

The holy trinity of IR theory circa 1970

Mainstream IR (classical & positivist approaches)								
Realism			Liberalism			Marxism		
the classical tradition								
approaches, traditions, sub models, & relevant theorists unit/level of analysis	classical realism Morgenthau Carr Hoffmann English School Bull Watson Wight states		Neorealism Waltz Gilpn Mearsheimer	economic liberalism Kindleberger Lipson	Kantian liberalism Doyle Moravcsik	classical (Marxist-Leninist theories)	dependencia Prebisch Cardoso Gunder-Frank Dos Santos Baran Magdoff world system theory Wallerstein Richardson	critical theory (non-positivist) Cox Linklater Neufeld Hoffman sources: Adorno Horkheimer Habermas Gramsci
			neoliberalism regime theory hegemonic stability theory Buzan, Keohane, Grieco, Axelrod, Krasner		idealism Angell Zimmern Toynbee liberal feminism			
unit/level of analysis			states system	states, individuals group & institutions	individuals & institutions	class	classes & states system	classes & groups
prospects for change	low	modest	low	modest to high (variable by area)	high	high	low to modest	fluid (progress permanently in question)
definition of progress	stability growth of international society		stability/ survival relative gain	increased interdependence, cooperation, & prosperity absolute gains	transnational spread of democratic institutions & values	demise or radical change of states system	end or reversal of uneven/ under-development	end of marginal status of oppressed
central concepts/ issues/related approaches	national interest balance of power anarchy society		anarchy structure polarity independence	IGOs international law & commerce	international law cosmopolitanism human rights world federalism	imperialism relations of production	core & periphery comprador elites	emancipation cultural hegemony

The world of Holsti

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Mainstream IR (classical & positivist approaches)							non & post positivist approaches									
Realism			Liberalism		Marxism											
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approaches, traditions, sub models, & relevant theorists	classical realism Morgenthau Carr Hoffmann		Neorealism Waltz Gilpn Mearsheimer	economic liberalism Kindleberger Lipson	Kantian liberalism Doyle Moravcsik	classical (Marxist-Leninist theories)	dependencia Prebisch Cardoso Gunder-Frank Dos Santos Baran Magdoff	critical theory (non-positivist) Cox Linklater Neufeld Hoffman	political philosophy Normative theory (NKIR) Frost Beitz Rengger O'Neil Pogge	constructivism Wendt Onuf Kratochwil Katzenstein	feminisms empirical Tickner	post-structuralism (post-modernism) Ashley George Der Derian Campbell				
			neoliberalism regime theory hegemonic stability theory Buzan, Keohane, Grieco, Axelrod, Krasner		normative theory NKIR non positivist								idealism Angell Zimmern Toynbee	world system theory Wallerstein Richardson	sources: Adorno Horkheimer Habermas Gramsci	communitarian Brown Spegele Walker
	constructivism emerges here but pursues post-positivist epistemology															
unit/level of analysis	states		states system	states, individuals group & institutions	individuals & institutions	class	classes & states system	classes & groups	states/ communities	states	gender	individual/ identity/ narrative				
prospects for change	low	modest	low	modest to high (variable by area)	high	high	low to modest	fluid (progress permanently in question)	modest	modest to high	modest	uncertain relevance				
definition of progress	stability growth of international society		stability/ survival relative gain	increased interdependence, cooperation, & prosperity absolute gains	transnational spread of democratic institutions & values	demise or radical change of states system	end or reversal of uneven/ under-development	end of marginal status of oppressed	greater clarification of ethical dimensions of IR	increased cooperation thru more effective norms	unmasking of false & gendered “truth” claims expanding menu of IR	unmasking false & “privileged” discourses				
central concepts/ issues/related approaches	national interest balance of power anarchy society		anarchy structure polarity independence	IGOs international law & commerce	international law cosmopolitanism human rights world federalism	imperialism relations of production	core & periphery comprador elites	emancipation cultural hegemony	cosmopolitan interests human rights international ethics deontology	ontology social meanings norms	homesteading androcentrism	deconstruction inter-textuality meta-narrative				