

Lecture 10: Deutsch

Masterworks of International Relations
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IR Realism

- a focus on anarchy as the central fact about the international system
- “self-help system”—states look after their own security
- a balance of power is the best that we can expect

IR Liberalism

- *not* “idealism” or utopianism...
- more of an importing of neoclassical economics into IR
- states—and their leaders—make instrumentally rational cost-benefit calculations
- international institutions enable rational bargains

Economists and Sociologists

- distinction drawn by Brian Barry in 1970 book
- *not* centrally concerned with material vs. ideal factors
- articulated in the context of social-theoretical and political-theoretical debates about democracy

Economists

- society is composed of constitutively autonomous rational individuals
- social arrangements are produced by the coordinated decisions of those individuals
- explaining (social) outcomes = explaining decisions (individual)

Sociologists

- society is composed of intersubjective understandings and cultural norms
- social arrangements are produced by the concatenation of ties and interactions
- explaining (social) outcomes = explaining (social) configurations

Explanatory Logics

- ❑ original sociologist logic involved “functional integration” of elements
- ❑ *normative consensus* was key
- ❑ economist critique: people follow norms for instrumental reasons

Distinctions in IR

- IR liberals are economists
- IR realists split:
 - Waltz is a sociologist
 - most others are economists...
- IR constructivists tend to be economists too

Irrational Lockeians

- recall that Americans take individualism for granted as “obvious”
- hence, economist logic—privileging individual decisions—*makes sense* more easily to them
- recall also that IR has been dominated by American scholarship for decades

Sovereignty

- individual decisions seem important in IR because of sovereignty
 - states *are* constitutively autonomous
 - state decisions *do* sometimes translate immediately into effects, especially for powerful states
- hence, anarchy seems to militate against “international sociological” factors

Deutsch's Methodology

- *heavily* quantitative; emphasis on precise measurement
- tries to unpack the micro-level (but not individualist) foundations of international community
- mutual identification as an important factor in world politics

Questions to Ponder

- ❑ is Deutsch an economist, or a sociologist?
- ❑ do his indicators and measurements of community suffice to prove his argument?
- ❑ is his argument incompatible with IR realism's emphasis on anarchy?
- ❑ does a security community have to be a *moral* community?