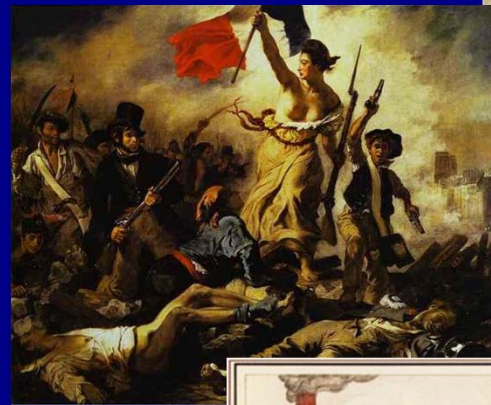


THE IDENTITY PERSPECTIVE

- I. Actors and Systems
- II. The Role of Ideas
- III. Security Dilemma
and State Identity
- IV. Applying Theory



I. Actors and Systems

- Realism and Liberalism: States and Anarchy
- The Identity Perspective focuses on how reality is 'socially constructed' (social constructivism)
- Agent-Structure Debate
 - Agents = Actors (State and Non-State)
 - Structure = Structure of International System
- Q: Does the structure of the system shape actors behavior, or do actors shape the structure of the system?

Theories and Agent-Structure

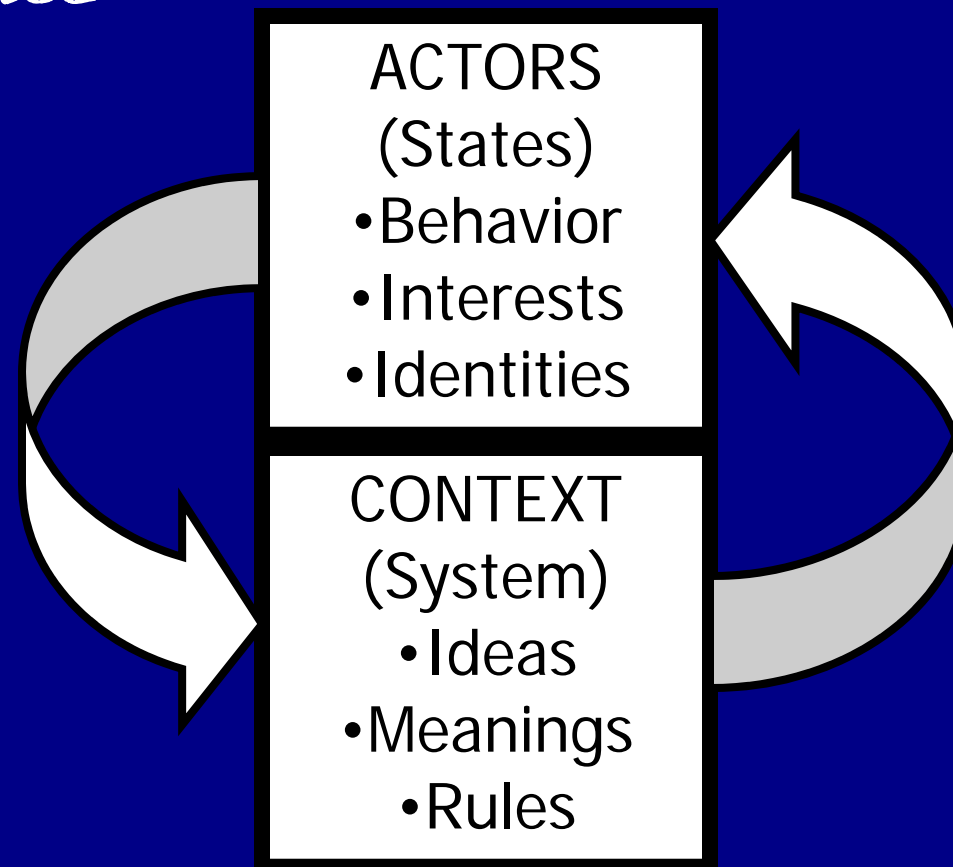
- Realism: Nature of the international system shapes states' behavior
- Liberalism: Behavior of actors shapes the nature of the international system
- Identity: Actors and system mutually constituted

II. The Role of Ideas

- Ideas important in their own right
- Consequences v. Appropriateness
- International Norms: shared expectations about appropriate behavior held by the international community
- Changes in norms lead to changes in state behaviors
- Examples: Sovereignty, Colonialism, Land Mine Treaty

Norms and State Behavior

- State Behavior and International Norms “Mutually Constituted”



Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It"

"Self-help and power politics do not follow either logically or causally from anarchy...if today we find ourselves in a self-help world it is due to process, not structure....Self-help and power politics are institutions, not essential features of anarchy. Anarchy is what states make of it." (p. 56)

- Q: Is he implying that states can overcome anarchy easily?
- Q: Do you agree that 'anarchy is what states make of it'?

"Identities are the basis of interests" (p. 57)

- Q: How does this differ from the realist and liberal conceptions of (national) interests?
- Q: Is Wendt simply ignoring the security dilemma?

III. Security Dilemma and State Identity

- Determinants of national interests
 - US and China versus US and Britain
- National interests (goals) a function of national identity
- Sources of identity domestic (level of analysis)
- Convergent national identity → Cooperation and Peace
- Divergent national identity → Conflict and War
- Q: IF goals are convergent...really anarchy???

Summary of Identity

- States and system mutually constituted in IR
- Ideas (separate from power) are important in shaping international relations
- Whether IR is anarchy or society a function of convergent or divergent national identities

IV. Applying Theory

REALISM
Power
Anarchy =
Security
Dilemma =
Emphasis
on Power

LIBERALISM
Institutions
Anarchy mitigated by
IGOs,
Interdependence
Common Values, etc.



IDENTITY
Ideas
Anarchy v. Society
National Identity