

# 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

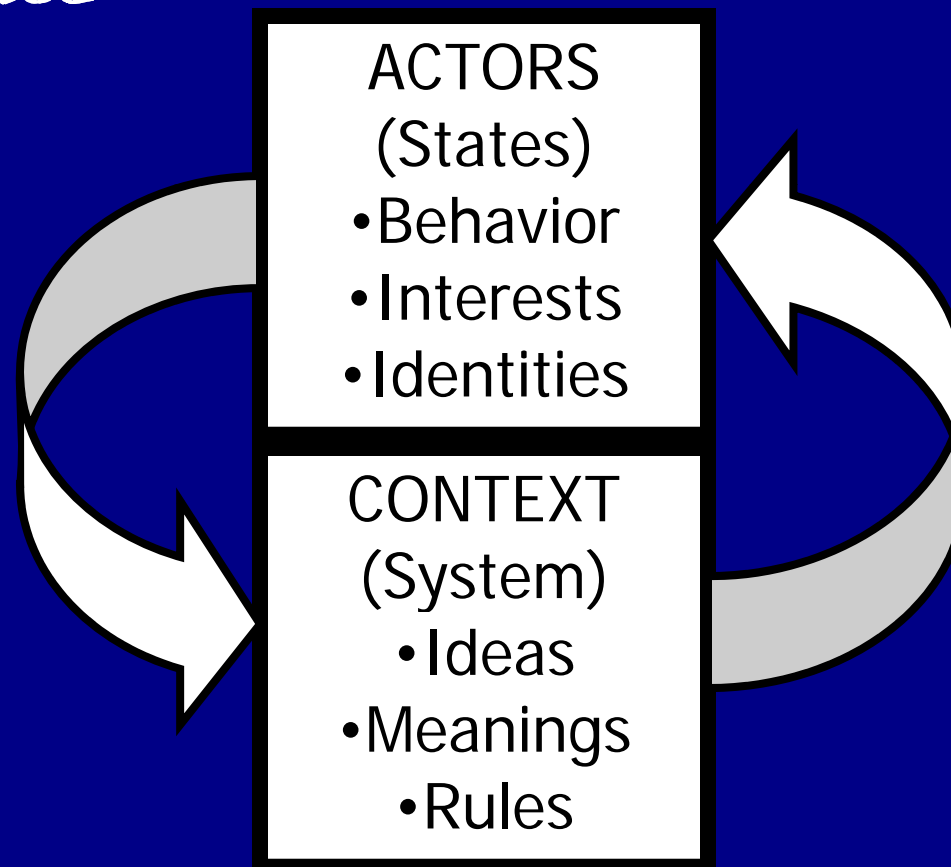
- Realism: Nature of the international system shapes states' behavior
- Liberalism: Behavior of actors shapes the nature of the international system
- Identity: Actors and system mutually constituted

## 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
- *“Anarchy is what states make of it”*

# Norms and State Behavior

- State Behavior and International Norms “Mutually Constituted”



# 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 Constructivism

- 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

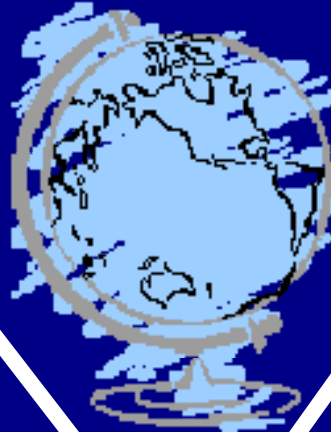
*Power*

Anarchy =  
Security  
Dilemma =  
Emphasis  
on Power

## IDENTITY

*Ideas*

Anarchy v. Society  
National Identity



*Institutions*

## LIBERALISM

Anarchy mitigated by  
IGOs, Interdependence  
Common Values, etc.