

IR

Q: Why is it important to study IR and how has it evolved as an independent field of study?

Introduction

International relations can be traced back at least 2500 yrs. During the fifth BCE, city-states such as Athens and Sparta traded with each other, participated in cross-border sports competitions, practiced diplomacy, formed alliances, and fought wars against each other as enemies and as allies against the Persian Empire.

International Relations is the study of the relations of states with each other and with international organizations and certain sub-national entities. It is related to a number of other academic disciplines, including political science, geography, history, economics, law, sociology, psychology, and philosophy.

Broad view of IR:

IR is not only the official relations between states but political, economical and cultural, social relations are also considered in IR. International Relations is not limited to the relations with nonstate such as MNCs, NGOs, etc are non state actors.

Scope & Nature of IR:

- study of state system
- study of relation among states
- study of national interest of states
- study of international law
- study of foreign policy
- study of International organizations

study of geopolitics

study of conflict management & conflict resolution

In short 'everything is interconnected' and no state or non-state actor can survive in isolation in this current time. World has become a global village due to Globalization. And then nations connect with each other, they become interdependent on each other.

Example:

You are probably familiar with Apple, the famous American computer company. Although the iPhone was designed by Apple in California, its components are produced all over the world. A South Korean company, Samsung, manufactures the applications processor. The display module and touch screen come from Japan. Infineon, a German-based company, produces the camera module. The various components are sent to China, where a company named Foxconn assembles and ships phones to customers around the globe.

Importance of IR

International Relations are at the centre of many important topics of the world today, and if it had to be summed up in one sentence, the importance of IR stands in the cooperation between nations and entities around the world.

1. IR empowers humanity to better manage challenges and crises - Development and implementing relevant strategies that have the potential to enhance lives.

around the world. By working together and sharing resources, nations can better manage the effects of crises such as natural disasters, droughts, floods, famine and even diseases such as the covid-19 pandemic.

2. International Relations are a promoter of peace —

IR introduces you to a world of politics and the social-historical implications of global development.

Though both communication and cooperation, nations can resolve their problems peacefully and come to an agreement that can create lasting peace, however there are still many conflicts that go unresolved, but large IR 'arenas' like UN give each side the opportunity to make their case and have their voices heard, ultimately forcing rivals to resolve your differences through words.

3. International Relations enable better organization of human capital

In the current world the general standard of living is greater than ever before. However, despite our constant technological advances and discoveries, humanity faces numerous problems and challenges.

International Affairs aims to bring the best that each nation has to offer into key decision-making positions.

4. International Relations promote cooperation, exchange and cultural development — to have an impactful international

relations states need to respect and immerse ^{into} each others culture and tradition to have a better view about its people and its system, that would lead to a positive effect, understanding cooperation and transfer of population.

5. International relations encourages to travel and gain new experiences - Nations by building and fostering relationships with one another, the nation can provide opportunities to its people through cordial international relations.

6. IR promotes faster proliferation of technological innovations - States that have good relations with each other tend to share their inventions and innovations more quickly, and this has been the norm among civilizations since the dawn of time. This close cooperation between nations on technological issues has not only made human life easier and safer through developments in medicine, housing and infrastructure, to name a few, but has also encouraged countries to build closer relationships with each other.

7. IR are essential on matters of security and stability. IR promotes law enforcement cooperation between nations. Issues of jurisdiction and sovereignty have been raising repeatedly since the emergence of nation-states in the 19th century and are more important than ever in today's world, where globalization has taken hold everywhere.

8. IR promote trade and financial interdependence among nations - A state through strong international ties work closely together financially and integrating their respective economies, nations can ensure that free and equal trade takes place between their people.

9. IR creates the conditions for democracies to flourish in developing countries — strong international ties introduces states with many opportunities. Developing countries are always in a precarious position because they seem to never choose between their past and their future, but a country that has friends can always find a helping hand in times of need.

10. IR promotes the rights of women and children — International institutions that exist today originated in the West and have been influenced by Western values, even those that were developed relatively recently.

If countries want to enjoy the benefits that come from cooperation with other countries, they are also obliged to provide certain guarantees for the advancement of the rights of the more vulnerable strata of society.

Evolution of IR

1) Pre World War I — the world before the WWI and how IR performed, How states interacted with each other
e.g. Imperial states → Nation state system

2) Inter War Period — International organizations came into being International labor organization & League of Nations came into being.

3) Cold War Period — United Nations, IMF, these organizations emerged Non states developed relations with nonstate organizations and the states, made for peace & prosperity.

5 4) Post cold war Period - UN and IMF used by America for their own needs, controlled economy of other states (neoimperialism). And new super powers emerged Russia and China.