

## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: NATURE AND SCOPE**

### **OBJECTIVES**

- I. To understand the **Meaning** of International Relations
- II. To understand the **Nature** of International Relations
- III. To understand the **Scope** of International Relations
- IV. To understand the **Importance** of the Study of International Relations

### **Background**

- ❖ The term ‘international’-by Jeremy Bentham
  - ❖ Europe’s imperial expansion, self-determination and the decline of imperialism
  - ❖ International Relations emerged as an academic discipline after the First World War
  - ❖ Post World War world-Finding ways to build a more peaceful world
  - ❖ Global governance: building international organisations
  - ❖ Cold War era
  - ❖ Power and polarity from 1919 to 1991
  - ❖ The US and unipolar world: 1991–2001
  - ❖ Globalization and the international political order
  - ❖ Increasing interdependence of states
  - ❖ Global North and Global South
  - ❖ International society- Terrorism, Environmental issues and other threats
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- **Difference between International Relations and International Politics**
  - Hans Morgenthau; “the core of international relations is international politics”, but a clear distinction between the two is to be made.

## ➤ **IR and IP**

- *Different in their subject matter:*
- *Different in Scope:*
- *Different in Methodology:*
- *Different in Objective*

## **I. Understanding the Meaning of International Relations/Politics**

- Why Study International Relations?- Closely related with several disciplines- state interaction inevitable, interdependent state – system
- **Definition:**
- According to H. J. Morgenthau, “*International Politics include analysis of political relations and problems of peace among nations... It “is struggle for and use of power among nations.”*”
- According to Palmer and Perkins, “*It encompasses much more than the relations among nation states and international organizations and groups. It includes a great variety of transitional relationships, at various levels, above and below the level of the nation state, still the main actor in the international community.”*”

## **II. Understanding the Nature of International Relations**

- ❖ Changing Nature of International Relations-
- ❖ More dynamic- Decolonisation, The disintegration of the Soviet Union, non-state actors (MNCs), Non-traditional security threats, Nuclear weapons etc.
- **Nature of IR:**
  - Sovereign States as primary actors of International Relations,
  - National Interest is at the core,
  - International Politics is struggle for power,
  - Power is both a means as well as an end,
  - Conflict as the condition of International Politics,
  - International Politics as a process of conflict resolution among nations,
  - Continuous interactions among nations,
  - Inter-disciplinary nature,
  - Both, analytical and scientific study (empirical observations)

### III. Understanding the Scope of International Relations

- It began with the study of law and diplomatic history
- ❑ **The Scope of International Relations can be outlined in following ways:**
  - The study of international relations begins with the state system.
  - Study of relations (Conflict and Cooperation) among states
  - National Interests
  - National Power
  - Foreign Policy
  - International Law
  - International Organizations
  - Geopolitics
  - War and Peace
  - Ideologies
  - Study of Nationalism, Colonialism and Imperialism
  - Nuclear Disarmament and Arms Control
  - Issues Related to Environment Protection
  - Policy- Making
  - Human Rights
  - Area and Regional Studies
  - Economic Factors and Demographic Factors
  - Conflict Management and Conflict Resolution
  - Issue of Terrorism
  - Alliances and Groupings.

### IV. Importance of the Study of International Relations

- ❖ Acc. to Quincy Wright, the significance of IR:
  - I. General Education
  - II. Practical Importance- Enables to understand world Problems
- ❖ The purpose and utility of the discipline by Palmer and Perkins:
  - I. Human survival and progress
  - II. Understanding and controlling problems
  - III. Provides objectivity and perspective
  - IV. Understanding the role of subjectivity
  - V. Internationalism along with Nationalism
  - VI. For a better world

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