**International Politics and Security**

**IR 313**

**Lecture Notes**

**By Muhittin T. Özsağlam**

**Text Book: P.Viotti and M.Kauppi, International Relations and World Politics, Pearson Publication.**

The main aim of this course to provide main knowledge to the students regarding the security issues in the international politics. The students find opportunity to discuss the security issues and the political structures in recent history and current affairs.

**Chapter :1**

 First of all, we should ask to our selves that why we need to know about the world-international politics... International politics is an important phenomena in our daily life which affects our economic and social life as well. For example, the emergence of a war in the middle east can reason raising the prices of oil products. Such price changes on oil may increase the costs of products and we pay more for the consumption goods as the people. We will need to pay more for benzin of our car and for the tractor to work in the lands etc. Therefore, international politics affects our wallet, our individual economy.

In contemporary international relations system, there are several actors; States, International Organizations, Transnational Nongovernmental Organizations and Individuals etc. Plus to these several actors, there are different perspectives in which they evaluate the contemporary international relations system; Realists, Pluralists-Liberals, Global Economic Structualists, Constructivists, Postmoderns, etc.

**Chapter: 2-3**

In the second chapter of the course, we focus on the historical adventure of the international relations system since Classical Greece. The rise of the European system is discussed by emphasizing the events which are interpreted as the milestones on international relations system. The characteristics of unipolar, multipolar and bipolar world system are discussed exclusively.

**Chapter : 4, Geography**

Geography is divided and evaluated within the two different parts. One of them is human geography and the other is physical geography. Human geography means the ethnic origins, beliefs, cultures and languages of the people. Therefore, we emphasize on researching of current belief systems and their locations as well. Studying human geography makes inevitable to deal the state’s governance systems; one state-one nation, bi-national state and multi national state models…

The physical geography is one of the significant theme of international relations discipline which is connected with geopolitics. Geopolitics is the most important issue from the perspectives of realists. Mackinder is perceived as the father of the geopolitics who saw the Eurasia as the Heartland.

Geography and map knowledge is very important to understand the geopolitical perspectives in the international relations system. Therefore, we also try to test our geography and map knowledge with our students practically on the board.

**Chapter : 5, Globalization**

Globalization is an old phenomena in the world. We may talk about the globalization by referring the periods of the Alexander the Great and Christopher Columbus as well. However, in our course we focus on current affairs and discussing the impacts of globalization negatively and positively in our economic, social and political life too. Advancement on technology and means of communication-transportation reasoned the integration of the economies and socially interactivity between the different cultures.

**Chapter:6 , Power**

In this chapter, we focus on the meaning of the power and its elements as dependent on traditional approach. The sovereign states try to maximize their interests in international relations system. Therefore, they should have strong economy, infrastructure, well organized education system etc. Eventually, states have to get such features to maximize their interests in international arena. There are several samples to show how some of the states succeeded to maximize their interests by getting low cost transportation system, well organized education system etc. such states are evaluated as the samples during the lectures.

 **Chapter: 7, Diplomacy**

Diplomacy is an art in international relations which provides communication between the parties-states-international actors. Negotiations and bargaining are the elements of the diplomacy to reach an agreement-treaty among the parties. In contemporary international relations system, we may see several actors which are applying to the diplomacy to reach their aims. States are not alone to pursue diplomacy, non-governmental organizations also play crucial role in diplomacy game to reach their aims.

 The diplomacy can be identified within two parts; Bilateral Diplomacy and Multilateral Diplomacy.

 Diplomatic Immunity and Privileges are given to the diplomats by hosting states. The following terms are used for the definition of the diplomatic ranks;

Ambassador

Consular

Attache etc.

Diplomatic Incentives and Disincentives are the ways of diplomacy to persuade the others if you believe that another party creates problem for you or for your alliances.

Diplomacy is a mean of disarmament in world politics.

**Chapter 8**

**International Law**

The current roots of International Law are coming from 15th Century. Hugo Grotius is known as the father of international law. He made significant contributions by publishing his books regarding the law of the sea and the war as well. There are various sources of international law which are treaties, scholars’ writings, customs, international organizations…

The terms of international law are used widely by the states to pursue their own interests, for example, pacta sunt servanda, rebus sic stantibus etc.

In this part, we are interested in the jurisdiction sphere of international law and law making process…

**Chapter 10**

**Asymmetric Conflict**

 Asymmetric war is a phenomena in current international relations system.

Terrorist and guerilla organizations use their asymmetric powers to challenge the governments and sovereign states. There are many reasons for the emergence of terrorist activities and organizations. Such organizations emerge due to ideological, environmental factors or social problems etc.

Terrorism is a method to spread fear within the society by kidnapping known persons (politicians etc.) or bombing public areas…

There are various organizations which agreed to use terrorism as the tool to reach for their aims… Separatist organizaitons, Fundamentalist groups etc. are active in current international relations system. In this part, we also deal with the characteristics of such organizaitons and type of their actions.