



Introduction to International Relations

Chapter Notes: Chapter 15

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Chapter Fifteen:

Global Governance

Chapter Overview

Chapter 15 looks ahead to the future, examining the world's prospects for global governance. The possibility of moving beyond the state of anarchy has always been envisioned by the liberal perspectives, and they point to the steady advance of functional international institutions and the flowering of NGOs as evidence that the world is moving in this direction. Realists, on the other hand, are doubtful of the world's capacities to achieve global governance. For them, institutions and transnational organizations are just one more arena in which the pursuit of power occurs, and they often express concern that the increasing centralization of the world offers fewer and fewer means by which mistakes may be corrected. Identity perspectives, finally, offer a balance between the optimism of liberals and the pessimists of realists, arguing that the future of global governance is dependant upon the ideas and identities that constitute it.

Global governance: Liberal

- Believes that the world can eventually offer what domestic governments offer: common law-making processes, a body of laws, law enforcement, etc.
- Evidence for this can be seen in the steady advance of international institutions and NGOs.

Global governance: Realist

- Acknowledges the existence of strands of global governance but does not believe that it represents something novel.
- For realists, international institutions—like domestic institutions—must be controlled by someone, so power is still an important issue.

Global governance: Identity

- Thinks that the future of global governance depends on the ideas and identities that constitute it.
- Global governance will occur is pluralism, tolerance, and respect for fundamental human rights remain the dominant values.

Transnational Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs)

- Economic NGOs—60,000 MNCs operate around the world
- Environmental NGOs—lobby to influence governments and organizations
- Law and human rights NGOs—Around 325 exist today; many are relatively new

Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGOs)

Purposes of IGOs

- Promote the interests of member states
- Address specialized problems
- Address common problems that no one country could handle on its own
- Help countries do things more efficiently

United Nations

- The UN is the principal general purpose IGO in contemporary international affairs. It deals with all three major international issues:
 - o Collective security and peace
 - o Economic and social development
 - o International law and human rights

Regional organizations

- Along with the state, subnational and transnational NGOs, regional organization fight for the loyalty of international actors.
- Can take the form of alliances (NATO), economic groups (NAFTA), diplomatic organizations (OAS), or politically inspired groups (Council of Europe).

European Union

- European Coal and Steel Community initially proposed in 1951; became the European Economic Community, then the European Community, then the European Union in the 1990s.
- The Maastricht Treaty (1992) set in motion the creation and adoption of the euro.

Structure of the EU

- European Commission
- Council of the European Union
- European Council
- European Parliament
- European Court of Justice
- European Central Bank

Thought Questions

2. Do you think that the concept of sovereignty is fading in importance? Why or why not?
3. Do you think that the prevalence of NGOs increases or decreases features of democracy in international relations? How so?
4. In what areas of international governance has the UN traditionally excelled? In which areas is it weakest?
5. Do you think that the creation and strengthening of the EU marks a broader pattern in international affairs? How so?
6. Does the EU lack important democratic characteristics, in your opinion? If so, what are the ramifications of this?