

Discuss the principles of constructivism in international relations. Give comparative analysis of constructivism and realism with examples?

Introduction:

In contrast to other approaches of international relations, constructivism analyze that interests of states are socially extracted. The main principles of theory includes, that ideas developed through social interaction, norms and values are important aspect of international relations and identity of state influences its behaviour. Besides, it criticize the materialistic approach and believes in the emergence of new norms in international arena. Furthermore, it differentiate itself from realism on the basis of materialistic approaches. Constructivism play vital role in understanding the international relations.

Defining constructivism:

Constructivism in international relations emphasize on the role of ideas, beliefs, identities and norms in shaping the behaviour of state and other actors. It focuses on how social and identity ideation dimension

11 dimension works.

There are following principles of constructivism:

The key principles of constructivism includes:

i) Development of ideas through social interaction:

Constructivists argues that the international system is not fixed, objectivity objective reality is socially constructed through human interaction. This means that the structure of international politics, such as anarchy and sovereignty are not inherited but created and maintained through shared understanding and practices of states and other actors.

ii) Norms and values are important aspect of international world:

Norms, values and ideas play crucial role in shaping international relations. They influences the state behaviour by defining state behaviour what is appropriate and legitimate. For instance, the relationship between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia since, 1947 are

based upon the shared religious values and common muslim identity.

iii) Identity of state influences it's behaviour:

States behaviour is influenced by the identity, which are shaped by historical, cultural and social factors. These factors determine how states percieve themselves and others, influencing their interests and interaction.

iv) Constructivism criticizes the materialistic approach:

It criticize that materialistic approach, which prioritize tangible factors like military, or economy interdependence, instead, it argues that the meaning of material power is shaped by social and ideational factors.

v) It believes in emergence of new norms:

Constructivists acknowledges the new norms and ideas over the time shift the state's behaviour. Constructivism highlights that international relations are dynamic and subject to change. For instance, Pakistan was top priority of the United State in South Asia due to the understanding against terrorism. However, currently

the United States perceives China as a threat for its unipolar hegemony. Which change the behaviour of the United States for Pakistan.

Comparative analysis of constructivism and realism :

i) Comparison on formation of international structure :

In comparison to realism, constructivists argues that international structure form on the basis of shared social or economic interest. When the ideas, norms and values align together the international structure forms. Realism, is more tilted towards the materialistic aspect. Realists believes that global system is anarchic and states works in cooperation to foster self interests. Accordingly, the Attack on 9/11 by Israel and unethical support of USA is based upon the interest of the USA in middle east. While constructivists believes that, the historical culture and identity that of Zionism that prevails in both states results in unconditional support of the USA to Israel.

ii) Role of norms and ideas :

Norms and ideas can transform states behaviour according to constructivists. However, according to realists norms are secondary to power and interests. States may ignore norms if they are in state of survival against enemy. In this scenario the changes in norms and realities for survival works to gether. The prominent example is Ukraine. The states behaviour changed after Russian annexation and they started using weapons under Russian territory to target civilians.

Conclusion:

In a nutshell, it can be argued that both concepts are major methods to understand the developments in international arena. Both theories are criticized like constructivism relies too much on idealistic principles and undermines the materialistic approach and realism is criticized for being overly materialistic and ignoring social perspective. However, the mixture of both theories play pivotal role in analyzing the changing global dynamics.