

# Oct 9-10 (week 6) Fusion: the Neo-Neo debate

## Assigned Readings

Dunne text: Bruce Russett, "Liberalism" (ch. 5) and Jennifer Sterling-Folker, "Neoliberalism" (ch. 6)

Robert Keohane (2012) "Hegemony and After," *Foreign Affairs*, 91(4): 114-118

# Neorealism and its Critics

- for Waltz, less is more
- strong advocate of parsimony
- theory v. reality: a core distinction



# Theory a deliberate retreat from reality—an abstraction



Map of London transport



Topological map of London transport

**IR = international system with a defined  
*Structure***

***defining principles***

- 1. anarchy/self-help /unit function (survival)***
- 2. Distribution of capabilities***



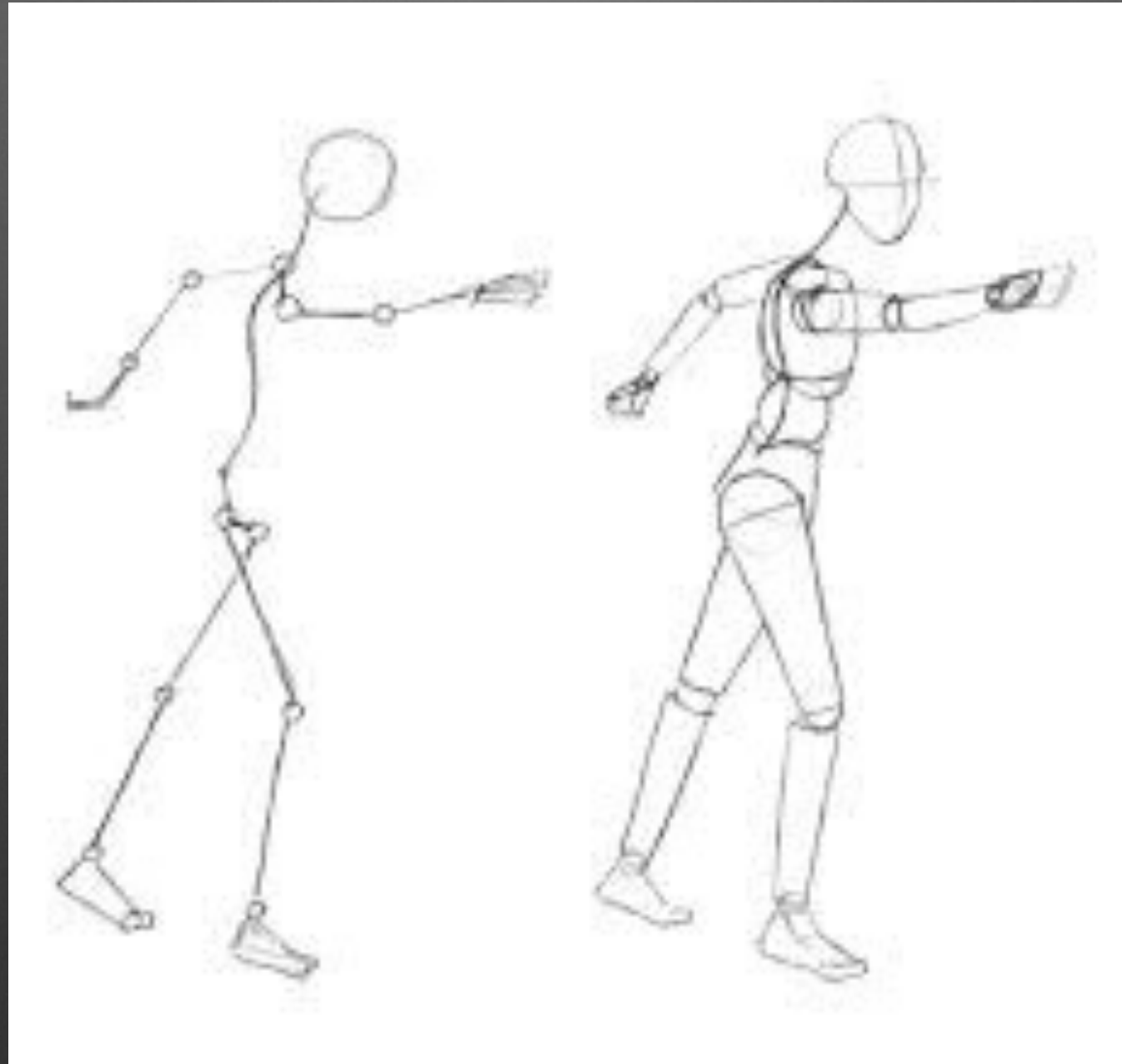
# *Neorealism and its critics*

## (1986)

- with some exceptions, this book starts with and typifies a desire to “amend and augment the theory in a manner that is not incompatible with its basic realist precepts,” Ruggie
- Waltz is less wrong than overly stark or spare in his structural realism
- especially thin on related issues of systems change & cooperation (for Waltz there is only *systemic* change it seems)

# parsimonious, but *too* parsimonious?

Neorealism



its critics

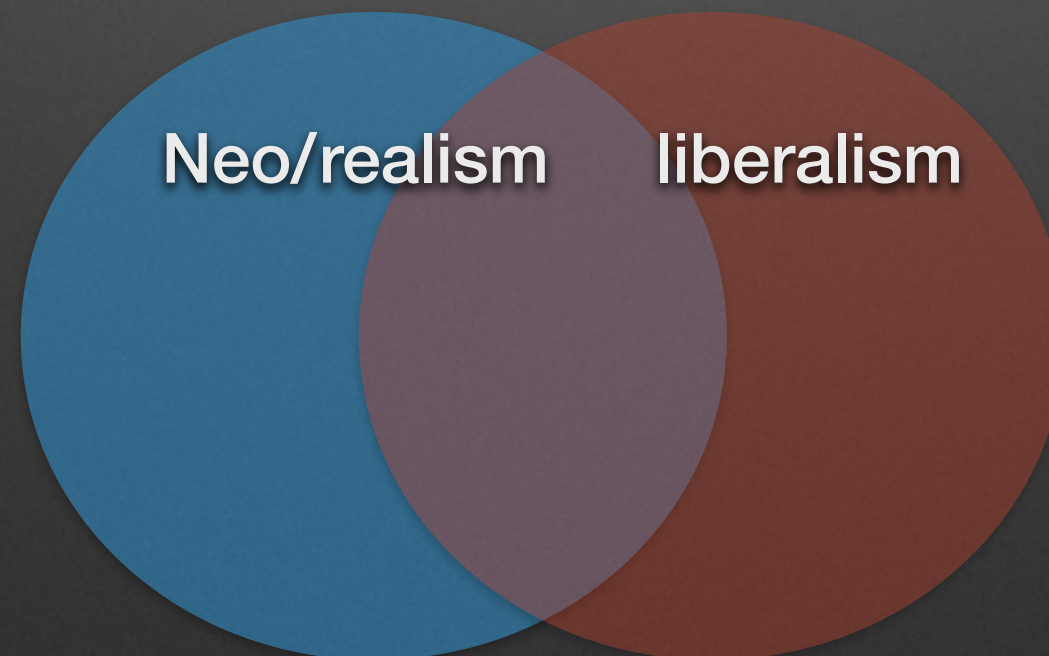
# a simple equation?

- (Neo) from realism + liberalism = neo-liberalism



# Neoliberalism defined

- anarchy a bedrock assumption (as per Neorealism) but permits far greater cooperation—and more potential change—than is typically acknowledged













# Is this a new insight?

- no: recall Hedley Bull, *The Anarchical Society*
- but new for American IR
- two major sources

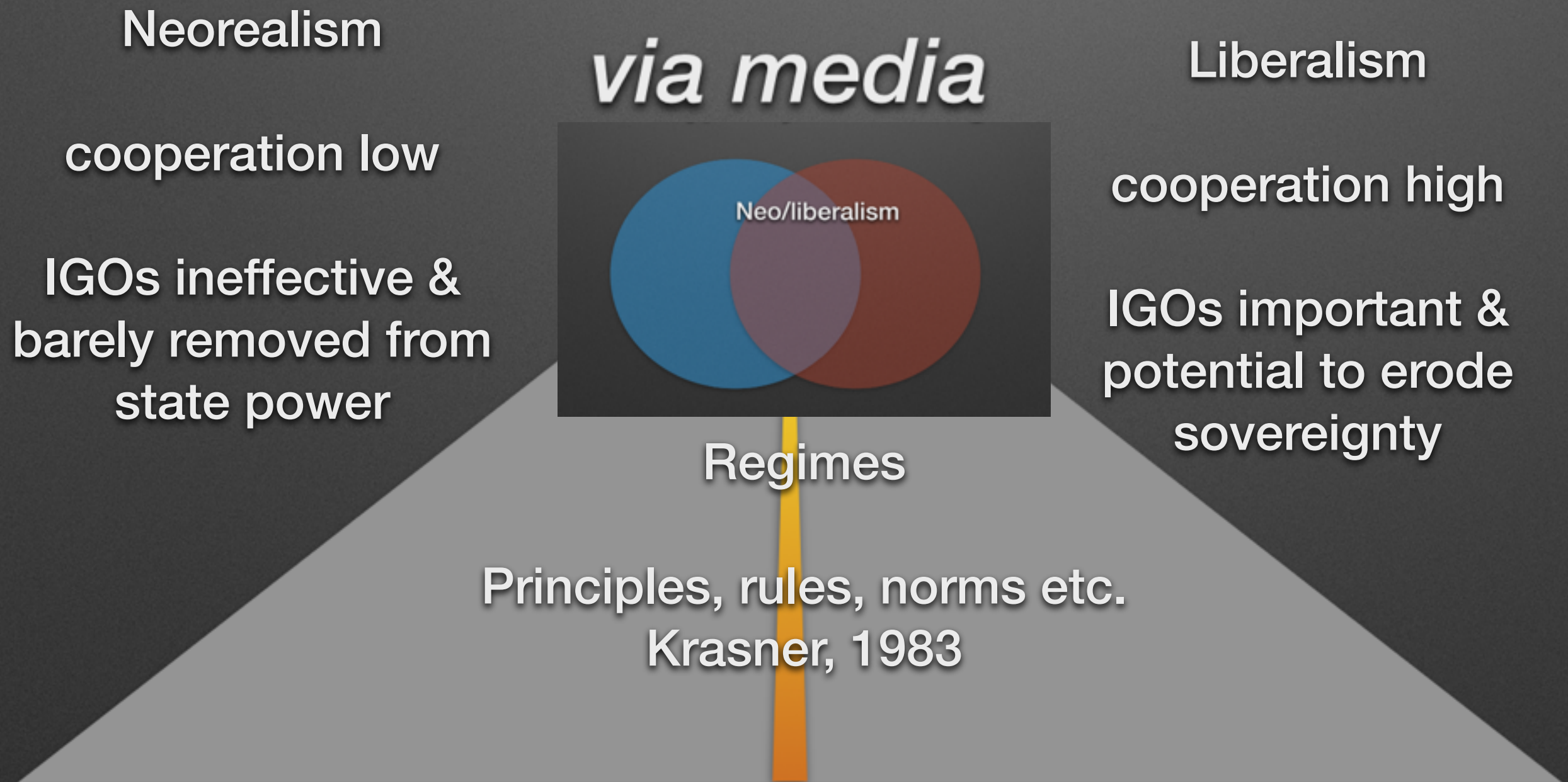
# 1. Game theory

- Robert Axelrod, *The Evolution of Cooperation*, 1984

Prisoners' dilemma		prisoner B			
		confess		remain silent	
prisoner A	confess	 5 years	 5 years	 0 year	 20 years
	remain silent	 20 years	 0 year	 1 year	 1 year



## 2. Regime theory





# Regimes and US power

- lags and leads
- short versus long term decline