Order and Change in the Contemporary International System
Department of Politics
New York University G53. – 1732.002
Spring 2006

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Office Hours: T & W 10:00 - 14:00 or by appointment               Time: Wednesday 4-6
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INTRODUCTION

This course focuses on order and change in the contemporary international system. The fundamental question we ask throughout the course is whether the world is hanging together and if so, then, what makes the world hang together? Is there order in the contemporary international system? What are its sources? How is order sustained? The establishment and the maintenance of order in the international system are inextricably linked to the stability of its structures. We will ask whether the contemporary international system is stable or changing and, if so, in what respects? Is the current order facing any challenges that may lead to its radical, fundamental, and lasting change? What are the major challenges to this order? Could the most powerful challenges to the current international order lead to radical transformations that would, fundamentally or permanently, change the structure of international system?

The seminar is organized in three sections. In the first section, we examine the central concepts of order and change. How is order in the international system established and sustained? How, when, and why is change in the international order made possible? In the second section, we will focus on Great Power politics. The fundamental question we ask here is how is order maintained from the great powers perspective? We will examine the nature of current international order, the centrality of the United States and the evolving contemporary patterns of cooperation and conflict among the US and other emerging or resurgent great powers, such as China, Europe, Russia, Japan and India. In the third section, we will concentrate on several major challenges to order in the contemporary international system. We continue by focusing on processes and events that appear to strengthen, to test or to undermine ongoing efforts to establish order in international system. We will be unable to cover in depth every challenge that we may identify. Many of these challenges have been examined in the core course in this field, International Relations Theories and Concepts – the prerequisite for this seminar – as well as in other advanced classes. Hence, while we will pay due attention to these problems and issues, we will primarily focus on a selective number of issues that are either central to the efforts to establish the international order as globalization and democratization, or as major challenges to any such efforts. Among these challenging centripetal forces are failed and rogue states, nationalism, revolutions, civilizational structures and culture, and the presumed shifts in technological edge and advancements.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Given the very intensive nature of the course schedule you are expected to keep up with the assigned readings and to be prepared to discuss them in a knowledgeable way. This means dedicating substantial time to careful reading and thoughtful reflection before coming to class. You should be familiar with a lot of readings for this course because you have taken them in the core course. These readings are marked with an asterisk (*). However, the core course readings, central as they are to debates on order and change will not be sufficient. Thus, if you fail to keep up with the new assigned readings, you will not be able to contribute to and learn from our class interactions. Be well prepared to ask questions and to participate. Often, asking the appropriate question requires more skills from you than just tackling or answering them. Open discussion will provide you with an important opportunity to wrestle with, criticize, and engage the very important ideas presented in this course. Class presence is required and more than four absences will result in an adverse grade.

The major requirement is writing a term paper (between 20-25 pages in length). You also are required to make a presentation of readings for a particular class. The presentation should summarize the main points of readings assigned and it should not exceed 5-7 (five to seven) minutes. Copies of the presentation must be prepared and distributed a day in advance to the classmates.

Required Readings:

The following books are required. In addition, a course-pack could be picked up at the New University Copy Center between the Mercer and Green streets. All readings are in the Reserve at the Bobst Library.


ORDER IN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM: CONCEPTS, THEORIES, AND APPROACHES

Week 1: Introduction to Class: How To Think About Order in Social Relations And In The International System?


**Recommended:**


**Week 2: Ordering Principles and Structures of the International System: Sovereign States, Societies, Nations, and Nation-States.**


Daniel Philpott, “The Religious Roots of Modern International Relations,” *World Politics*, January 2000:


**Recommended:**


Week 3: A Constructed International Order?


Recommended:


**Week 4: Institutions and Regimes to Sustain the International Order?**


Recommended:


**Week 5: Realist and Neorealist Approaches: International Order As The Outcome Of Power Relations And Capabilities**


**Recommended:**


GREAT POWER POLITICS AND CHALLENGES TO ORDER IN THE CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

Week 6: The US Strategy to Establish A New International Order and Symptoms of Balancing Behavior in the Contemporary International System


**Recommended:**


*NCS 68: United States Objectives and Programs for National Security* (April 14, 1950)

http://www.fas.org/irp/offdocs/nsc-hst/nsc-68.htm


*National Strategy to Combat Weapons of Mass Destruction*, December 2002,


Antony J. Blinken, “From Preemption to Engagement” *Survival*, vol. 45, no. 4, 2003: 33-60


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**Week 7: China: A Resurgent Great Power and/or The Challenger?**


**Recommended:**


**Week 8: Swingers of the Balance? Japan, Europe, Russia, and India**

Josef Joffe “Shifting Atlantic Alliance: Europe and the U.S. have learned that they need each other.” Washington Post, February 14, 2005; Page A17.


Recommended:

Martin Smith, “Between Two Worlds? The European Union, the United States and World Order” International Politics, Volume 41, Number 1, March 2004: 95-117.
Hans Binnendijk and Richard L.Kugler, Dual-Track Transformation for the Atlantic Alliance” Center for Technology and National Security Policy November, NDU 2003
Walter, Carlsnaes, Helene Sjursen, and Brian White eds., Contemporary European Foreign Policy Sage, 2004.
Jolyon Howorth, “European Defence and the Changing Politics of the EU: Hanging Together or Hanging

Kalypso Nicolaidis, “We, the Peoples of Europe...” Foreign Affairs, (November/December 2004:97-110.


Andrew Moravcsik, “Striking a New Transatlantic Bargain” Foreign Affairs July/August 2003


Robert Legvold, “All the Way: Crafting a US- Russian Alliance” National Interest Nr. 70: 21-33;


CIVILIZATIONS, STATES, POWER, CULTURE, AND INTERESTS: CHALLENGES TO THE CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL ORDER

Week 9: Democratic Institutions and Democratization: Sustaining or Undermining the International Order?


**Recommended:**


**Week 10: Globalization, Economic Relations, and Technological Competition**


**Recommended:**


**Week 11: Resurgent Civilizations Or Instrumentalized Cultures?**


**Recommended:**

Benjamin R. Barber, Jihad Vs. McWorld New York: Ballantine, 1996

**Week 12: Failed and Rogue States:**


Robert Rotberg, “Failed States in a World of Terror,” Foreign Affairs (July/August 2002).


Recommended:


Sebastian A. Mallaby, “The Reluctant Imperialist - Terrorism, Failed States and the Case for American Empire’. *Foreign Affairs* Volume 81, Number 2 2002:


U.S. Department of State, *Patterns of Global Terrorism* 2003


Week 13: Nationalism, Civil Wars, and Genocide:


**Recommended:**


**Week 14: Revolutions**


Recommended:

David Armstrong, Revolution and World Order, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993
Forrest D. Colburn, The Vogue of Revolution in Poor Countries Princeton University Press, 1994
Fred Halliday, Revolution and World Politics: The Rise and Fall of the Sixth Great Power Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1999
Alan Knight, The Mexican Revolution, Vol. 1: Porfrians, Liberals, and Peasants,