

Growth of International Relations as a Subject

- The earliest text on International Relations for the first time, was written by the Greek historian **Thucydides** (430-406 B.C),
- The Peloponnesian War was introduced with the establishment of the **Woodrow Wilson** chair of International Relations in 1919 at the University College of **Wales**, Aberystwyth, United Kingdom.
- Alfred **Zimmern** was the first holder of this chair. **C.K. Webster** and **E.H. Carr** were among the early scholars of this discipline.
- This subject was offered in **European and American** Universities from the 1920s.
- Simultaneously at several other places, chairs of International Relations were established such as in **Hebrew University**, Jerusalem (1929), Oxford University (1930), the London Academically,
- the study of International Relations School of Economics (1936) and the University of Edinburgh (1948).

- The **First World War** had a deep impact on the development of this new subject in social sciences.
- Before the First World War, according to Alfred **Zimmern**, "There was no teaching of the subject as such, and very little conscious study.
- Grant, Hughes, Greenwood, Kerr and Urruhart wrote the first textbook on International Relations entitled, **An Introduction to the Study of International Relations, (1916, Britain).**
- A few developments around the globe like establishment of **a School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in 1919, U.S.A;**
- Independent School of International Relations at the University of Southern
- California in 1924; the Institute of Advanced International Studies in Paris (1923);
- the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace at Washington, D.C (1910);
- the Union of Democratic Control in England (1914);

- Foreign Policy Association and the Council on **Foreign Relations** in New York (1918);
- **Royal Institute of International Affairs in London** (1920) further helped in the development of IR.
- Several institutes in **Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa** and Pakistan were affiliated with the above institute.
- Further, with the establishment of some more institutes in International Affairs such as **New Commonwealth** Institute in London (1934), renamed as the London Institute of World Affairs; the Institute of International Affairs in **Paris** in 1935;
- Indian **Council of World Affairs in India in 1943** 1 also played a great role in the development of IR.

- Thus, in the early 20th century, International Relations became a **discrete academic** field within Political Science.
- In practice, International Relations was carried out as a separate academic programme or as a subsection of Political Science.
- The courses taught therein were highly **interdisciplinary** in nature

Stages of development of International Relations

- As a well defined academic discipline, International Relations emerged in the first half of the twentieth century.
- **Kenneth Thompson** illustrated a very comprehensive picture of different stages of International Relations which could be enumerated as follows:
- **The first stage** can be termed as **historical** approach where more emphasis was laid on historical analysis rather than on the political study of international events.
- However, this historical approach could not develop a theoretical core for the discipline.

- The **second stage** can be labeled as contemporaneous stage when more emphasis was laid on contemporary issues rather than on history.
- It emerged after the end of First World War.
- This approach totally neglected past, it was also partial.

- The third stage began during the inter-war period when there occurred a paradigm shift from the historical and contemporaneous to a moralistic-legalistic approach.
- Scholars emphasised a war-free world order and suggested creation of organisations like League of Nations.
- However, this approach was too idealistic and ignored the hard realities of international life The fourth stage co

- The fourth stage commenced after the **end of the Second World War** in 1945.
- Now there was a shift from merely praising or condemning different **states' behaviour** but to discover the causes behind such behaviour.
- The emphasis was now **more on understanding**.
- This shift in international relations in the fourth stage was the outcome of **decolonisation, emergence of new nation-states, rise of new universal values, demographic change** etc.
- This shift gave birth to the **Realist** school which believed that power was a means, as well as end in itself.
- International politics was nothing but a struggle for power.
- Morgenthau became its chief proponent.

- The fifth stage started from the mid-sixties to the seventies when international organisation, trans-national institutions and multinational corporations were added to the study of International Relations,
- which resulted in the coming of Neo-liberal school of thought. Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye emerged as its chief proponents who stressed upon interdependence,
- security communities, transnational economic cooperation and creation of an international regime.

- **Kenneth Thompson** opined that the **dependency** theorists reacted to many of the same international economic changes as neoliberals,
- but in a negative sense that was dependence not positive-interdependence.
- These changes resulted in increased intervention by the **US** in the affairs of Third World countries to fulfil her own **economic interests**.

- This further widened the gap between the world's **rich and poor** countries leading to **NorthSouth conflict** and thus generating new debate on the global political agenda.
- Thus for the first time, in this stage, the South demanded the establishment of a New International Economic Order (**NIEO**) which became a subject of analysis in international relations.
- Another development of this stage was the **revival of peace studies**.
- The issues of global stability, world order and control of global violence now got predominance in the international relations.

- The sixth stage may be counted from the late seventies to the first half of eighties.
- In this period, the efficacy of detente was questioned and 'New cold war' emerged which changed the whole scenario.
- On the one hand, the Soviet Union intervened in Afghanistan, on the other, US President Reagan threatened the world by talking of star war programme.
- The whole world got worried about its effect on the environment and ecology.
- Hence, ecological and environmental issues now became the dominant subjects of international relations.

- Hence, ecological and environmental issues now became the dominant subjects of international relations.
- In the same period, **Kenneth Waltz** formulated the **neorealist** theory and transformed the abstract principles of classical realism with a more concrete theory of realism making it more acceptable and much closer to a **scientific study of international relations**.
- The neorealist theory argued for **managing and manipulating the new cold war in the 1980s**.
- With the emergence of the steady process of **multi-polarisation**, the scholars of the United States especially showed interest in third world countries.

- **Area studies** were undertaken by different universities in the US and Britain.
- In many cases, for field data researchers were sent to the third world countries.
- But the Western theories of international relations were challenged by the scholars of the third world countries.
- They questioned the relevance and suitability of these theories to the underdeveloped countries which constitute the two-thirds majority of the UN membership.

- The seventh stage began in 1985 with Mikhail Gorbachev's new political thinking, which recognised "balance of interests" in place of the balance of power, co-operation instead of confrontation, disarmament in place of armament, internationalisation instead of nationalisation and détente in place of cold war.“
- With the advent of this 'new political thinking', international relations entered into a new era putting emphasis on peaceful coexistence and equal security for all

- At first, the US is suspicious about these new moves, but later on, it responded positively to this 'new political thinking'.
- During this period, since the realist and liberalist debate disappeared, the postmodernists came to fill the vacuum.
- Post-modernists or reflectivists argued that norms and regimes could not be studied in a positivist framework based on objectivity,
- but has to be analysed as an inter-subjective phenomenon. This new trend in the 1980s was known as post-positivism.

- The **eighth stage** began with the **disintegration of the Soviet** Union. Republics of the USSR and Yugoslavia became independent states.
- The **supremacy of the US** paved the way for the **unipolar** world as it remained the only **superpower**.
- The third world countries and the countries of the erstwhile disintegrated communist bloc started **seeking economic** aid from the Western countries and especially from the **US**.
- The US started pressurising these countries to accept its terms and conditions for economic aid.

- Thus, through the description of the above **eight-stages**,
- Thompson had aptly analysed how international relations developed from **normative theory** to causal theory, from idealism to realism, from realism to **behaviouralism** and scientism, neoliberalism to radicalism (globalism), neorealism to post-positivism and so on.

- In the **post-cold war period**, there were several issues which gained significance in the study of international relations.
- Some of these were:
- importance of non-state actors,
- energy crisis, terrorism, globalisation,
- the fear of third world war, technological development,
- increasing role of trans-national organisations,
- .

- non-traditional security threats, the NorthSouth debate,
- environmental degradation,
- rise of world oligarchy and world mass,
- nuclearization,
- expansion of weapons of mass destruction, etc