

Realism and American Foreign Policy

Political Realism

- 1) States are the key actors
- 2) States seek power
- 3) States are rational

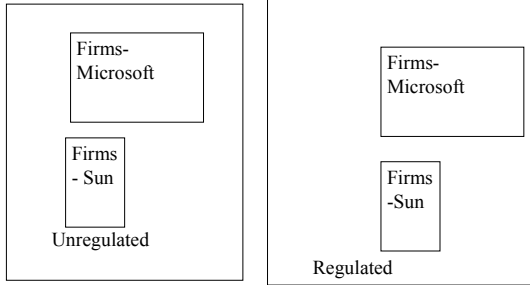
Morgenthau

Political Realism- Should Act

Theory of Realism- Why States Act

Realism

--Structure Matters



Elements of Structure:

--Anarchy

- 1) No Central Government
- 2) Self Help
- 3) Survival

Type	International	Domestic
Structure	Anarchy	Laws
Central Government	No	Yes
Police	No	Yes
Accepted Morals	No	Yes
Violation of Accepted Morals	No Guaranteed Consequences	Guaranteed Consequences
Self-Defense	Necessity	Not Necessary
Goal	Survival	Varied

Political Realist (Morgenthau) Critique
of Moral American Foreign Policy

1) Morality Unsuitable to Conditions of
International Structure

“A foreign policy guided by universal moral
principles, is under contemporary conditions
of foreign policy and warfare a policy of
national suicide”

Attempts to Reform System

2) Moral Crusading

3) False distinction Morality and
National Interest

“a foreign policy derived from national
interest is in fact morally superior to a
foreign policy inspired by universal
moral principles”

States are the Key Actors

--unitary

--rational

Distribution of Capabilities

Unipolarity

Bipolarity

Multipolarity

Multipolarity- Prior WW2

“if Hitler invaded hell I would at least make a favorable reference to the Devil in the House of Commons.”

Bipolarity- Cold War

Unipolarity- 1945 and Present

Balance of Power

Survival and Self Help lead to Balancing Power

Lord Palmerston(British Foreign Secretary)-
“Britain has no permanent friends; she only has permanent interests”

Iraq and Afghanistan

Political Realism- US Should Act this Way
(Normative)

Theory of Realism- US Does Act this Way
(Predictive)

Security Dilemma-

Prepare Militarily makes you less
Secure

ABM Debate
