be best, using major treaties as your sections. As with any essay, you are laying out an argument. Your argument is that this idea (whichever one you choose) has undergone some changes throughout European history, but has existed since the creation of the current state system. You will need to discuss the major events, treaties, and intents of this time period. This list includes, but is not limited to (in no particular order): Thirty Years' War, Peace of Westphalia, Concert of Europe, Treaty of Versailles, Atlantic Treaty, Wilson's Fourteen Points, Treaty of Paris, League of Nations, United Nations, World War I, and World War II.

Length: This should be as long as it needs to be for you to do a good job of the question. However, I would expect the answer to be no less than four pages long.

Final Notes

Notice that I say 'section' and not 'paragraph.' Paragraph appropriately and label each of the sections appropriately. The main section headings should be base font and size, but **bolded** and on its own line (like the one labeling this section). The sub-section headings should be base font and size, but *italicized* and on its own line. Introductions do not get a heading (or sub-heading); the conclusions do. Furthermore, the first sub-section beneath a section does not get a heading; it is considered an introduction.