

# Chapter 2: Realism

## Delivery plan: Is international anarchy the permissive cause of war?

### 1. Learning aims:

- Understand the international anarchy myth
- Tell the difference between realism and neorealism
- Understand developments in Waltz's thinking and why THEY MATTER
- Critically reflect on the work that "fear" does for the international anarchy myth.

### 2. Theory lecture on realism (lecture 1)

- 50 min. lecture available below
- Power point slides available below

### 3. Theory activity for realism

- Activity slides available below
- Activity lasts about 10 minutes.

**Aim:** Be able to understand the workings of Waltz's myth ("international anarchy is the permissive cause of war") through a real-world example. Show how it is not necessarily international anarchy but fear that is the permissive cause of war.

**Scenario:** Iran has acquired nuclear weapons.

1. Break students into four groups or several groups with subgroups of countries:
  - Iran
  - US
  - US ally (Britain)
  - Neutral state (Sweden).
2. From the perspective of their group, HOW WOULD THEY ADDRESS IRAN ACQUIRING NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING SCENARIOS:
  - There is a world government
  - There is a quasi-world government (UN)
  - There is no world government or quasi-world government.
3. Have the groups discuss amongst themselves first and then use the table to chart possible scenarios.

4.	USA	UK	Iran	Sweden
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a) World gov.				
b) Quasi-world gov.				
c) No world gov.				

5. BRING GROUPS TOGETHER FOR A DISCUSSION. Slot information into chart on smart board, blackboard or overhead.

6. Central points to make:

- Presence of WORLD GOVERNMENT OR QUASI-WORLD GOVERNMENT = less likelihood for war
- WORLD GOVERNMENT OR QUASI-WORLD GOVERNMENT = less fear (looks after all states)
- WORLD GOVERNMENT will not end all war or conflict ♦ civil wars and disputes remain
- Is it not FEAR that is driving US behaviour more than the presence or absence of world government? The transformation from anarchy into hierarchy does not necessarily mean that war is not possible
- If so, fear is the permissive cause of war, not anarchy.

7. How does fear function in Waltz's MYTH? What different types of fear are there?

- Rational fear: rational to be afraid of nuclear weapons. Is this fear tempered by balance of power?
- Irrational fear: why do we have the arms race in the first place? History of Cold War feeds into US/Iran relations ♦ why is it ok for US to have nuclear weapons but not Iran? Just because you have them doesn't mean you have to use them.

#### 4. Film screening of Lord of the Flies (1963)

- Run time, 92 minutes.

#### 5. Film lecture on Lord of the Flies (1963) (lecture 2)

- 50 minute lecture available in separate document here
- Power point slides available below

#### 6. Film activity

- Activity slides available below
- Activity lasts about 10 minutes.

**Aim: Use film Lord of the Flies to investigate how Waltz's myth "international anarchy is the permissive cause of war" functions and to show that FEAR is a necessary supplement to this myth.**

- Divide class into three groups to discuss three questions:
  - How does the film make sense of the world?
  - (ANSWER - World of War (WWII) ♦ conflict "behind the scenes" feeds into the conflict among the boys on the island).
  - What does the film say is typical and deviant in that world?
  - (ANSWER - This answer depends on which world you are talking about. In a pre-plane crash world hierarchy is typical (anarchy deviant), but in a post-plane crash world, anarchy is typical (hierarchy deviant).
  - Where is FEAR located in the film?
  - (ANSWER - Symbolised by the belief in the beast).

After discussing where fear is located in the film, move on to discuss how this relates to where fear is located in Waltz's neorealism. Use slides to illustrate the locations of fear in film and in Waltz.

Show how fear is what is always missing from Waltz's theory. ♦

## 7. Seminar

- 50 min. seminar outline provided below
- Slides available for seminar below.

### Seminar outline:

- Brief recap from last week and this week's lectures (10 min.)
- Use the film activity for seminar (15 min.)
- Discussion of critical implications for Lord of the Flies for neorealism (15 min.)
  - Frame discussion with specific questions relating to a key concept from activity and tie to real world examples
  - e.g. Can you think of a current example where "fear" operates in a similar way to the film? How does the location of "fear" influence the myth of neorealism?
- Look forward to next week (use slide) (5 min.).