



Domestic and International Politics

Objectives of presentation

- Basic differences between domestic and international political arenas;
- The consequences of 'anarchy';
- How international and domestic politics are connected.



Domestic vs. International Politics

Domestic politics are administrative decisions which are directly related to all issues and activity within a nation's borders.

Domestic politics differ from international politics:

-For example, International Politics conducted under the shadow of war to a degree not seen in domestic political situations.

Two different spheres

Domestic and international politics work differently because they are governed by distinct rules.

— **Domestic politics is the sphere of authority, administration, and law.**

— **International politics is the sphere of force and accommodation.**

Organizing principles

Domestic and International politics involve separate **systems**.

A system is a set or arrangement of things that are interconnected such that a change in one of the things produces a change in one or more of the others.

— For example, the human body is a system.

Domestic vs. International Systems

Domestic system

- Hierarchy

Govt. monopoly on legitimate use of force inside border.

- Distribution of capabilities

International System

- Anarchy

Govt. lacks of monopoly on legitimate use of force outside border.

- Distribution of capabilities

Consequences of Anarchy

- Anarchic system lack third-party enforcers, i.e., parties that are responsible for making sure that others adhere to rules and agreements.
- General implication: international action is regulated more by an actor's sense of what the optimal course of action for it is than by external regulations that restrict certain types of behavior.
- Specific implication: violence among actors is an omnipresent possibility.



Governance without Government

- Anarchy does not imply disorder
- The international arena is organized even though it lacks overarching government.
- The behavior of actors is regulated, although less effectively than in domestic arenas.



Behavior in the International Arena

- Although international and domestic political arenas differ, they are also inextricably linked.
- When governments weigh the costs and benefits of various international actions, their choices over the alternatives is inherently influenced by their domestic political situations.



Example

German opposition to the US – led War in Iraq (Operation Iraqi Freedom)

German choices:

- Support war and get anger of German public
- Oppose war and get anger of US
- Appease US concerns about Iraqi weapons without going to war.

German voters gave Schroeder high marks.

The decision strained US-German relations.



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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