

**Disclaimer: Although I have taken great care in compiling these notes, please let me know if you find a word/phrase/example inappropriate or offensive for you while reading the examples.**

## Interdependence

IB Guide book defines: In global politics, the concept of interdependence most often refers to the mutual reliance between and among groups, organizations, geographic areas and/or states for access to resources that sustain living arrangements. Often, this mutual reliance is economic (such as trade), but can also have a security dimension (such as defense arrangements) and, increasingly, a sustainability dimension (such as environmental treaties). Globalization has increased interdependence, while often changing the relationships of power among the various actors engaged in global politics.

[8 Mins video on Interdependence](#)  
[my video on Interdependence on youtube](#). 18 mins!

## IGOs:

IGOs, or intergovernmental organizations, are organizations that are made up of sovereign states and are formed to achieve specific goals or objectives. These organizations can play a significant role in global politics as they can help coordinate the actions of different states and serve as a platform for international cooperation. Some examples of IGOs include the United Nations (UN), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

One of the **main roles of IGOs** is to promote international cooperation and address global challenges such as poverty, climate change, and conflict. They do this by establishing rules and standards, providing a forum for dialogue and negotiation, and assisting with the implementation of programs and projects. For example, the UN has a number of specialized agencies that work on issues such as health, education, and economic development.

IGOs can also have a **significant impact on global politics** as they can shape international relations and influence the policies of member states. For example, the WTO sets rules for international trade and

dispute resolution and has the power to impose sanctions on member states that violate its rules. The IMF, on the other hand, provides financial assistance to member states experiencing economic difficulties and can require them to adopt certain economic policies in exchange for this assistance.

One recent example of the role and impact of IGOs is the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The World Health Organization (WHO) has played a leading role in coordinating the global response to the pandemic, providing guidance on the management of the disease and assisting with the procurement of vaccines. The UN has also played a role in addressing the economic and social impacts of the pandemic through its various agencies.

## Collective Security:

Collective security is a concept in international relations that refers to the idea that the security of each state is interconnected and that an attack against one state should be considered an attack against all states. Collective security is often associated with the idea of a "common defense" in which member states agree to take collective action to address security threats.

IGOs can play a role in promoting collective security by establishing mechanisms for the peaceful resolution of disputes and for the collective management of security threats. For example, the United Nations (UN) has a number of mechanisms in place for the peaceful resolution of disputes, including the International Court of Justice and the UN Charter's provisions for the peaceful settlement of disputes.

In addition, the UN has a number of mechanisms for the collective management of security threats, including the Security Council, which has the authority to take a variety of measures to maintain international peace and security, including the use of sanctions and the authorization of the use of force. The UN also has a number of peacekeeping missions that are deployed to conflict-affected countries to help restore and maintain peace and security.

Overall, the role of collective security in IGOs is to help promote international cooperation and address security threats in a way that is peaceful and respectful of international law.

**Task:** Considering the below questions make a short presentation on IGOs

1. Evaluate the effectiveness of Collective Security in responding to threats from state and non-state actors. (M2019)
2. Discuss the claim that intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) reduce conflicts. (N2020)
3. Evaluate the function and impact of one of the following in dealing with global challenges: Political Parties or IGOs or MNCs or Informal Forums (N2017)

## UNO:

The United Nations (UN) is an international organization founded in 1945 with the aim of promoting international cooperation and resolving international conflicts. It consists of 193 member states and has a number of specialized agencies that deal with a wide range of issues, from development and humanitarian assistance to peacekeeping and security. The United Nations (UN) is composed of six main organs:

1. The General Assembly: This is the main deliberative body of the UN, comprising all 193 member states. The General Assembly meets annually and is responsible for discussing and coordinating on international issues.
2. The Security Council: This is the body responsible for maintaining international peace and security. The Security Council has the power to take a range of measures, including imposing sanctions and authorizing the use of military force.
3. The International Court of Justice: This is the main judicial body of the UN and is responsible for settling legal disputes between states and rendering advisory opinions on legal questions.
4. The Secretariat: This is the UN's administrative arm and is responsible for carrying out the day-to-day work of the organization. The Secretariat is headed by the Secretary-General, who is appointed by the General Assembly.
5. The Economic and Social Council: This is the main body for coordinating economic, social, and environmental issues. It is responsible for implementing the policies and programs developed by the UN in these areas.
6. The Trusteeship Council: This council oversaw the administration of trust territories and ensured that they were prepared for self-governance. It has suspended its operations since the last trust territory, Palau, became independent in 1994.

In addition to these main organs, the UN also has a number of specialized agencies that focus on specific areas such as health (World Health Organization), education (UNESCO), and refugees (UNHCR).

One example of the UN's role in global politics is its peacekeeping efforts. The UN deploys peacekeeping missions to conflict-affected areas around the world with the goal of creating the conditions for lasting peace. For example, the UN has recently deployed peacekeeping missions to countries such as the Central African Republic, Mali, and South Sudan.

Another example of the UN's role in global politics is its work on sustainable development. The UN has adopted a number of development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which aim to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure peace and prosperity for all. The UN works with member states and other partners to help countries achieve these goals through initiatives such as the UN Development Programme and the UN Children's Fund.

Overall, the UN plays a vital role in global politics by promoting cooperation and addressing a wide range of issues that affect the international community.

**Task:** Considering the below questions make a short presentation.

Justify the claim that the structure of the United Nations (UN) limits its ability to preserve peace and security (N2021)

A few resources:

- The role of ICJ in [a case study](#).
- [U.N. peacekeeping really can be effective. Here's how we tabulated this.](#)
- [Why Is No One Talking About UNSC Reform Anymore?](#)
- [10 Hard Realities About the U.N. on Its Troubled 75th Anniversary](#)

## NGOs:

[Understanding the Global Community - Nongovernmental Organizations 8 mins video](#)

NGOs, or non-governmental organizations, play a significant role in global politics by advocating for various causes, providing services, and acting as a bridge between citizens and governments. They can bring

attention to pressing issues, such as human rights violations, environmental degradation, and poverty, and can work to bring about change at the local, national, and international levels. NGOs can also provide much-needed services, such as healthcare, education, and disaster relief, in areas where governments are unable or unwilling to do so.

One recent example of the impact of NGOs in global politics is the role they have played in the fight against COVID-19. Many NGOs have provided critical support to communities affected by the pandemic, including through the distribution of personal protective equipment, food aid, and medical supplies. They have also worked to raise awareness about the importance of vaccination and to advocate for equitable distribution of vaccines around the world. Additionally, NGOs have played a key role in pushing for greater transparency and accountability from governments and international organizations in their response to the pandemic.


One specific example of an NGO that has made an impact in global politics is Doctors Without Borders (also known by its French name, Médecins Sans Frontières or MSF). This organization is a humanitarian NGO that provides medical care and assistance to people affected by conflict, natural disasters, and other emergencies. It was founded in 1971 and now operates in more than 70 countries around the world. One recent example of the work of Doctors Without Borders is the organization's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The organization has set up treatment centers and provided care to COVID-19 patients in countries around the world, including Italy, India, and South Africa. In addition, Doctors Without Borders has worked to raise awareness about the importance of vaccination and has advocated for equitable access to vaccines for people in low-income and conflict-affected countries. Additionally, Doctors Without Borders has played a significant role in advocating for the protection of healthcare workers and facilities during conflicts. The organization has documented attacks on healthcare workers and facilities in conflict zones and has called for greater respect for international humanitarian law, which requires parties to a conflict to protect healthcare workers and facilities.

**Task:** Considering the below questions make a short presentation.

1. "NGOs have a limited impact on Glopo." Discuss this view. (N2018)
2. 'Non-state actors have a significant impact on the power of the states.' Evaluate this claim using two of the following types of non state actors: (M2021)  
NGOs; MNCs ; Trade Unions
3. "The contribution of states to sustainable development is greater than that of non-governmental organizations (NGOs)." Evaluate this view. (M2023)

4. Examine the claim that state sovereignty is challenged by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and non-state actors such as intergovernmental organizations (IGOs).

A few resources:

- [NGOs in global politics and state sovereignty](#)
- A google slides on [NON-STATE ACTORS IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD](#)
-  NGOs As Engines of Human Rights Protection

## MNCs (MultiNational Companies)

Multinational corporations are businesses that operate in two or more countries. Their purpose is to create profit, which means they want to make money. They are often private businesses, meaning they are not owned or controlled by a state. In this sense MNCs are non-state actors in global politics. Multinational corporations are one of the most important elements of economic globalization (Its connection to the concept of Globalisation). In other words, they are the actors that are creating deeper market integration between countries. Because they operate in two or more states, they are capable of easily moving raw materials, manufactured goods, knowledge, and human resources across borders. Multinational Corporations are very wealthy. This accumulation of wealth is a form of power (Its connection to the concept of power). Some corporations have more yearly revenue than states. Furthermore, due to their control over global supply chains and systems of production MNCs have immense power to control the distribution of resources. MNCs control vast sums of wealth that can be moved across borders and this wealth can be used to obtain influence in local and international governments. Political donations by corporations in the United States is a particularly controversial issue. Multinational corporations have contributed to growing interdependence (another key concept called Interdependence). Many countries rely on foreign direct investment (FDI) from MNCs. The global supply chains created by MNCs create connections between states that are difficult to remove without causing massive economic disruption. In many ways, MNCs underpin the global trading system and the assumption that global market integration is a positive development in global politics. Furthermore, economic changes at a local or regional level can

cause disruptions abroad due to the connections created by MNCs, widening the impact of recessions and economic downturns.

#### Advantages and Disadvantages:

- They provide investment to other countries around the world. They carry a capital flow to a developing country that can boost growth in the economy of host countries.
- They create jobs and hence, reduce poverty in other countries.
- They encourage the development of infrastructure: roads, bridges, energy infrastructure.
- They can bring technology to other countries.
- They create access to world markets for companies operating in other countries.

But the critics of multinational corporations say that multinational corporations, on balance, have a negative impact:

- Multinational corporations serve to decapitalize other countries, that is, taking away profit. They take money and resources out of other countries and bring it to the home country, the headquarters country.
- They argue also that multinational corporations can create inequality around the world because some companies will pay very well and that will lead to income inequality in other countries around the world. They also argue that multinational corporations exploit poor workers, poor communities, and poor countries by running sweatshops (an example of Bangladesh, Vietnam, and Malaysia).
- They also create dependence. As multinational corporations, in some parts of the world, become increasingly exploitative, these other countries may depend increasingly on Company X for example.
- And, finally, there's the argument that multinational corporations stifle domestic innovation and economic activity, by virtue of the fact they expand around the world, it makes very difficult for companies in any of these other countries to actually get going, to establish market share, because the big companies can take advantage of the economies of scale and dominate the marketplace.

#### Citizenship vs MNC's membership?

Many multinational corporations provide pension funds to their employees. They provide a sense of

identity. To the point where some have even begun to question whether or not more of our identities are being wrapped up with our employers than they are with our sense of being citizens of a state. Well, that time may be a long time in the future, but it's still the case that multinational corporations today are among the most important and contentious non-state actors in global politics

**IB Question: Task: Considering the below questions make a short presentation.**

'Non-state actors have a significant impact on the power of the states.' Evaluate this claim using two of the following types of non state actors: (M2021)

NGOs

MNCs

Trade Unions

A few resources:

- [These 25 Companies Are More Powerful Than Many Countries](#)
- [10 Companies That Are More Powerful Than You Realized](#)
- ["Nestlé has always controlled the prices of coffee and have exploited coffee producers not just in Mexico but at a global level, for decades"](#)
- ['Barbaric': Adani's giant coal mine granted unlimited water license for 60 years](#)

## Trade Unions:

Trade unions can have a significant impact on global politics, as they represent the interests of workers and can advocate for policies that support workers' rights and protections. For example, trade unions can influence the political decisions of governments, particularly in regards to labor laws and regulations.

One recent example of the impact of trade unions on global politics is the role that they played in the "Yellow Vest" protests in France in 2018 and 2019. The protests, which were initially sparked by fuel tax increases, quickly evolved into a broader movement against the policies of the French government, including issues related to labor and economic inequality. Trade unions in France played a significant role in organizing and participating in the protests, and the movement had a major impact on the political landscape in France, leading to policy changes and the resignation of the French Prime Minister.



**IB Question: Task: Considering the below questions make a short presentation.**

'Non-state actors have a significant impact on the power of the states.' Evaluate this claim using two of the following types of non state actors: (M2021)

NGOs

MNCs

Trade Unions

## **Social movements:**

A social movement is a group of individuals or organizations that come together to promote or resist social, cultural, political, or economic change. Social movements are often characterized by their grassroots nature, as they are often made up of ordinary people who are motivated by a desire to bring about social change. Social movements may use a variety of tactics to achieve their goals, such as protests, civil disobedience, lobbying, and social media campaigns, among others.

In the context of global politics, social movements can have a significant impact on the international political landscape. For example, social movements can raise awareness of global issues and put pressure on governments and international organizations to address them. They can also inspire similar movements in other countries, leading to a ripple effect of social and political change. In recent years, social media has enabled social movements to mobilize and organize more quickly and efficiently, and has given them a platform to disseminate their message to a wider audience.

One recent example of the impact of social movements on global politics is the Black Lives Matter movement, which began in 2013 and gained widespread attention and support in the wake of the murder of George Floyd in May 2020. The movement, which advocates for the rights and safety of Black individuals and communities, has influenced political discourse and policy changes in countries around the world, including the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada. In the United States, for example, the movement has led to the passage of new laws and executive orders addressing police reform, racial

discrimination, and other issues related to racial justice. It has also inspired similar movements and protests against racial injustice in other countries.

## Resistance movement:

A resistance movement is a group of individuals or organizations that actively oppose and seek to overthrow a government or occupying power, often through violent or non-violent means. Resistance movements may seek to resist an occupying power, a dictator, or an oppressive regime, and may advocate for political, social, or economic changes.

Resistance movements can have a significant impact on global politics, especially when they are successful in overthrowing a government or achieving their goals. For example, resistance movements have played a significant role in the decolonization of many countries, and have helped to bring about regime change in a number of countries around the world. In some cases, resistance movements have inspired similar movements in other countries, leading to a wave of social and political change.

One recent example of a resistance movement is the pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong, which began in 2019 and has continued to the present day. The movement, which is made up of a broad coalition of individuals and organizations, has been protesting against the erosion of Hong Kong's autonomy and freedoms by the Chinese government. The movement has used a variety of tactics, including protests, civil disobedience, and online campaigning, to advocate for democratic reforms and greater autonomy for Hong Kong. The movement has had a significant impact on global politics, as it has drawn widespread international attention and has put pressure on governments around the world to address the situation in Hong Kong.

## Violent protest movement:

1. [Understanding Revolutions: Explore the powerful political movements that can reshape forms of government.](#)
2. [Economics, demography and social media only partly explain the protests roiling so many countries today](#)
3. [Why are so many countries witnessing mass protests?](#)
4. [Do today's global protests have anything in common?](#)

## 5. [The success of nonviolent civil resistance: Erica Chenoweth at TEDx](#)

A violent protest movement is a group of individuals or organizations that use or advocate for the use of violence in order to achieve their goals. This can include physical attacks on people or property, or the threat of such attacks, in order to coerce or intimidate others into supporting their cause.

Violent protest movements can have a significant impact on the power of states and governments, especially when they are able to successfully challenge or overthrow an existing government or regime. However, the use of violence in protest can also have negative consequences, as it can lead to injury or loss of life, damage to infrastructure and property, and can undermine the legitimacy of the movement's cause.

One example of a violent protest movement that has had a significant impact on global politics is the Palestinian resistance movement, which has been ongoing for several decades. The movement, which is made up of a number of different groups, has used a variety of tactics, including violence and extremism, to resist Israeli occupation and to advocate for the establishment of a Palestinian state. The conflict has resulted in significant casualties and has had a profound impact on the power dynamics in the Middle East.

Another example of a violent protest movement is the Kurdish resistance movement, which has been active in a number of countries in the Middle East, including Turkey, Syria, and Iraq. The movement, which is made up of a number of different Kurdish groups, has used violence, including extremism and guerrilla warfare, to resist government oppression and to advocate for Kurdish autonomy or independence. The conflict has had a significant impact on the power of the governments involved, and has strained relations between the Kurds and other ethnic groups in the region.

**IB Question: Task: Considering the below questions make a short presentation.**

[Discuss the impact of resistance and social movements on Glopo.](#)

**Political Parties:**

Political parties are organizations that seek to influence public policy and government by nominating and supporting candidates for public office. Political parties typically align themselves with certain ideological or policy positions, and may have a broad base of support that includes a variety of interest groups and individuals. In most democratic systems, political parties play a central role in the electoral process and in the formation and operation of government.

Political parties can have a significant impact on global politics, both through the policies they advocate for and the candidates they support. For example, a political party that promotes free trade and globalization may advocate for policies that have a global impact, such as the negotiation of international trade agreements. Similarly, a political party that emphasizes the importance of addressing climate change may advocate for international policies to reduce carbon emissions and address environmental concerns.

One recent example of the impact of political parties on global politics is the election of Joe Biden as President of the United States in 2020. Biden, a member of the Democratic Party, ran on a platform that included a number of policy positions that had significant implications for global politics. For example, Biden promised to re-enter the United States into the Paris Climate Agreement, an international treaty designed to combat climate change, and to engage in more cooperative relations with other countries on a range of issues, including trade, security, and human rights. The election of Biden and the Democratic Party has the potential to significantly alter the direction of U.S. foreign policy and to have a corresponding impact on global politics.

**IB Question: Task: Considering the below question/s make a short presentation.**

Evaluate the function and impact of one of the following in dealing with global challenges:

1. Political Parties
2. IGOs
3. MNCs
4. Informal Forums

**Informal Forums:**

Informal forums are gatherings or meetings that take place outside of the formal structure of international organizations or governments. These forums can serve a variety of functions, such as providing a platform for countries to discuss issues of mutual concern, establish informal networks and relationships, and coordinate actions. Informal forums can also have an impact on global politics by influencing decision-making processes within formal international organizations or by setting the agenda for future formal meetings.

However, unlike an IGO, informal forums are not permanent. Instead, they operate as an annual meeting or conference. For example, the World Economic Forum (WEF) meets once a year in Davos, Switzerland. As a result, informal forums are sometimes called informal international organizations (IIGOs). IIGOs are subject to no formal treaty and/or have no permanent secretariat (a permanent secretariat or other significant institutionalization such as a headquarters and/or permanent staff). Various IIGOs such as the “G groups” are a case in point: international policymakers regularly use G-20 venues to discuss the world’s biggest financial challenges; G-8 summits are attended by the world’s most powerful heads of state and vehemently criticized by ardent protestors. The G8 summit brings leaders together not so they can dream up quick fixes, but to talk and think about them together. Examples also abound where weaker states use IIGOs as forums in international politics—the BRIC nations, for example, have increasingly used their forum to negotiate with powerful states and IGOs.

IIGOs have the advantage of:

- Lower sovereignty costs
- Greater flexibility/ avoid binding commitment
- More control over information and access
- States can also exchange information easier and quicker—especially in crisis settings—when rigid organizational structure does not present a bureaucratic burden.

One example of an informal forum is the G20 (Group of Twenty), which is a forum for international economic cooperation that brings together leaders from 20 of the world's largest economies. The G20 holds annual summits and works to promote economic growth, financial stability, and international trade. In recent years, the G20 has played a significant role in addressing a range of global economic challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change. In the past, the G20 has played a significant role in addressing the global financial crisis and promoting international trade.

**IB Question: Task: Considering the below question/s make a short presentation.**

Evaluate the function and impact of one of the Informal forums in dealing with global challenges. (Not an IB question).

## **Global Governance:**

Global governance refers to the rules, norms, and institutions that guide the behavior of countries and other actors in the international system. It encompasses a wide range of issues, including economic, environmental, social, and security-related matters. The goal of global governance is to address global challenges that cannot be effectively dealt with by individual countries alone, such as climate change, pandemics, and financial crises. From a liberal perspective, GG is a key priority. It allows states to react to- and solve- problems that they have in common and that, if left unresolved, would impact on more than one state.

(Difference between Global Government and governance- global government is not a process it is an actual body or organization, whereas governance is a dynamic process with various actors and power balances.)

There are many different actors involved in global governance, including international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and multinational corporations. International organizations, such as the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, and the International Monetary Fund, play a central role in global governance by setting rules and standards, facilitating cooperation, and providing a forum for dialogue and dispute resolution. NGOs and multinational corporations also play important roles in shaping global governance by advocating for particular issues and influencing decision-making processes. In a nutshell the features in points are:

- Polycentrism- It is multiple rather than singular, having different institutional framework and decision making mechanisms in different issue areas.
- Intergovernmentalism-idea that national governments have the most important role.
- Mixed actor involvement- blurring of public private divide

- Multi level processes - It operates through interaction between groups & institutions at various levels (municipal, provincial, national, regional & global) with no single level enjoying predominance over others.

Effective global governance is essential for addressing global challenges and promoting stability and prosperity around the world. There are many examples of successful global governance, although it can be challenging to define success in this context. Some examples of global governance initiatives that have had a positive impact include:

1. The Montreal Protocol: This international treaty, which was adopted in 1987, aims to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the use of ozone-depleting substances. The treaty has been successful in significantly reducing the use of these substances and has helped to repair the ozone layer.
2. The International Criminal Court (ICC): The ICC is an international tribunal that prosecutes individuals for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. The ICC has successfully brought many high-profile individuals to justice and has played a significant role in promoting accountability for serious crimes.
3. The World Health Organization (WHO): The WHO is an international organization that works to promote global health and prevent the spread of disease. The WHO has had many successes, including the eradication of smallpox, the development of guidelines for treating HIV/AIDS, and the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. The Paris Agreement: The Paris Agreement is an international treaty that aims to combat climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The agreement has been successful in bringing together countries from around the world to address this global challenge.

However, global governance can be difficult to achieve due to a variety of challenges, including conflicting interests among countries, limited power and authority of international organizations, and political obstacles. There are a number of reasons why global governance may not be functioning effectively in global politics. Some of the challenges include:

1. Lack of cooperation among countries: Global governance requires countries to work together and cooperate to address global challenges. However, countries may have conflicting interests or

disagree on the best course of action, which can make it difficult for global governance to function effectively.

2. Limited power and authority of international organizations: Many international organizations that are responsible for global governance, such as the United Nations, do not have the power to enforce their decisions or sanctions. This can make it difficult for them to effectively address global challenges.
3. Limited representation and inclusivity: Some international organizations may not be representative of all countries or regions, which can lead to a lack of inclusivity and credibility.
4. Lack of funding and resources: Global governance often requires significant financial resources to be effective. However, many international organizations do not have access to the necessary funds to carry out their work.
5. Political obstacles: Political factors, such as domestic politics and the influence of powerful countries, can also hinder the effectiveness of global governance.

Overall, The growth of IGOs in recent decades might suggest that the liberal ideal of GG is progressing well. However, IGOs are frequently limited in what they are able to agree on. Often IGOs or international summits can't agree on a joint agenda for action. Realism takes over with states protecting their national interests. Indeed, some states use their membership of IGOs precisely in order to protect their national interests. This can be seen when permanent members use their veto power due to a variety of complex and interconnected factors.

**IB Question: Task: Considering the below question/s make a short presentation.**

Examine the claim that economically powerful states are able to manipulate global governance institutions to their advantage. (M2017)



# Cooperation

Cooperation in Global Politics takes place through treaties, collective security, strategic alliances, economic cooperation, and informal cooperation.

There are many different approaches to understanding cooperation between states in global politics, and different theories may offer different insights into this complex and multifaceted phenomenon. Some theories on cooperation amongst states:

1. **Realism:** Realism is a theory in international relations that emphasizes the role of power and national interest in shaping international relations. Realists argue that states cooperate when it is in their national interest to do so, and that cooperation is typically driven by calculations of power and self-interest.
2. **Liberalism:** Liberalism is another theory in international relations that emphasizes the role of international institutions and cooperation in promoting peace and prosperity. Liberalists argue that states have a shared interest in maintaining a stable and cooperative international order, and that cooperation can help to achieve this goal.
3. **Constructivism:** Constructivism is a theory in international relations that emphasizes the role of ideas, norms, and identity in shaping international relations. Constructivists argue that states cooperate when they share common values and beliefs, and that cooperation can help to reinforce shared identities and norms.
4. **Game theory:** Game theory is a branch of mathematics that is used to analyze strategic interactions between actors. It can be used to analyze cooperation between states, including the conditions under which states are likely to cooperate and the factors that influence their decision-making.

## Treaties:

[Watch this video](#) to understand what the treaty is.

Cooperation through treaties is a common way for states to formalize their cooperation on a wide range of issues. Treaties can be bilateral, meaning they are between two states, or multilateral, meaning they are between three or more states.

Some recent examples of cooperation through treaties include:

1. The Paris Agreement: This is a multilateral treaty signed by nearly 200 states to address the issue of climate change. The treaty aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to limit the global average temperature increase to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.
2. The Iran Nuclear Deal: This is a multilateral treaty signed by Iran, the United States, and five other states in 2015 to limit Iran's nuclear program. The treaty aims to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions against the country.
3. The Trans-Pacific Partnership: This is a multilateral trade agreement signed by a group of Pacific Rim countries, including Australia, Canada, Japan, and the United States. The agreement aims to liberalize trade and investment among the participating countries.

Overall, treaties are a key tool for cooperation between states, as they provide a legal framework for states to work together on issues of mutual concern.

## **Collective Security**

Collective security is a concept in international relations that refers to the idea that states should work together to prevent and respond to threats to international peace and security. Collective security is often seen as a tool for cooperation, as it requires states to collaborate and coordinate their efforts to address common threats.

There are several different mechanisms that can be used to implement collective security, including:

1. International organizations: International organizations like the United Nations can play a key role in coordinating collective security efforts. For example, the UN can authorize the use of military force to address threats to international peace and security, or it can deploy peacekeeping missions to help prevent or resolve conflicts.
2. Military alliances: Military alliances like NATO (the North Atlantic Treaty Organization) are another mechanism for collective security. Under a military alliance, member states agree to provide military

assistance to one another if they are attacked, and they may also cooperate on other issues like defense planning and training.

3. Bilateral and multilateral agreements: States can also cooperate on collective security through bilateral and multilateral agreements. For example, states may sign agreements to exchange intelligence, coordinate military operations, or provide military assistance to one another in the event of a threat.

Overall, collective security is an important tool for cooperation between states, as it helps to build trust and cooperation among states and promotes stability and security at the international level.

## **Strategic Alliances:**

### [Alliances In Foreign Policy](#)

Strategic alliances are cooperative agreements between states that are designed to advance the shared interests of the member states. Strategic alliances can take many different forms, including military alliances, economic partnerships, and cultural exchange programs.

One recent example of a strategic alliance is the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (also known as the "Quad"), which is a strategic alliance between the United States, Japan, India, and Australia. The Quad was established in 2007 and is focused on promoting security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. The member states of the Quad cooperate on a range of issues, including maritime security, counterterrorism, and disaster response.

Overall, strategic alliances are a common form of cooperation between states, as they allow states to pool their resources and coordinate their efforts to achieve common goals.

## **Economic Cooperation**

Economic cooperation is a form of cooperation between states that is focused on promoting economic development and prosperity. Economic cooperation can take many different forms, including:

1. Trade agreements: Trade agreements are agreements between states that aim to liberalize trade between them. These agreements can include provisions on tariffs, quotas, and other trade barriers. One recent example of a trade agreement is the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), which is a trade agreement signed by a group of Pacific Rim countries, including Australia, Canada, Japan, and Mexico. The CPTPP aims to liberalize trade and investment among the participating countries.
2. Investment: States may also cooperate economically through foreign investment. This can involve one state investing in businesses or infrastructure projects in another state, which can help to promote economic development and increase trade between the two countries. One recent example of foreign investment is the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which is a Chinese government-led infrastructure development project that involves investing in infrastructure projects in countries throughout Asia, Europe, and Africa. The BRI aims to increase trade and economic cooperation between China and the participating countries.
3. Development assistance: States may also cooperate economically through development assistance programs, which are designed to help developing countries improve their economic and social conditions. Development assistance can take many different forms, including financial aid, technical assistance, and capacity building programs. One recent example of development assistance is the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are a set of global goals adopted by the United Nations to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure peace and prosperity. The SDGs are being implemented through development assistance programs and other efforts to promote economic and social development in developing countries.
4. Regional economic integration: States may also cooperate economically through regional economic integration, which is the process of creating a more integrated economic region by removing barriers to trade and investment between member states. Examples of regional economic integration include the European Union and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). One recent example of regional economic integration is the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which is a free trade area being established by the African Union. The AfCFTA aims to create a single market for goods, services, and investment among the participating countries, with the goal of promoting economic development and regional integration in Africa.

## Informal Cooperation:

Informal cooperation is a form of cooperation that is not formalized through legally binding agreements or other formal mechanisms. Instead, it is based on informal networks and relationships between states, and it is often driven by shared interests, values, and goals.

Some examples of informal cooperation include:

1. **Track II diplomacy:** This refers to non-governmental efforts to promote dialogue and cooperation between states. Track II diplomacy can involve informal meetings between officials, academics, and other experts, and it is often used to build trust and cooperation on issues where formal negotiations may be difficult or impossible. One recent example of track II diplomacy is the Track II Diplomacy Network (T2DN), which is a global network of academics, policymakers, and other experts who work to promote dialogue and cooperation on a range of issues, including climate change, security, and development. The T2DN holds regular meetings and workshops to facilitate dialogue and exchange of ideas between its members.
2. **Military-to-military relations:** Military-to-military relations are informal cooperative relationships between the armed forces of different countries. These relationships can involve exchanges of personnel, training, and equipment, and they can help to build trust and cooperation between the militaries of different countries. One recent example of military-to-military relations is the U.S.-Japan Defense Cooperation, which is a cooperative relationship between the armed forces of the United States and Japan. The relationship involves regular exchanges of personnel, training, and equipment, and it is designed to promote trust and cooperation between the two countries.
3. **Cultural and educational exchanges:** Cultural and educational exchanges are another form of informal cooperation that can help to build relationships and understanding between states. These exchanges can involve programs like student exchanges, cultural festivals, and other events that promote cultural and educational exchange. One recent example of cultural and educational exchanges is the Erasmus program, which is a European Union-funded program that supports student exchanges between European universities. The program aims to promote cultural and educational exchange between participating countries, and it has helped to build strong relationships between European countries.

Overall, informal cooperation is an important way for states to build trust and cooperation on a range of issues, and it can be an effective complement to more formal mechanisms of cooperation.

### IB Question:

Discuss the view that cooperation is more effective than a state's use of force in Global Politics. (N2022)

## Conflict

Conflict can take place in the form of interstate war, intrastate war, terrorism, strikes, and demonstrations.

There are many famous thinkers and theories on conflict in global politics. Here are a few examples:

1. **Realism:** Realist thinkers, such as Hans Morgenthau and Kenneth Waltz, argue that states are primarily motivated by their own self-interest and that conflict is an inherent part of international relations.
2. **Liberalism:** Liberal thinkers, such as Immanuel Kant and John Rawls, argue that international cooperation and the spread of democracy can help to reduce conflict in the international system.
3. **Constructivism:** Constructivist thinkers, such as Alexander Wendt and Nicholas Onuf, argue that conflict is not an inherent part of international relations, but rather is a product of the way that states and other actors construct their identities and interests.
4. **Marxism:** Marxist thinkers, such as Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, argue that conflict is a result of economic and class differences between states and within states.
5. **Psychological approaches:** Some scholars, such as Daniel Kahneman and Jonathan Haidt, have applied psychological theories to the study of conflict in international relations, arguing that cognitive biases and emotions can play a significant role in shaping how states perceive and interact with one another.

### Interstate War:

An interstate war is a military conflict between two or more states. Some recent examples of interstate wars include:

1. The Russian-Georgian War (2008): This conflict was fought between Russia and Georgia over the breakaway regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. The war began when Georgia launched a military offensive to try to regain control of South Ossetia, which had declared independence with Russian support. Russia intervened militarily on the side of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, and quickly defeated the Georgian military. The conflict resulted in the deaths of hundreds of people and led to a significant deterioration in relations between Russia and the West.
2. The Yemen Civil War (2015-present): This conflict is being fought between the internationally recognized government of Yemen, which is supported by a coalition led by Saudi Arabia, and the Houthi rebel movement, which is backed by Iran. The conflict began in 2015 when the Houthis seized control of the capital, Sana'a, and has since escalated into a full-scale civil war. The conflict has resulted in the deaths of thousands of people and has led to a humanitarian crisis in the country, with millions of people facing starvation and disease.
3. The Nagorno-Karabakh War (2020): This conflict was fought between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh. The region had been controlled by Armenian separatists since the early 1990s, but the conflict escalated in September 2020 when Azerbaijan launched a military offensive to try to regain control. The conflict resulted in the deaths of hundreds of people and ended in November 2020 when Russia brokered a peace deal between the two sides.

## **Intrastate War:**

An intrastate war is a military conflict within a single state, usually involving multiple factions or groups fighting for control of the government or territory. Here are some recent examples of intrastate wars:

1. The Syrian Civil War (2011-present): This conflict began as a popular uprising against the government of Bashar al-Assad, but has evolved into a complex, multi-sided war involving various international actors, including the United States, Russia, and Iran. The war has resulted in the deaths

of hundreds of thousands of people and has led to a humanitarian crisis, with millions of people being displaced.

2. The Libyan Civil War (2011-present): This conflict began in 2011 when rebels in eastern Libya launched a rebellion against the government of Muammar Gaddafi. The conflict quickly escalated into a full-scale civil war, with various factions and international actors becoming involved. The war has resulted in the deaths of thousands of people and has led to a humanitarian crisis, with millions of people being displaced.
3. The Second Congo War (1998-2003): This conflict was fought between the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo and various rebel groups, as well as foreign militaries from neighboring countries. The war resulted in the deaths of millions of people and had significant economic and political consequences for the region.
4. The Sudanese Civil War (1983-2005): This conflict was fought between the government of Sudan and various rebel groups, primarily in the southern part of the country. The war resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people and had significant humanitarian consequences, with millions of people being displaced.

## **Terrorism:**

1. [Terrorism How terrorism can be defined?](#)
2. [A question and answer on terrorism](#)

Terrorism is the use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, for political purposes. Terrorism can challenge the power of states in several ways:

1. By undermining the government's ability to maintain security and protect its citizens: For example, after the September 11, 2001 attacks, the United States government implemented numerous security measures, such as increased airport screenings and the creation of the Department of



Homeland Security, in an attempt to prevent further attacks. These measures may have made the country safer, but they also came at a cost, such as reduced privacy and civil liberties for citizens.

2. By creating fear and instability, which can lead to social and political unrest: For example, the ongoing conflict in Syria has been fueled in part by the actions of terrorist groups, such as ISIS and Al-Qaeda, which have carried out numerous attacks against civilians and government targets. The violence and instability caused by these groups has contributed to the overall destabilization of the country and has led to widespread social and political unrest.
3. By eroding public confidence in the government and its institutions: For example, if a government is perceived as being unable to protect its citizens from terrorist attacks, it may lose public support and legitimacy. This can lead to a decline in the government's power and influence.
4. By causing economic damage, through the destruction of infrastructure or the disruption of trade and investment: For example, if a terrorist group targets a country's transportation infrastructure, such as airports or ports, it can disrupt trade and investment and have negative economic consequences. This can weaken the government's economic power and reduce its ability to fund its operations.

The impacts of terrorism can be severe, both for the individuals and communities directly affected by attacks and for society more broadly. Terrorism can lead to physical harm, economic damage, and psychological trauma for those affected. It can also have wider societal impacts, such as polarizing communities and undermining social cohesion.

There are many recent examples of terrorist organizations and their functions. Here are a few examples:

1. Al-Qaeda: This organization was responsible for the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States and has carried out numerous other attacks around the world. Al-Qaeda's goal is to establish a global Islamic caliphate and to overthrow governments that it considers to be "un-Islamic."
2. ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria): This organization emerged in the aftermath of the Iraq War and has carried out numerous attacks in the Middle East and around the world. ISIS aims to establish an Islamic state in the region and has used brutal tactics, including beheadings and mass killings, to achieve its goals.
3. Boko Haram is a jihadist militant group based in Nigeria that has been active since the early 2000s. The group's goal is to establish an Islamic state in Nigeria and impose strict Islamic law. To achieve this goal, Boko Haram has carried out numerous attacks against civilians, government targets, and

international organizations, including schools, churches, and hospitals. The group has also been accused of kidnappings, sexual violence, and other human rights abuses. Boko Haram has been designated as a terrorist organization by the United States and other countries. The group has been responsible for thousands of deaths and has displaced millions of people in Nigeria and the surrounding region. The conflict with Boko Haram has had significant humanitarian and economic consequences for the region.

4. Hezbollah is a Shia Islamic militant group and political party based in Lebanon. The group was founded in the 1980s in response to the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and has since become a significant player in Lebanese politics and has significant support among some segments of the Shia community in the country. Hezbollah has a military wing that has been involved in armed conflict with Israel, and the group has also been accused of carrying out terrorist attacks against civilian and military targets in Israel and elsewhere. Hezbollah has been designated as a terrorist organization by the United States and some other countries. It has also been accused of undermining Lebanon's stability and democracy. The group's involvement in regional conflicts, particularly in Syria, has also been a source of controversy and has had significant consequences for the region.

The characterization of Hezbollah as a terrorist organization or a legitimate political actor is a matter of debate and can depend on the context and perspective of the observer. Some view the group as a terrorist organization that uses violence and intimidation to achieve its goals, while others see it as a resistance movement fighting against foreign occupation and defending the interests of the Lebanese Shia community.

5. Hamas is a Palestinian militant and political organization that has been designated as a terrorist organization by a number of countries, including the United States, the European Union, and Israel. Hamas has carried out numerous attacks against Israeli military and civilian targets, including suicide bombings and rocket attacks. The organization has also been accused of human rights abuses and corruption. Many people view Hamas as a resistance movement fighting against Israeli occupation, while others consider it a terrorist group that targets civilians. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is complex and has a long history, and there are many different perspectives on the role of Hamas within it.

## Strikes & Demonstrations:

Strikes and demonstrations are common forms of protest in which people express their dissatisfaction with certain policies or conditions, often by refusing to work or by taking to the streets to march and rally. These actions are frequently used in the context of global politics to draw attention to issues such as labor rights, human rights, and social justice.

Here are a few examples:

- In 2020, there were widespread protests in countries around the world, including the United States, India, and Myanmar, to demand an end to racial injustice and police brutality.
- In 2019, millions of people participated in the global "Fridays for Future" movement, in which students and others walked out of school or work to protest government inaction on climate change.
- In 2018, there were strikes and protests in countries such as France, Belgium, and Poland to oppose austerity measures, labor reforms, and other government policies.
- In 2017, there were numerous protests in countries including Venezuela, Iran, and South Korea against authoritarian governments, economic crises, and corruption.
- In 2016, there were strikes and demonstrations in countries including Brazil, Bangladesh, and South Africa to demand better working conditions, higher wages, and greater political representation.

## IB Questions:

1. To what extent do you agree that conflicts within states are more of a threat to peace and stability than conflicts between states?
2. "Glopo is characterized more by cooperation than by conflict." Discuss.
3. Examine the influence of terrorism on a state's ability to pursue development. (M2022)

# IB Questions on Interdependence:

For questions & answers, have a look at [this document](#).

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