

International Relations

Date 20
M T W T F S S

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

Introduction:

International relations is scientific study of interaction between the states. Traditionally, it is considered as a sub-domain of political science and other social sciences subjects. However, with time the major historical events like Treaty of Westphalia, global wars and financial disorders provided scholarly base to international relations. Such events helped the discipline stand separately and evolved as an academic discipline.

Defining "International relations":

The term International relation (IR), is defined as a scientific study of interaction between states in every way. Politically, socially and economically. According to Chris Brown and Dawson Easton, IR means all kind of transactions between the states diplomatically, militarily, socially and financially are studied through the lens of IR to gain accurate result of each move.



Comparison between International relations and Social sciences.

International relations	Political science
IR emerged from political science but it focuses on study of inter-state and global system.	Political science is more theoretical that mainly focuses on domestic political issues
	History
IR uses historical events to use them as precedents to explain the behaviour of states.	History as a discipline records events and seeks to derive general principles.
	Economics
International relations take notes from economics to derive the relation status of states like, interdependence, and globalization.	Economics is a neutral subject that uses economic tools to measure progress of countries and global financial system
	Sociology
IR borrows insights into human behaviour regarding specific event to analyze it's result on states policy.	Sociology analyze the behaviour of individuals and societies and try to figure out the reasons behind such behaviour

Major historical events and basis of intellectual grounds :

Throughout the history major historical events established intellectual basis, that helped IR to evolve as an academic discipline.

i) Treaty of Westphalia :

In 1648 the Treaty of Westphalia was signed, ending 30 years war in Europe. This treaty established the principles of international relations. The six main principles includes, "Sovereignty of state", "Territorial integrity", "Balance of power and religious tolerance. Moreover it includes Diplomatic negotiations and recognition of statehood. Comprising these points emerged in the shape of "nation-state", which is major idea of International relations.

ii) The World Wars ; The Rise and fall of Idealism and birth of Realism :

Between 1914 to 1918, The world went through the WWI, that exposed the faultlines of traditional diplomacy. Due to which IR was formally recognized as a study of wars and peace. This led to the establishment of "League of Nations", on the principles of Idealism. That includes peace building through law. However, The World War 2 results in the failure of idealism and give birth to the concept of Realism. Scholars like Hans Morgenthau argued that international politics is governed by power and national interests, and that can only be done through the scientific study of power.



security and conflict management, cementing IR as formal discipline.

iii) The Global Financial disorders ; Rise of constructivism and Critical approaches :

From 1970s to 1980s, the Global financial system faced the Oil crises that created disorder in Bretton Wood system. Due to which the behaviour of states changed drastically. Such This event give rise to the Critical approach in the discipline of IR. Intellectuals like Alexander Wendt argued that material power alone cannot explain cooperation but it also rely upon the ideas, norms and identities in the countries that shape international behaviour. This approach leads to the ideational turn in the discipline of IR.

iv) The Cold war era and role of global organizations :

After World War 2, the world entered in bipolar order dominated by the USA and Soviet Union (USSR). This rivalry gave birth to the Cold war. It is prolonged period period of ideological, political and military tension. During this era, several global and regional organizations were established to promote peace, stability and cooperation in an anarchic system. This period was the most intellectually productive in IR's evolution. Scholars like Kenneth Waltz proposed the idea of neo-realism by accepting the role of global institutions in the world. While Keohane and

Nye gave the idea of Neo-liberal institutionalism by accepting anarchy and the importance of institutions in promoting cooperation. The events of cold war firmly established IR as both a policy science and academic discipline.

Conclusion:

The evolution of International relations reflects the changing nature of world politics. From the Treaty of Westphalia to Cold war era, IR has continuously adapt to explain the world around it. These driving forces established the IR as an academic discipline.

