Levels of Analysis

I. Global (or International System) Level
II. Domestic (Society and Government) Level
III. Individual Level
Global Level

- Factors above or outside of the state
- Structure: anarchy and the relative distribution of power
- Dominant patterns of interaction (Change in Norms)
- Technological Change (Nukes; High Tech Warfare)
## Domestic Level

### World Politics as a ‘Two-Level Game’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOCIETY</th>
<th>GOVERNMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dominant Culture</td>
<td>Type of Government (Dictatorship or Democracy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnic Make-up</td>
<td>Organization (Presidential v. Parliamentary System)</td>
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<td>Religion</td>
<td>Stability of System</td>
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<tr>
<td>Econ. Development</td>
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Individual Level

- How the traits of individual leaders alter how they respond to problems
- Q: How has/will Barack Obama rather than G.W. Bush being President alter the US War on Terrorism?
- “Great Man” Theory of History (Churchill and Britain in WWII)
Levels like a ‘Spy Satellite’

Let's you focus on the “Big Picture”…

GLOBAL

…or narrow the analysis to more specific factors

DOMESTIC

INDIVIDUAL
J. David Singer, “The Levels of Analysis Problem in International Relations”

“The responsible scholar must be prepared to evaluate the relative utility – conceptual and methodological – of the various alternatives open to him, and to appraise the manifold implications of the level of analysis finally selected.” (p. 85)

- Q: What are the pros and cons of focusing on the international system level of analysis? the nation-state level? the individual level?
- Q: Does Singer argue for an optimal level of analysis?