

# INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS:

## 2025: QUESTION:

What were the key driving forces behind the establishment of International Relations as an academic discipline? Provide an analysis of the major historical events and intellectual developments that contributed to its evolution and formal recognition in the world.

→ Key driving forces

Evolution of IR

## ANSWER:

### 1) Introduction:

"International Relations is the study of the world in transition"

- Palmer.

The International Relations is an evolving subject and sees the world in transition rather than a static one. Thus, since the emergence of nation states and the Treaty of Westphalia (1648) the world underwent numerous changes like WW1, WW2, destructions, modern information age that compelled the theorists and academia to thoroughly study international Relations as a subject. Therefore, it moved from narrow,



closed discipline to broader discipline

## 2) The Evolution of International Relations:

1) Nation-State System  
(Treaty of Westphalia).

Modern

4) Post-Cold War, IR.

↳ Globalisation  
- Info Age  
- Nuclear Age

2) WW1 and WW2  
(destruction)

3) Cold War

Widening the Scope:

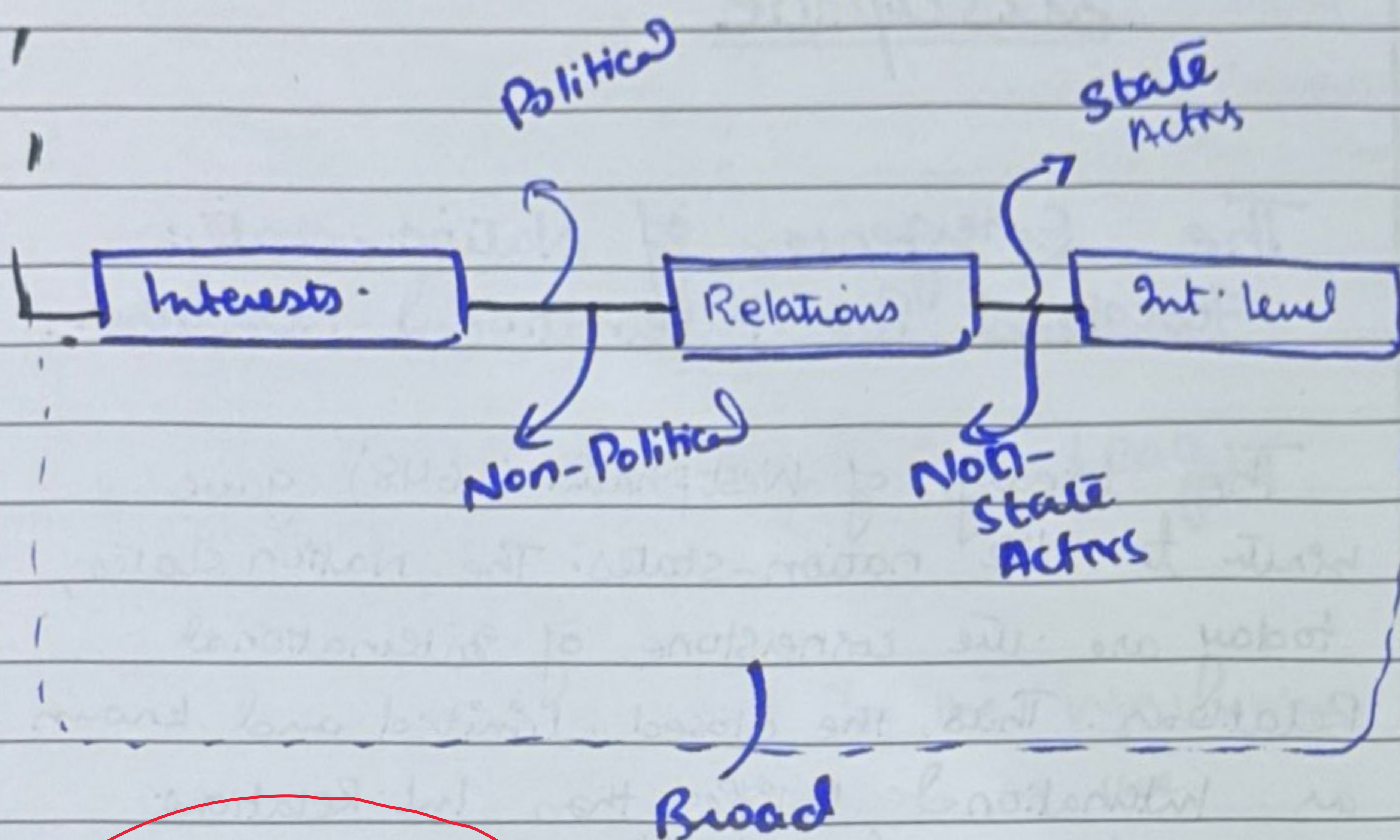
Narrow  
- Closed  
Limited

Broad.  
International  
Relations

International  
Politics.



3



Narrow:

International Relations is the study of political (interests) among state relations at international level.

- Hans Morgenthau.

Broad:

International Relations is the study of political and non-political (interests) among state and non-state relations at international level.

- Palmer and Perkins.

4) Key Driving Factors  
Behind the establishment  
of IR as an academic

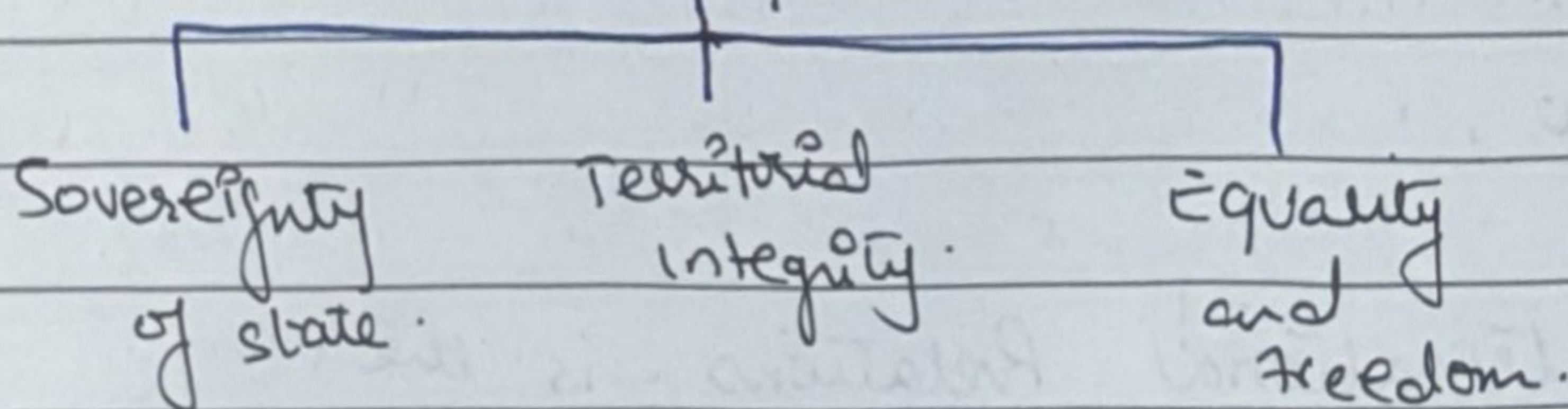


# Discipline

## i) The Emergence of Nation-state: Footstand for International Relations

The Treaty of Westphalia (1648) gave birth to the nation-states. The nation states, today are the cornerstone of International Relations. Thus, the closed, limited and known as International Politics than Int. Relations.

Concepts like



## ii- 1648 - 1919 (Scope of IR):

The scope of IR remained till discussions and history. Intellectual debates and peaceful living. This phase is often termed as the phase of relative peace and co-operation where IR was in its incipient stage.

## iii- World War 1 and the synthesis to IR:

This phase of IR gave birth to theorists like why the destruction was caused. Thus, triggered understanding and the first time IR became a discipline. In the University of Whales, the chair of IR - Woodrow Wilson



the professorship helped to see IR from multiple perspectives and encouraged debates from multiple platforms on why and this reasons. This further gave birth to Realism by Hans Morgenthau.

#### iv) World

#### v) Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations:

The co-operative end to the World War 1. Proved the theory of Idealism as the world functions on co-operation and peace. Thus, this further means the Idealist ideas were supported. Thus, giving birth to the Idealism theory that supported by Jeremy Bentham.

#### vi) WORLD WAR II - The failure of

#### Idealism:

The event of World War II failed the Idealism perception and reiterated the perception of Realism. Keeping <sup>State</sup> the Centre of attention. This shows the power struggle. Thus, power politics re-emerged. Making Idealism Utopian concept. The birth of UN and Bretton Woods led to the concept of Neo-liberalism and Neo-Realism.

#### vii) Cold War Era: Birth of Neo-Neo Debate:



Cold War is a major driving force in the evolution of IR. The events that shaped the IR have its roots in the Cold War. Initially the Second Great debate supposed that scientifically tried to approach the events of World Wars and Observation. But, the Vietnam War, Cuban Missile Crisis and Korean War reflected the Neo-Realism. The Neo-Realism is further the concept of Anarchy and Power-struggle in order to balance power. Thus, it creates security dilemma. But, the Marshall Plan and the US helping economies reflected the concept of Neo-Liberalism. Neo-Liberalism on the other hand works on win-win and co-operation principles thus giving two more major theories to IR and evolving IR.

## vii) International Political Security:

International Political Security garnered attention in the International Relations when the concept of traditional security was mixed with modern and hybrid security war fares. Thus, this gave birth to Proxy Wars, Guerilla Wars and it evolved the International Relations as it broadened the horizon of security and the UN's Global Security.

## viii) Post-Cold War:

Post-Modernism, Feminism and Constructivism emerged to form the IR's structure and the impact on states.



## vii) Trade and International Political Economy:

The Trade and Mercantilism gave phenomena like interdependence and allies. Thus, interconnectedness became crucial in IR - Thus, proving the concept of Neo-Liberalism. In order, to survive in the International world cooperation is the key. As Per Immanuel Kant and the Triangle of Liberal Peace.

## viii) Globalization:

The Globalization has given new direction to the International Relations. It has brought the world closer and more interconnected. The emergence of Social Media and Advancement in technology became the cornerstone and changed international Relations. Now, the IR has become a global concept teaching the interests vary from situation. The current scenario of Global Affairs and International Foreign Policy is shaped by Globalization.

## ix) Era of Information:

The Advancement and enlightenment gave birth to diplomacy. The diplomacy that was earlier entered by State-Actors now, carried on by delegates as well. The image and Portrayal of Soft Power. Thus, reshaping IR.



## 5) CONCLUSION:

International Relations is not an overnight subject or the static one. But, it keeps on evolving by the external influences and tries built to understand in order to explain the events like Realism, liberalism and International Politics. The Graduate was in 1928 for the first time as a discipline in University of Chicago.

Donot mix factors with events

The question has 3 parts, discuss these equally

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