

Levels of Analysis

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



President Obama

[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]

SOCIETY	GOVERNMENT
Dominant Culture	Type of Government (Dictatorship or Democracy)
Ethnic Make-up	Organization (Presidential v. Parliamentary System)
Religion	Stability of System
Econ. Development	

- World Politics as a 'Two-Level Game'

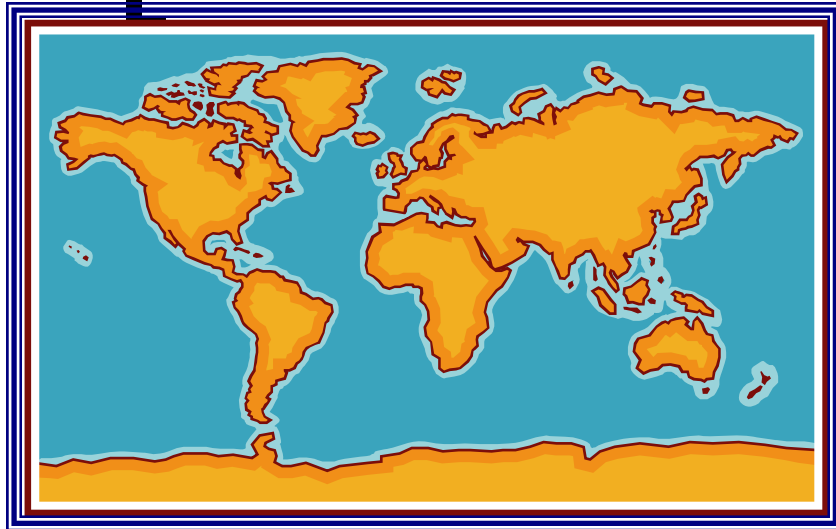
[Individual Level]

- 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)

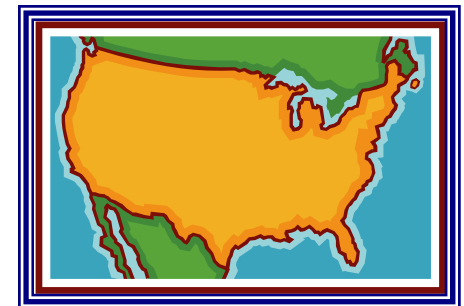
Levels like a 'Spy Satellite'



Lets you focus on the "Big Picture"...



GLOBAL

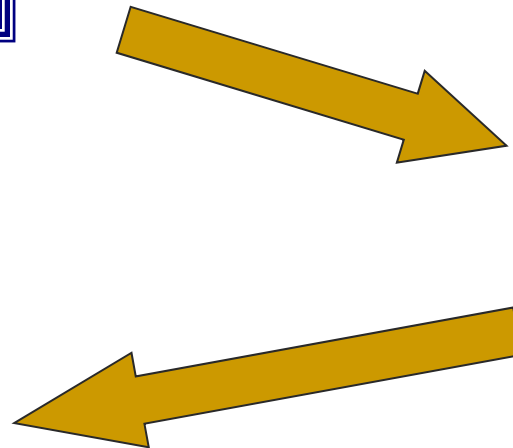


DOMESTIC

...or narrow the analysis to more specific factors



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?