

Foreign Policy Analysis Course

Session#2
Domestic factors in FP





Question Case: Austria vs. Switzerland post-1989



Black box of state

how factors related to societal inputs matter for state in FP?



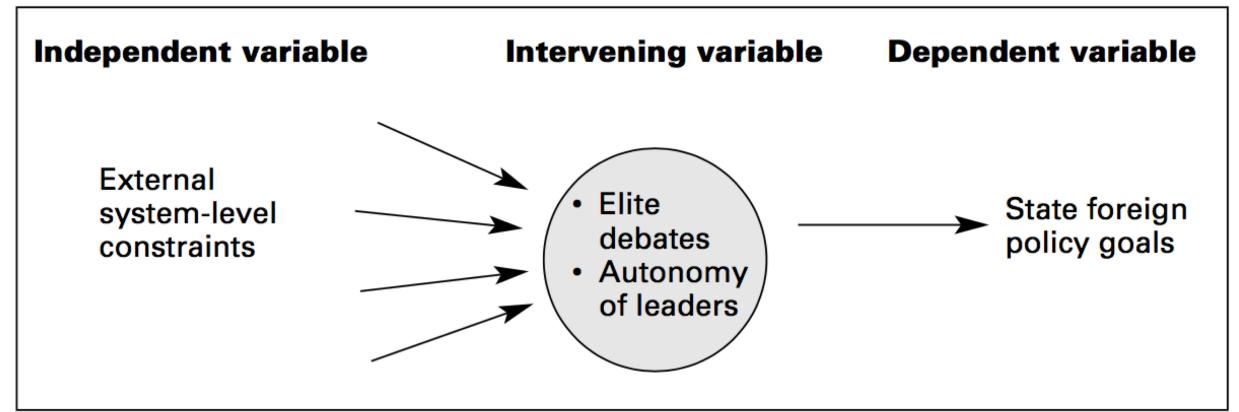
Points of view

- Neo-classical realism vs. Structural realism
- Liberalism
- Social constructivism at state level



Neo-classical realism

anarchy with a domestic face





Neo-classical realism

anarchy with a domestic face

National interest

- To ensure survival and the broader security of the state
- The desire to protect physical, political and cultural identity against encroachment by other nations (Morgenthau)
- Having examined its security requirement, it try to meet them (Waltz)



National identity

(vs. national interest)

how a given states understands its national interest and the role in the world?

Classical (structural) point of view: the same



FP Doctrine: FP interest + identity



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Monroe doctrine

Truman doctrine

de Gaulle doctrine



Sources of national identity

humans are social beings naturally form groups identity: differentiating from other groups

Box 3.1 Identity and the China-Taiwan conflict

Sterling-Folker applies her analytical framework to the China-Taiwan conflict, attempting to show how both external systemic pressures and domestic identity politics drive Chinese, Taiwanese and US foreign policy interests toward each other. The conflict started in 1949 when the nationalist KMT government fled China to Taiwan after it lost in the Chinese civil war. In Taiwan the KMT party declared itself the legitimate government of all of China, and was backed by the US in this claim until the easing of US-Chinese tensions in the early 1970s. This easing of relations resulted in China taking a seat in the UN Security Council, relegating Taiwan to a semi-sovereign status without representation in international organizations, and where only a handful of states in the world officially recognized Taiwan as an independent country. China has maintained since 1949 that Taiwan is a mere rebellious province that should be reintegrated into China, potentially by military force. In Taiwan, the ruling KMT party in the 1980s and 1990s officially supported independence but accepted the status quo.

Sterling-Folker argues that liberals are wrong in thinking that the dramatic increase in economic interdependence in the 1990s and 2000s between the two countries will result in an easing of tensions. She argues that at the system level there is a natural tension between Chinese interests in expanding their power in the region and US interests in balancing against this expansion by supporting Taiwan. Domestically, in both China and Taiwan, groups had strong interests in using the conflict with the other as a means of forging stronger national identities that could be exploited for domestic political gain. For instance, in Taiwan the DPP party won elections in 2000 and 2004 based partly upon its pro-independence stance *vis-à-vis* China, using negative views of the 'Other' for domestic political gains. The nationalistic tactics resulted in more aggressive, pro-independence Taiwanese foreign policy goals *vis-à-vis* China (see also Clark 2007).

Yet recent events in Taiwan have also shown that analysts of foreign policy preferences should not read too much into events over the short term as Sterling-Folker has. The elections in 2008 brought the more conciliatory KMT party back to power, shifting the Taiwanese foreign policy goal away from independence; and recent developments have included a major trade agreement in 2010 that has cemented the thawing of relations.



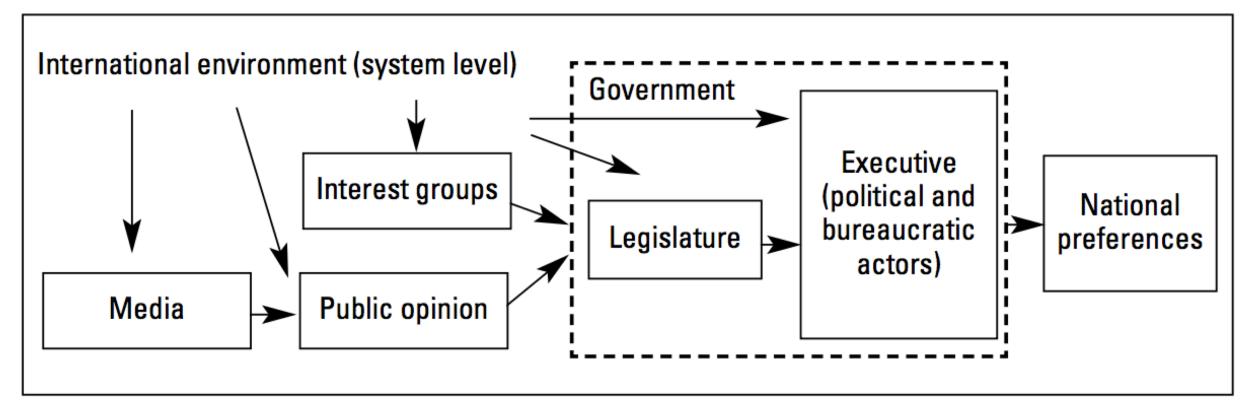
10/15/23 thawing of relations.



Liberalism: Opening the black box

Public opinion, interest groups, bureaucracy Reflect societal demands





National preferences are the result of the aggregation of societal demands through a country's political system



Public opinion

conclusions came to be termed the Almond-Lippmann thesis. The thesis implied that the US government should not listen to public opinion, as the uninformed mood swings would result in foreign policies that do not reflect the national interest, however defined. These findings neatly dovetailed into the then popular classical realist theorization, where figures such as Morgenthau and Carr believed that state leaders would best follow the national interest by ignoring public opinion.



Public opinion

Turning back to the more general theoretical discussion of how public opinion is aggregated into national preferences, there are two mechanisms that have been investigated in the US context for how public opinion can theoretically matter: one is the direct electoral channel and the second is the more indirect one through the popularity of the president and the ensuing political capital in Congress that high approval ratings give the president.



Election & FP

lenged. Aldrich et al. (1989), however, found that public opinion on foreign affairs mattered for voter choice when: (1) voters actually held attitudes toward the foreign policy, (2) citizens accessed those attitudes for use when evaluating and choosing between candidates, and (3) when parties and candidates presented citizens with different foreign policy choices. The scholarly consensus today is that public opinion does use of military force (Knecht and Weatherford 2006). Further, public opinion matters most in crisis situations, whereas it matters less in more routine, non-crisis issues such as foreign trade or aid. (See Table



Media: framing effects



Interest groups

economic, ethnic, business, labor, cultural, religious, racial...











At the heart of this literature is the assumption that executives want to remain in office, making them dependent upon societal support to varying degrees. In autocratic systems, this can entail ensuring support from institutions such as the military or key bureaucratic actors, whereas in democratic systems an executive needs the support of a larger set of societal and governmental actors.

Domestic political institutions



legislature in foreign policy-making. Most important is the number of 'veto players' in foreign policy-making, with 'veto players' defined as actors that have the power to veto a given decision (Tsebelis 1995). This factor is especially crucial when executives negotiate international agreements that have to be ratified by domestic legislatures, where decision-making rules for approval determine how much the executive must listen to domestic veto players (Milner 1997). In parliamentary systems where a government enjoys a large majority, the prime minister as head of government has quite free hands to negotiate deals, whereas in minority or coalition governments the executive is forced to accommodate the interests of a parliamentary majority. Veto players are usually more influential in presidential systems such as the US, where powers are split between the president and Congress (see Box

Domestic political institutions



research is that the US president enjoys relatively strong powers vis-à-vis Congress in foreign policy in comparison to his weaker powers in domestic law making, leading some scholars to comment on the nature of the 'dual presidency' (strong foreign policy and weaker domestic



Strong liberalism: fundamental transformation

fundamental *transformations* in the nature of relations between and within states can take place

Neo-functionalism is a theory that explains how the participation of governmental and non-governmental elites in international institutions can transform state interests from being purely centered on national interests toward a more cooperative understanding of interests.

Social constructivism interest and identity construction



importance of ideas, norms and culture for foreign policy and international relations

Discursive formations are the product of processes of domestic identity construction, influenced by external events. Looking at Russia, Hopf (2005: 238) argues that 'while Russian identity has deep daily roots, its great power identity is in a daily construction project with the external world, especially with the US and Europe. Interaction with the US and Europe produces, reinforces, and counteracts the discourses of Russian identity at home'.

Post-structuralism the politics of identity and securitization theory



no single 'objective' truth or reality perceive the social world through language

language is not a neutral medium

threats are not just 'objective' threats



Securitization

A threat has been constructed when an audience believes that 'if we do not tackle this problem, everything else will be irrelevant



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