



Glossary

Absolute advantage A situation in which one state has a productive advantage over another in producing a good.

Absolute gains The idea that economic interactions creates gains for all, even if some more than others. Contrasts with relative gains.

Alliances Coalitions of states formed for mutual protection.

Anarchy The fact that in international relations there is no government of the whole world to adjudicate disputes among states and protect weak ones from strong ones.

Appeasement An effort by one state to reduce conflict with another by accommodating the demands of the latter.

Asian Tigers Originally Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore and Hong Kong, who achieved rapid growth rates using a strategy of export-led growth. Now many rapidly growing Asian countries are considered 'tigers'.

Austerity A policy by which governments raise interest rates or reduce government spending in an effort to reduce price inflation.

Autarky The separation of a country from the world economy.

Balance of payments A summary of a country's international transactions.

Balance of power Process by which a state or coalition of states increases its capabilities to prevent the dominance of an opposing state or group of states.

Bandwagoning When smaller, weaker states ally with a larger, powerful state for protection.

Beggar-thy-neighbor policies Policies designed to shift the negative consequences of the global economic downturn onto a state's neighbors.

Beijing Consensus The idea that, for some poor countries, development can be best attained by government controls on trade integration, capital inflows and outflows, the movement of labor, and the external value of the currency.

Berlin Wall The wall that divided Soviet East Berlin from American, French and British West Berlin during the Cold War, until its fall in 1989.

Biodiversity Variety of forms of life on earth, including plants, animals, marine life, insects and microorganisms, and variability within species, such as different types of corn, cattle or bees.

Biological weapons A category of WMD that uses microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses or toxins to kill people.

Bipolarity An international competition between two especially powerful states.

Bretton Woods system The international system created in 1944 to encourage progressive trade liberalization and stable monetary relations between all the countries of the world.

Brexit The 'British exit,' or decision made by British citizens in a popular referendum to have the United Kingdom leave the European Union.

BRICS Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. These five developing countries have the collective potential, within several decades, to overtake the combined economic weight of the industrial world.

Bureaucratic politics A possible influence on a country's strategy characterized by national leaders and their subordinates engaging in foreign policy debates, building coalitions and generally seeking to influence each other.

Caliphate A state governed in accordance with Islamic law.

Chemical weapons A category of WMD that uses manufactured chemicals to kill people.

Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) A chemical formerly used in aerosol cans, fire extinguishers and air conditioners, a cause of ozone depletion, and now outlawed by international agreements.

Civil defense Defenses, such as fallout shelters, designed to protect civilians in case of a nuclear strike from an adversary.

Civil society Communities of private citizens that operate outside the sphere of government or business control.

Civil war A sustained violent clash between a national government and a domestic opposition group.

Clash of civilizations The idea that international conflict in the future will be characterized not by interstate conflict but rather by conflict between civilizations, a term that incorporates religious, cultural, ethnic and, to some extent, linguistic similarity.

Class conflict Conflict between the capitalist owners of wealth and industrial production and the workers they employ.

Coercive diplomacy Aggressive actions short of the immediate large-scale use of military force designed to convince a country to rethink some behavior.

Cold War Period from the mid-1940s to the late 1980s of high tension between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Collective action problem Problems that require international cooperation yet nevertheless may be difficult to solve.

Collective security Security provided to one another by the members of an international security institution.

Colonies Areas and people conquered and exploited by a colonizer that exercises political and economic control.

Commercial liberalism The idea that market society and economic interdependence tend to have a pacifying impact on relations among states. As the economic relations between two states increase, the interests of these states in stable and continuous relations grow.

Commitment problem A state's fear that an agreement with an adversary today will be violated at some point in the future when that adversary is stronger.

Comparative advantage One country has a comparative advantage over another in the production of a good if, in order to make one more unit of that good, it has to forgo less of another good.

Competing economic blocs Groups of states in economic competition organized around the economies and currencies of major economic powers.

Concert of Europe An agreement among the great powers to maintain order collectively within Europe.

Conditional cooperation A strategy (also called tit-for-tat) in game theory capable of resolving the Prisoner's Dilemma.

Contagion The spread of an internal war in one country to another.

Containment A strategy by which one state tries to check efforts by an adversary state to extend its global sphere of influence.

Convention on Biological Diversity An international agreement aiming to protect and preserve biodiversity, passed in 1992.

Convertible currency A currency that can be exchanged at market price for the currency of another country.

Cosmopolitanism The idea that all humans are, or should be, considered part of a single world community. Cosmopolitanism can be contrasted with nationalism.

Covert operations Secret operations by a government against the interests of a foreign government or actor.

Cruise missile Missile, capable of being launched from land, air or sea, which can travel below radar detection and guide itself around obstacles to deliver the warhead it carries.

Currency market intervention Government transactions in the foreign exchange market to support a fixed exchange rate.

Current account The current account consists of the country's balance of trade in goods and services plus its income receipts.

Customary international law Unwritten legal norms that have come to be seen by states as requiring their compliance.

Cyber-espionage The use of information technology to steal or gain illicit access to confidential information from a foreign target.

Cyber-intervention The use of information technology by a state to influence the domestic politics of another.

- Cyber-operation** State employment of information technology to advance its interests at the expense of another state or non-state actor.
- Cyber-terrorism** The use of cyber-warfare by groups independent of national governments for the purpose of spreading disruption or fear.
- Cyber-warfare** The use of the internet and related technologies by governments to damage or disrupt the activities or systems of an adversary or a private entity of value to an adversary.
- Decolonization** The process by which imperial powers relinquished their overseas holdings leading to new independent nation-states.
- Deforestation** The clearing or overharvesting of forests, an especially acute problem in the tropics.
- Demand curve** A demand curve specifies the quantity of a good that consumers wish to purchase at different prices.
- Democratic peace theory** The theory that democracies are unusually peaceful toward each other.
- Dependency** A school of thought that argues that international economic linkages hinder development in developing countries.
- Détente** In general, a relaxation of tensions between states; specifically, a phase of the Cold War in which economic interdependence began to develop between East and West.
- Deterrence** The use of power resources to discourage a state from acting aggressively.
- Developed countries** Wealthy countries with advanced economies.
- Developing country** Poor countries with small economies whose residents have not, on average, attained the living standards typically enjoyed on average by residents of wealthy countries.
- Diplomacy** The process by which representatives of two or more governments meet and discuss matters of common concern.
- Diplomatic immunity** The legal privileges and immunities granted by a host country to foreign ambassadors and embassy staff.
- 'Dirty bomb'** A device that, without the profound power of a nuclear explosion, disperses deadly radioactive material.
- Dissatisfied states** States who feel that their influence, status and material benefits should be higher than what they are actually achieving.
- double-tap strikes** Drone operator launches missiles against suspected terrorists/insurgents, lingers in holding pattern, then launches another strike against the security or rescue teams.
- Dynastic states** States ruled by 'imperial dynasties' or 'dynastic families', in which members of a given extended family, over a number of generations, maintain power within a state or empire.
- Economic development** The attainment by a poorer country of an increase in its rate of growth of GDP per capita.
- Economic incentives** Economic incentives are basically carrots: country A promises some economic gain to B, and delivers it if B does what A wants it to do.
- Economic sanctions** The restriction of customary trade and investment relations with a target state.
- Economic security** The ability to maintain prosperity in a world of scarcity.
- Economic warfare** Actions by a state intended to damage another state economically.
- Empire** A political entity that contains a substantial geographical space, often many different peoples, and over which a powerful ruler governs.
- End of history** The end of ideological conflict and the victory of liberal values.
- Enduring questions** Questions that have engaged and challenged generations of international relations scholars and students.
- Environmental determinism** The view that changes in the environment like climate change *necessarily* and *automatically* will cause human beings and human communities to react in a particular manner.
- Ethnic cleansing** When combatants on one side of an ethnic conflict target civilians on the opposing side in order to induce the latter to flee and thus leave their land and property available for the co-ethnics of the attacking side.
- Euro** The common currency of the eurozone.
- European Union** A group of twenty-seven European countries that abide by common laws and practices.
- Eurozone** The world's most prominent currency union, consisting of nineteen countries in Europe all using the euro as a national currency.
- Exchange rate** The amount of one currency that must be offered to purchase one unit of a foreign currency.
- Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)** The area up to 200 nautical miles from a state's shoreline.
- Export-led growth (ELG)** A strategy that argues developing countries should rely on price-competitive exports to stimulate national economic development.
- Extended deterrence** The threat by one country to use its nuclear forces to protect other countries.

External balancing The process by which states enter into security alliances with other states to counter other states.

Externalities The benefits and costs not reflected in a good's price, such as ideas on how to improve a product in the future (positive externality) or pollution (negative externality).

Extra-state war A violent clash between the national government of a recognized state and an entity that is not an internationally recognized state, or a non-state actor located in a foreign state.

Failed states States that lack the basic institutions and capacities of government and struggle to maintain control over their territories.

Feudalism A system in which individuals receive land in exchange for swearing loyalty to specific leaders.

First-strike capability The negation of another country's second-strike capability.

Fission An atom-splitting chain reaction that is central to the working of a nuclear weapon.

Fixed (or pegged) exchange-rate Government establishes and seeks to maintain the rate of exchange.

Fixed alliances Alliance in which countries remain allied with the same partners over long periods of time.

Fixed capital The value of assets a company utilizes in an ongoing way.

Flexible (or floating) exchange-rate system Supply and demand determines a currency's exchange rate.

Flexible alliances Temporary alliance in which states form pacts but shift from one partner to the other depending on the circumstances.

Foreign affairs media Those individuals and organizations who report or comment on foreign developments in print, on television, over radio and through the internet.

Foreign exchange market The marketplace in which individuals, firms and even governments sell and buy foreign currencies.

Foreign policy Foreign policy analysis seeks to understand why governments take the decisions they do toward other countries or actors.

Framing The process by which media participants select or present particular elements of a news story in such a way as to influence the opinions of recipients of the story.

Functionalism The liberal idea that institutions are tools that allow states to develop more efficient and durable forms of cooperation.

Garrison state A state that controls society in order to maximize military power.

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)

GATT was a post-ITO attempt by the US and other Western countries to lower their respective tariff rates and to establish a first set of rules to resolve international trade disputes.

General war A war that involves many or all of the most powerful states in a particular historical era.

Genocide Crimes committed against a national, racial, religious or ethnic group with the intent of destroying the existence of that group.

Global civil society The realm of private activity that lies outside the political system, where religious, ethnic and civic groups flourish. Global civil society refers to these transnational groups and activities across borders.

Global Environmental Facility (GEF) A program managed by the World Bank and the UN that provides grants to developing countries to help them meet international environment obligations regarding climate change, desertification, international water pollution and biodiversity.

Global value chain Independent business firms that have long-standing cross-national ties as contractors and sub-contractors.

Globalization The ongoing process of international economic and technological integration, made possible by advances in transportation and communication.

Good governance A country with good governance at home typically possesses transparent and consistent political and legal systems, combats official corruption and protects property. These factors encourage individuals to save, make investments and pursue technological innovations that promote economic growth.

Great Depression An international economic disaster precipitated by the 1929 crash of the US stock market.

Greed A person's intense desire to possess goods or money.

Grievance A person's belief that he or she is victimized or marginalized by current societal institutions.

Gross domestic product (GDP) Global GDP is the total monetary value of all goods and services produced by all countries of the world during some period of time.

Gross fixed capital formation Increase in fixed capital that during a given period of time, usually a year.

Group of 20 (G-20) A group composed of the G-7 countries and newly rising economic powers.

Group of 7 (G-7) Seven countries (United States, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Japan, Italy and Canada) that sought to govern international economic relations after the collapse of the Bretton Woods system by coordinating their exchange rates and their domestic monetary and fiscal policies.

Group of 8 (G-8) The Group of 7 (G-7) plus Russia. In the aftermath of the Cold War, Russia was added as a symbolic move. Russia was suspended from the G-8 in 2014 in response to its annexation of Crimea.

Groupthink Psychological need on the part of individuals to be accepted by colleagues that can cause national leaders and advisors to make serious errors during a foreign policy crisis.

Hegemonic leader A particularly powerful state that facilitates cooperation.

Hegemonic stability theory A theory that predicts a dominant liberal state will use its power and influence to construct an open world economy.

Hegemonic war A war that determines which states will have predominant global influence.

Hegemony The dominance of one state over other states. Many scholars believe that a hegemonic international system is most prone to peace.

High seas The area of the seas beyond 200 nautical miles from a state's shoreline.

Human development A process of enlarging people's choices and giving them a means to lead lives that they value. Measurements of human development include such factors as life expectancy, income and education.

Humanitarian intervention When one or more countries intervene in a foreign country's civil war for the purpose of protecting non-combatants.

Hybrid warfare The blending of conventional warfare with informational warfare.

Idealism The notion that ideas matter in international relations.

Illicit international economy Cross-border economic activity that takes place outside of national or international laws.

Imperialism A state strategy in which one country conquers foreign lands to turn them into colonies.

Import-substituting industrialization (ISI) A national development strategy that seeks to avoid international economic linkages in favor of focusing on domestic production.

Incentives Rewards of some form offered by one state to another designed to influence the foreign policy of the recipient.

Infant-industry protection Imports of a particular good are restricted to allow for domestic productive capacity to come online.

Innocent passage A sea-faring state's vessels may move through a coastal state's territorial waters in a non-threatening manner.

Institutional constraints The constitutional or customary checks within a country that limit a leader's ability to act unilaterally.

Intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) Missile that in under an hour can travel thousands of miles through outer space and release multiple nuclear warheads.

Interest groups Individuals or organizations that share a common set of political concerns and band together in an association to persuade leaders and the public to pursue, support or accept policies that are in accord with the preferences of the association.

Interest Some condition of the world sufficiently important that a state is willing to pay meaningful costs to attain or maintain it.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) A panel established by the UN in 1988 that studies climate change and informs the world of its effects.

Internal balancing The process by which states muster their own power resources.

Internal war A war within a state, contrasted with war between two or more states.

International commodity agreement An agreement, generally sought by developing countries' exporters, on the supply and price of that commodity. The goal is not to maximize prices but rather to establish an acceptable, consistent price that the developing country can rely on.

International commodity cartels Groupings of developing-country governments that try to control the supply of a raw material or agricultural product on world markets in order to drive up prices and maximize revenues.

International Criminal Court (ICC) Permanent body to prosecute individuals suspected of international war crimes or genocide.

International financial flows The movement of capital from private or governmental individuals or organizations inside one country to private or governmental individuals or organizations inside another country. These flows consist of both private and official financial flows.

- International governmental organizations (IGOs)** Organizations that states join to advance their interests.
- International institutions** Sets of rules, principles and expectations that govern interstate interaction.
- International law** Explicit rules that stipulate rights and obligations of states.
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)** An international institution created in 1946 to facilitate and reinforce the exchange-rate system created in the aftermath of the Second World War. The IMF remains one of the world's most important international economic institutions.
- International organization** A formal body or association established by two or more states.
- International peace** Situation between countries in which there is an absence of war and the presence of a belief that war is unlikely.
- International Trade Organization (ITO)** An ambitious scheme for global trade management proposed in 1947. The ITO eventually failed because the United States refused to support it and was largely replaced by the less ambitious GATT.
- International tribunals** Ad hoc legal proceedings that are applied to specific international situations.
- Internationalism** A strategy in which a state is fully engaged with other states building cooperative relationships.
- Internationalization of civil war** During a civil war, one or more foreign states offers military support to one or another side.
- Interstate war** Two or more national governments direct military forces against each.
- Intra-firm trade** A country's cross-country movement of different components that are put together at one or more final assembly plants in one or more countries.
- Invisible hand** A term coined by Adam Smith to describe the uncoordinated behavior of individuals and firms acting in their own selfish interest in the marketplace.
- Iron Curtain** A term coined by British leader Winston Churchill to capture the profound political and human divisions separating the western and eastern parts of Europe.
- Iron rice bowl** A guarantee from the government of Communist China of job security and access to basic necessities for Chinese citizens.
- Isolationism** The historical practice by the United States of avoiding alliances and engaging only sporadically in European balance-of-power politics and the management of global affairs.
- Kellogg-Briand Pact** A 1928 international pact outlawing war.
- Keynesian liberalism** A version of liberal economic thought that emphasizes the role governments must play in managing their national economies.
- Kyoto Protocol** A multilateral agreement negotiated in 1997 to reduce the total emissions of signing states. The Protocol came into effect in 2005 but was ultimately unsuccessful in curbing emissions.
- League of Nations** An international body established by the Treaty of Versailles at the end of the First World War.
- Limited war** Smaller war in which major powers avoid fighting each other directly, contrasted with general or major war.
- Lobbying** Meeting and speaking with members of legislatures and officials in executive departments in an attempt to influence policy. Interest groups often engage in lobbying.
- Locarno Accords** An agreement that sought to stabilize Germany's relations with its neighbors.
- Lootable wealth** Some asset that rebels can steal and then sell for cash.
- Manhattan Project** The secret US project that developed the atomic bomb.
- Marshall Plan** A US plan to counteract Soviet influence in Europe by providing economic aid to help European nations rebuild after the Second World War.
- Meiji Restoration** An important period in Japanese history during which it strengthened itself militarily and technologically relative to the West.
- Mercantilism** The idea that military power rests on financial wealth, and the financial wealth of the world is a fixed quantity.
- Migrant** A person who moves from one place to another, usually to find better work or living conditions.
- Militarized interstate dispute (MID)** An instance in which a state threatens or uses limited force against another state.
- Military-industrial complex** Military bureaucracy and network of defense firms.
- Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** A series of goals related to health, education and poverty, agreed upon by world leaders at the UN in September 2000.

Mixed interests In game theory, a situation wherein two players could gain from cooperation but also benefit from cheating.

Mode of production The basic organization of the economy – the way in which people relate to one another and to the material world.

Modernization The idea that humankind is constantly inventing, innovating, improving and creating.

Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer An international agreement passed in 1987 that has successfully combated the depletion of the ozone layer by banning CFCs. Ozone layers are expected to return to normal by 2050.

Moral hazard When an individual or some other actor believes they can take very great risks because, if things go badly, someone else will pay for the consequences of the risky behavior.

Multinational enterprise (MNE) A firm that has its headquarters in one country and ongoing business operations in one or (more typically) several other countries.

Munich Analogy A critical reference to the 1938 transfer of a part of Czechoslovakia to Nazi Germany by Western European democratic leaders.

Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD) A situation in which two adversaries each possess assured destruction capability.

Naming and shaming Strategy to highlight publicly non-compliance of relevant actor with their international responsibilities.

Nation Collections of people who share a common culture, history or language.

National champion In a state pursuing a strategy of ISI, the government nominates firms it believes could do the best job of producing the substituted industrial goods.

National leaders Individual office-holders who make foreign policy and military decisions on behalf of their countries.

National treatment Included in key US–EU treaties, allows for American firms to be treated as though they are European firms.

Nationalism A term that describes an intense political identity a people share, or a sense of collective fate as a political community.

Nationalization A government seizing the assets of a private company that operates on its territory.

Nation-state A political unit inhabited by people sharing common culture, history or language.

Nazi–Soviet Non-Aggression Pact A pact signed between Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia in 1939

in which the two countries agreed not to attack each other and to jointly attack Poland, dividing the country between them.

Neo-liberalism A version of liberalism that emphasizes the importance of less regulated markets, especially in finance.

Non-Aligned Movement A movement founded in 1955 to create a pathway by which member states could remain aloof from the confrontations of the Cold War. The NAM now includes over 100 countries, representing over one-half of the world's population.

Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) Non-profit groups that work across borders on political or social issues.

Non-state actors Consequential actors other than states that operate within or across state borders.

Non-tariff barrier (NTB) Policies by which a state can control imports and import prices without imposing tariffs.

Normative change The idea that as global learning and international socialization occur, ideas about what is or is not acceptable or 'normal' change. As normative change occurs, it can impact international relations.

Normative constraints The beliefs, values and attitudes that inform and shape the behavior of a leader.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) A defense pact formed in 1949 between North American and West European states. Today NATO includes thirty member states.

Nuclear club The group of states believed to possess nuclear weapons.

Nuclear deterrence Using the threat of nuclear retaliation to deter a nuclear attack on oneself.

Nuclear freeze A plan that would have prevented development or deployment of new nuclear systems.

Official development assistance (ODA) The provision by a donor government to a developing country of grants or loans with highly favorable repayment terms (for example, fifty years to repay, at 1 percent interest).

Official financial flows International financial flows that originate with governmental entities.

Opportunity cost The cost of producing more of a certain good in foregone production of another good. Opportunity costs are crucial in considering comparative advantage and the possibility for mutual gains from trade.

Paris Agreement An international environment agreement reached in 2015 in which parties committed

on a non-binding basis to act individually and collectively to prevent global warming.

Patriotism *Absolute* value an individual assigns to that person's state.

Peace of Westphalia Treaties that ended the Thirty Years' War and divided Europe into sovereign states independent of higher authorities.

Peaceful change The problem of how the international system copes with the transition of order based on the domination of one state over other states.

Peacekeeping UN operations after an international or internal war ends aimed at keeping the warring parties apart and enforcing peace settlements.

Peacemaking UN action before war breaks out designed to prevent two states or domestic parties from going to war.

Pirates Non-state gangs who commit robbery or criminal violence on the high seas.

Policy instrument A tool used by a state's government to attain its interests. Policy instruments come in many forms, divided into persuasive and coercive forms.

Pollution haven Countries that maintain low environmental standards in order to attract foreign companies.

Populism A political idea or movement that proposes to support the interests of common people rather than those of a privileged elite.

Positive illusions The idea that what we think we can accomplish is often greater than what we would expect to achieve if we had a truly accurate picture of our capabilities.

Poverty trap When a country is so poor that most of its national resources must be used to satisfy the immediate day-to-day needs of the population, with insufficient resources left for savings or investment.

Power balancing Efforts by states to protect themselves by enhancing their power.

Power transitions When the relative power of two (or more) states changes, often due to technological innovations and uneven economic growth.

Price inflation A situation in which too much money is chasing too few goods, pushing up prices of goods and services.

Prisoner's Dilemma A mix-interest game that illustrates both the value of cooperation and the difficulty of obtaining it.

Private financial flows International financial flows that originate with nongovernmental entities, such as individuals, private charities or private firms such as banks or multinational enterprises.

Private information problem Conflict-exacerbating tendency of states to overstate their resolve and capabilities during a crisis.

Production possibilities frontier (PPF) A graphical representation of the different combinations of goods that a country may produce during some period of time.

Propaganda The selective use of information, and at times misinformation, in order to advance a state's interests.

Protectionism A country restrictions on imports in an effort to protect a domestic industry.

Proxy wars Military conflicts in which states avoid directly engaging each other, but instead back opposing sides of smaller conflicts to gain influence.

Purchasing power parity (PPP) A measure economists use to compare the value of a similar basket of goods across countries with different living standards and exchange rates.

'Race to the bottom' A situation in which two or more countries put into place progressively lower policy rules and standards.

Rally 'round the flag effect A commonly observed boost in the popularity of a leader due to external conflicts or war.

Refugee A person who has left his or her home country and is unwilling to return to it because of persecution or fear of persecution.

Regulatory chill Strategy by MNEs to deter governments from generating strong regulations.

Relations of production The system by which the people in a productive system are related, or the relations between those people.

Relative gains As opposed to absolute gains, which are simply the total materials gains made by a state, relative gains focus on the gains one state makes compared to a rival. Realists emphasize the importance of relative gains.

Resource curse The possibility that the possession by developing countries of natural resources, in particular petroleum, is more likely to hinder rather than to advance the development prospects of those countries.

Responsibility to protect (R2P) Doctrine that states sometimes ought to undertake a humanitarian intervention in a foreign conflict to protect non-combatants.

Revolution According to Marxism, in any instance of class conflict a breakpoint is eventually reached when the workers take control from the capitalist owners. Revolution is the dominant mode of political change in the Marxist school.

- Rhineland Crisis** In March 1936, in clear violation of the Versailles settlement, Hitler ordered troops to reoccupy the Rhineland.
- Rum triangle** A transatlantic trading triangle active in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries between Europe, West Africa and the Americas.
- Schlieffen Plan** A German military plan believed by the Germans to result in a quick victory.
- Scramble for Africa** The carving up of Africa by colonial powers after 1870.
- Second-strike capability** The ability to inflict unacceptable damage on an adversary after it strikes first. Also known as assured destruction.
- Security dilemma** A situation in international politics in which one state takes steps to become more secure, yet ends up less secure due to the reactions it prompts in other states.
- Self-determination** The idea that every people should determine and manage their own political systems.
- Sensitivity** A state is sensitive to another state's actions if those actions can temporarily hamper a state until it finds a replacement for the good or service from another location.
- Separatism** The process by which groups within a state look to break away, usually to form their own new state.
- Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** An agreement among Russia, China and the central Asian states of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan formed in 2001 to enhance the security of member states against threats of terrorism and ethnic conflict.
- Signature strikes** Intelligence officers estimate that individuals in conflict zones who are wearing civilian clothes but behaving in ways consistent with that of terrorists/insurgents and therefore authorize drone operations to attack them.
- Smoot–Hawley Tariff** A 1930 US law that raised tariffs to high levels to protect the US economy.
- Socioeconomic classes** Groupings of peoples based on their relationship to the economy.
- Soft balancing** Steps to constrain or hobble a great power (such as the United States today) that fall well short of the significant mobilization of military power in opposition to that power or the formation of security alliances united against the power.
- Sovereignty** The capacity to govern residents within a given territory to establish relationships with governments that control other states.
- Sphere of influence** A set of geographically proximate countries, whose policies and institutions are greatly influenced by an external power.
- Stabilization program** A contract between the IMF and a loan-recipient country stipulating what macroeconomic policy changes the country will undertake to ensure that its short-term foreign exchange shortfall does not become permanent.
- State** A political entity with territorial borders and political authorities who enjoy sovereignty.
- Statecraft** The use of policy instruments, including military, diplomatic and economic, to achieve foreign policy objectives.
- State-owned enterprises (SOEs)** Companies owned directly by the government of a state.
- Statutory international law** Written laws that are agreed upon and codified by participating states.
- Strategic culture** Refers to assumptions about the nature of the global system – for example, which states are friends and enemies – and strategies of action that are shared by government elites.
- Strategy** The connection by state leaders of means, or policy instruments, to ends, or policy objectives.
- Structural adjustment program (SAP)** Agreement between the IMF and the recipient government on how it will change its microeconomic policies.
- Submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM)** Missile that can produce much the same effect as an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) from a platform deep beneath the ocean's surface.
- Supply curve** A curve specifying how much producers are willing to offer of a good at different prices.
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** World leaders in 2015 agreed to a new Agenda for Sustainable Development, with goals regarding poverty, gender equality and environmental protection.
- Taboo** A strong and widely held normative condemnation of some form of behavior.
- Tariff** A tax collected by the government on goods coming into the country.
- Terms of trade** The rate at which goods will be exchanged between two states.
- Territorial Sea** Area that extends 12 nautical miles from a state's shoreline.
- Theory** A group of ideas intended to explain some empirical phenomenon.
- Thermonuclear bomb** A nuclear weapon that relies on fusing of hydrogen particles, producing much more destructive power than the original fission-based atomic bombs.
- Third World** A designation, no longer relevant today, given to developing countries over which the United States and Soviet Union competed.

Tied aid A practice in which donor governments require that the funds they give to a recipient country must be used to purchase goods and services provided by firms from the donor country.

Total war A war in which belligerent states mobilize all available resources and target civilians.

Tragedy of the commons A situation in which individual actors acting in their own rational self-interest combine to create a situation catastrophic to all of the individuals.

Transit passage A sea-faring state's vessels may move through a strait that otherwise is part of a coastal state's territorial seas.

Transnational business Businesses that operate across state lines.

Transnational corporation (TNC) A firm that has its headquarters in one country and ongoing business operations in one or (more typically) several other countries.

Transnationalism The tendency of groups within countries to build cooperative associations with groups in other countries.

Treaty A formal agreement between two or more states.

Tributary system A hierarchical regional order in Asia which expected weaker states to defer and pay tribute to China.

Triple Alliance A military alliance finalized in 1882 between Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy.

Triple Entente A military alliance finalized in 1907 between France, Britain and Russia.

Truman Doctrine The declaration by Harry Truman that US assistance would be given to 'free peoples everywhere facing external aggression or internal subversion'.

Truth and Reconciliation Commissions Public hearings about humanitarian crimes, such as in South Africa after *apartheid*.

Unacceptable damage The level of damage that rational state leaders are unwilling to sustain.

Underlying cause of a military conflict Circumstances that make the chances of escalation to violence lower or higher.

Unipolarity An international system containing one dominant power relative to all others.

United Nations (UN) A critical international organization, that today includes virtually all countries, founded in 1945.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) More commonly drones, are pilotless vehicles that can be operated and targeted by remote control.

Uranium Along with plutonium, one of two materials that can be used to create a nuclear weapon.

Veto player An agent within a political system whose consent is required for some policy to be accepted and implemented.

Vulnerability A state is vulnerable to another state's actions if it is unable to compensate effectively for losses caused by the other state's actions.

Warlords Private authority figures who control their own local armies or militias.

Warsaw Pact An alliance between the Soviet Union and several mid-level powers in Europe that formed a Soviet sphere of influence.

Washington Consensus Controversial US-backed free-market policies set forth by the IMF as the necessary path to prosperity from the 1980s until the Great Recession of 2008–9.

Weaponized interdependence The use by one country of its control over global or regional economic networks to coerce politically a state or states dependent on those networks.

Weimar Republic Republic formed by democratically elected German delegates in the aftermath of the First World War.

Westphalian state system The modern state system in which each state is sovereign, with no higher authority (such as a church or empire).

World Bank The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, initially created to provide loans to countries to help them with economic recovery from the Second World War, today finances and manages projects to foster the economic growth of developing countries.

World Trade Organization (WTO) Since 1995 the successor body to the GATT, with more explicit rules and guidelines than the GATT and a more highly developed mechanism for resolving trade disputes.

Zone of peace The democratic countries and the geographic space they possess within which states do not fight one another.