

# **International Relations** **(Meaning, Nature, Scope and Importance)**

**DR. Pramod Gyandev Shinde**  
**Dayananad College of Law, Latur**



# Introduction

- ▶ **IR is an academic discipline which indicates relations among the nation-state.**
- ▶ **Its origin and development from ancient period in Greek historian **Thucydides** (History of the Peloponnesian War) and also in India in the writings of Kautilya's Arthashastra, Machiavelli's The Prince**
- ▶ **In middle period in the writings of Roman Dante and French writers like Pierre Dubois and Emerie Cruce..**
- ▶ **In Modern period various writings of realistic and conservative jurists like **Hugo Grotius**, Pufendorf ,Bentham, Oppenheim, Various geopoliticians , diplomats , historians further provided in the direction of systematic development of IR**

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- ▶ **IR is the consist of study of Inter-State relations, Sovereign nation-state relations, Intergovernmental relations, Non-governmental relations, and various International Organizations, Multinational Organizations and relations of Regional organizations.**
- ▶ **A landmark treaty in the development of IR is the 'Treaty of Westphalia of 1648' i.e. development of modern sovereign nation-state system in Europe.**
- ▶ **A systematic and creative shape in the study of subject of IR after WWI and WWII, In era of Cold war, New cold war..**

# Meaning of International Relations

- ▶ **The term “International” was first used by Jeremy Bentham.**
- ▶ **In starting time IR was study of only official or governmental relations between sovereign nation-state**
- ▶ **In narrow sense IR means to the study of official relations among states which is conducted by government or agent or representatives of government**
- ▶ **In the broad sense IR means all types of relations i.e. Political and non-political types of relations among sovereign states.**
- ▶ **Political relations means governmental relations and non-political relations means other than political i.e. cultural, educational, trade, treaty, pact etc.**
- ▶ **It is also study of problems and its solutions World community. Such as Global Warming, epidemic virus corona etc.**

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- ▶ **IR is also study of International Law, International societies, Cultural, Strategical factors which influence the relations among sovereign nation-states.**
- ▶ **Three major approaches in the study of IR i.e. Realistic or power politics approach, Liberal or Idealist approach and Marxist approach.**
- ▶ **These approaches traces that how they study of IR and what are major concern of them.**
- ▶ **Realistic approach in the study of IR focuses on real national interest i.e. **power politics****
- ▶ **Liberal approach in the study of IR focuses on **mutual cooperation** rather than conflict among states and **international law** is the key source of power.**
- ▶ **Marxist approach focuses on **class interest** and **Dependency theory** and **Centre-periphery** debate by **A.sG.Frank, Wallerstein** etc.**

# Traditional Definitions of IR (State dominated View)

- ▶ **Schleicher- IR includes all inter-state relations in international politics, but all the inter-state relations are not political.**
- ▶ **Padelford and Lincoln define International politics as the interaction of state policies within the changing patterns of power relationship.**
- ▶ **Morgenthau's definitions concerned with political relations and Acc. To him**

**“International politics is a struggle for, and use of, power among nations”**

**Quincy Wright is ‘The art of influencing, manipulating or controlling major groups so as to advance the purposes of some against the opposition of**

**others’**

# Current Definitions of IR

- ▶ **Trevor Taylor, IR as “a discipline which tries to explain political activities across state boundaries”**
- ▶ **Stanley Hoffman writes “The discipline of international relations is concerned with the factors and the activities which affect the external policies and power of the basic units into which the world is divided.”**
- ▶ **Symons Brown defines IR “The investigating and study of patterns of action and reactions among sovereign states as represented by their governing elites”**
- ▶ **IR cover larger areas of relationship both conflictual and cooperative, friendly and unfriendly, power relationship and peace relationship, governmental and people to people relationship.**

# Nature of IR

- ▶ **For real understating of the nature of IR is requires to understand the difference between International Relations and International Politics, World politics, Global Politics, World affairs .**
- ▶ **S.R. Myneni explains the nature of IR in terms of IR as an Art i.e. diplomacy and foreign affairs , Public administrations, Economic Management, International Law, War.**
- ▶ **So how the international situations successfully and skillfully handling for achievement of national interest i.e. as an art.**
- ▶ **Further he pointed out that IR as a Science. Northrop treats as a science but Kenneth Thomson and Hoffman refused to a science. According to Quincey wright it can become a science in future.**
- ▶ **IR cannot be study as science because a nations behavior is not easily predictable. We cannot experiment on human nature and uncertainty of events and uncertainty of human nature.**

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- ▶ **Due to increasing human activities the relations among different nation-state has been changing and continuous changes in IR.**
- ▶ **There are so many factors which affects nature of IR like emergence of new nation-state, technological advancement, nuclear advancement, development of multipolar world, origin and development of new world order, non state actors, world problems and so on**
- ▶ **Due to these factors changing nature of IR and it is very difficult to understand nature of IR.**

# Following Points of Nature of IR

- ▶ **No Single Definitions**
- ▶ **Operates in Anarchical System**
- ▶ **Inter-Disciplinary subject area**
- ▶ **Related with World problems**
- ▶ **Behavioral Nature of IR**
- ▶ **Power Politics in IR**
- ▶ **Conflictual, Cooperative and Coordinative nature of IR**
- ▶ **Independent Subject area**
- ▶ **Liquidation of Colonialism**

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- ▶ **New Values and Ideology**
- ▶ **Desire For New Theoretical Order**
- ▶ **New outlook towards the UN**
- ▶ **Growing concern For Peace**
- ▶ **Role of International Organizations**
- ▶ **New Outlook towards Regional Alignment**
- ▶ **Resolution of International Disputes**
- ▶ **International Law as key source of IR**
- ▶ **Sovereign States are its Chief Actors**

# Changing Nature of IR

- ▶ **Traditional Nature----centered around Europe, Official relation conducted in secrecy**
- ▶ **Public Opinion**
- ▶ **Balance of Terror----Nuclear Age**
- ▶ **Decolonization**
- ▶ **Non-state actors influence of IR**
- ▶ **Collapse of Soviet Union as a super power**
- ▶ **Role of NAM**
- ▶ **Role of Third World**
- ▶ **Modern nature of IR**

# Scope of IR

- ▶ **Three types of states relations such as Co-operative, Oppositional and Neutral**
- ▶ **Starting stages of IRS focus on study of diplomatic history, narrow study**
- ▶ **Behavioral study of IR after establishment of League of Nation**
- ▶ **Study of foreign policies of the states , military strategies after WWII**
- ▶ **Expansion of horizon of IR in contemporary period**
- ▶ **Following subject matter and areas are studied in IR**
- ▶ **Nation-state system**
- ▶ **National Power**
- ▶ **International Law**

# Scope of IR

- ▶ **International and regional organizations**
- ▶ **Uni -polar, Bi-polar, and Multipolar world order**
- ▶ **International disputes and conflict resolution**
- ▶ **War and Peace**
- ▶ **Ideologies**
- ▶ **Nationalism, Colonialism and Imperialism**
- ▶ **Foreign policy**
- ▶ **National Interest**
- ▶ **Military pacts and alliances**
- ▶ **Arms race, Arms control and Disarmament**

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- ▶ **Economic and trade policies**
- ▶ **Diplomacy**
- ▶ **LPG**
- ▶ **International Political Economy**
- ▶ **Role of Third World Countries**
- ▶ **Pacific resolution of International disputes**
- ▶ **International treaties and pacts**

# Importance of IR

- ▶ **Avoidance of World Wars**
- ▶ **TO remove defects of Nationalism**
- ▶ **Decline of Nation-State Sovereignty**
- ▶ **Educative Values such as Human rights, Environmentalism, Women's empowerment**
- ▶ **TO understand Better World Order**
- ▶ **Avoidance of International Conflicts and Maintains of International peace, security**
- ▶ **To understand Nations behavior**
- ▶ **TO understand Alliance politics**

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- ▶ **To study of basic motives of the states**
- ▶ **To understand International Treaty, Pacts**
- ▶ **Importance of Cooperation rather than Conflict**
- ▶ **To provide feeling of Universal brotherhood**
- ▶ **To study essential for human progress and human survival**