

Idealism and Liberalism in Political Science

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Abstract

Maximum textbooks on worldwide members of the family (IR) symbolize liberalism as one of the predominant theoretical faculties of the IR area—usually along realism and perhaps a few different much less mainstream tactics like global society, Marxism, constructivism, or feminism. As such, liberalism is normally considered to be the primary competing theoretical method to the dominant IR principle of realism. The common comparisons made among realism and liberalism in the IR literature usually entail realism advancing a pessimistic view of human nature, versus the more optimistic view espoused by means of liberalism. Realists consequently see conflict as the norm in international affairs; at the same time as liberals are greater hopeful approximately the possibilities for peace and international cooperation. Realists are searching for to give an explanation for worldwide politics with the aid of analyzing kingdom-to-nation relations within an anarchical system of mutual mistrust and suspicion, even as liberals keep in mind other international actors, as well as actors and establishments inside the nation, because the underlying reasons of a greater interdependent and law-ruled global.

This vast information of liberalism represents the approach because it has advanced all through the publish–international struggle II generation. even though modern-day liberal idea may be divided into special strands, which this research paper discusses in a following segment, the belief of idealism as it relates to IR is a slightly specific and older idea that played an vital role in the evolution of what is now identified as cutting-edge liberal IR theory. Idealism—every now and then referred to as utopianism—became a famous method to analyzing worldwide politics inside the period without delay following global struggle I. It turned into recognized as a theoretical culture of IR in large part in hindsight, with the various tries through realists at discrediting its primary tenets, which were caricatured as utopian or idealistic (see Carr, 2001; Morgenthau, 1993). Although it is real that what is identified as liberal IR theory has highbrow roots inside the idealist subculture of the interwar period, both idealism and modern liberalism have their origins in EU Enlightenment political notion. This research paper thus strains the highbrow origins of present day liberal IR theory to the cutting-edge liberal philosophers who theorized approximately the state. It then describes how liberal theories of the nation came to be applied to worldwide politics, ultimately caricatured as idealist, and how the liberal-idealist tactics knowledgeable tries at growing global establishments and corporations. The paper then discusses how liberal concept enjoyed a revival after the give up of the cold battle and outlines the extraordinary strands of liberal theory which have emerged considering that world battle II. This studies paper concludes with a dialogue of the primary international troubles and demanding situations that confront contemporary liberal IR theory.

The intellectual Roots of Idealism and Liberalism

A. Liberalism and Enlightenment thought

The driving pressure behind liberalism as a political concept of the nation is the centrality of individual liberty. The liberal ideal involves constrained or conditional authorities, whose legitimacy is derived from the consent of the governed, over whom rulers may not work out coercion except through approach installed by way of law. Liberalism therefore espouses a idea of the nation whose process it's miles to eliminate obstacles to freedom and shield people from even majoritarian oppression. To save you governments from exceeding those limits, of course, calls for the familiar array of institutional constraints, checks and balances, and individual rights that underlie the constitutional arrangements of nearly every liberal-democratic polity that exists today.

The English truth seeker John Locke (1689) advanced this concept of a limited government using a common kingdom-of-nature argument, whereby all people within the country of nature—the prepolitical life of humans earlier than we lived underneath the authority of presidency—had “natural rights” to existence, liberty, and assets. It is through the human potential for motive that individuals are privy to such regulation, even though without government to put into effect it, transgressors of herbal regulation may be pursued and punished with the aid of any character who lives in line with the legal guidelines of nature, now not just by means of the ones whose rights were unjustly disadvantaged. The trouble, of route, is that such people are not going to be honest and independent when punishing transgressors, which is precisely why Locke argued that rational individuals could establish civil government, although one that would hold and guard the freedoms that people had in the country of nature. The concept of a liberal country as it emerges from this Lockean analysis is consequently characterized with the aid of political freedom, democracy, constitutionally covered rights, in addition to personal belongings.

Many subsequent theorists within the liberal tradition took up Locke’s arguments approximately the right structure of commonwealths and started out applying them to family members among commonwealths. contemporary prison theorists such as Emmerich de Vattel (1758) have been related to a distinctively Lockean evaluation of international relations in that states haven't any government to rule over them or put into effect their rights however are governed by a accepted natural law (which Vattel termed the vital regulation of nations) this is binding on all states and obligates them to admire the rights of each other. Indeed, Vattel makes use of this widespread framework as a way to conceive of what we might these days talk to as international law and collective safety, both of that are widely recognized as liberal prescriptions for worldwide family members.

Immanuel Kant changed into any other essential discern inside the software of liberal principle to worldwide members of the family and is generally stated as one of the founding fathers of idealism (Hutchings, 1999). constructing from the Lockean liberal ideas of man or woman liberty and famous sovereignty, in addition to the Enlightenment credo of human progress and perfectibility, Kant is nice recognized for disagreeing that states with republican constitutions (i.e., liberal, democratic states) are inherently greater peaceful and could as a result layout international legal guidelines to modify interstate conduct and to promote the conditions for peace. The fundamentally Kantian insight that the domestic politics and establishments of states are important elements in explaining their worldwide behavior is perhaps the defining function of liberal IR theory and is the valuable issue of what's broadly called the democratic peace idea (DPT). Kant also argues for the advent of an international federation of democratic, peaceful states that will expand its club over time and make the sector more non violent. Kant is not calling for world authorities, but as a substitute a form of

loose union of states that continues itself, prevents battle, and steadily will increase its membership (Kant, 1991).

Locke's thought of personal property became likewise an important place to begin for a whole lot theorizing at the ideas that free and open societies should have an open market. This isn't always simplest because marketplace capitalism turned into idea to best promote universal welfare by means of efficaciously allocating scarce resources inside society, however also because of the meant pacifying consequences that this has the world over. In keeping with liberal thinkers together with Jeremy Bentham, John Stuart Mill, and Adam Smith, loose and open alternate among countries has a wellknown harmonizing effect considering that it is collectively beneficial and contributes to the happiness of each other's society (see Howard, 1978). The primary concept was twofold. First, on account that many wars have been fought by way of states as a way to complement them but these wars nonetheless proved to be expensive and did not advantage the society as an entire, unfastened alternate would be a more peaceful and green manner of achieving wealth, that's a not unusual interest of all states. As a corollary, the unfastened motion of commodities, capital, and exertions across borders might break down divisions among states. This would open up traces of communiqué among them to lessen uncertainty, binding nations together the use of the common tie of financial hobby (Ricardo, 1911). Consequently, what Michael Doyle (1997) refers to as "business pacifism" is clearly the concept that market societies are basically in opposition to wars.

What emerges from this dialogue of worldwide liberalism as it evolved from Lockean liberalism throughout the Enlightenment is a hard and fast of ideas about worldwide family members that encompass (a) a robust choice for a regulation-governed society of states, (b) cooperation in worldwide agencies to together enforce this regulation, (c) the unfold of democracy and liberal values (consequently bringing approximately peace), and (d) the pursuit of free exchange to beautify global prosperity and help bring about peace. As a result, by means of the overdue 19th and early 20th centuries, liberal Enlightenment concept had produced the huge contours of what could become called idealism and set the stage for the emergence of IR as an educational discipline.

Idealism and the two decades' crisis

The calamity of global struggle I and the bad human toll it delivered about led to new efforts to try to understand, prevent, and ultimately cast off warfare. As a result, the academic discipline of IR becomes born. For liberal thinkers of the time, the war became largely a result of the egoistic and reckless miscalculations of autocratic rulers in heavily militarized nations, in addition to the outdated gadget of alliances primarily based on a balance of energy that had dominated Europe for centuries (see Jackson & Sorensen, 2007). On the grounds that liberal thinkers had some clear ideas and sturdy beliefs on how to avoid such disastrous wars in the future, the rising area of IR changed into pretty influenced by way of those liberal principles and changed into guided with the aid of a desire to update the malfunctioning EU balance of strength with a device of international law and collective protection, as well as to reform the structure of autocratic governments in order to lead them to more peaceful.

Outstanding among this institution of liberal intellectuals was British writer Norman Angell (1913), whose e book *The Super-Phantasm* argued that struggle became not a worthwhile and beneficial tool for the behavior of country overseas policy. Angell argued that wars of conquest among industrialized states had ended up futile and that the fine solution to aggression changed into "1/3 birthday celebration judgment" inside a

collective device (Miller, 1995). For Angell, states' single-minded pursuit of their personal protection in a situation of anarchy (i.e., the absence of a international authorities) led to battle; as a consequence, security needed to be furnished across the world. After the fantastic battle, he have become an ardent supporter of the League of nations, suggesting that "the military power of the sector need to be so pooled by using international agreement for helping a common rule of life for the international locations as in reality to make it the police strength of civilization" (cited in Miller, 1995, p. 112).

But it's miles possibly the architect of the League of countries—U.S. President Woodrow Wilson—who's most generally related to interwar idealism. President Wilson entered thus into international battle I on a decidedly liberal platform: to make the sector safe for democracy. Wilson became surprisingly critical of the EU stability-of-electricity device and noticed it as his challenge to bring liberal democratic values to the relaxation of the arena. Wilson's Fourteen factors contained his vision for the brand new liberal basis of global politics, which emphasized, inter alia, the promoting of democracy and self-willpower based at the conviction that democracies do no longer go to battle against every other. some other critical principle contained in Wilson's imaginative and prescient turned into the creation of an worldwide corporation primarily based on a hard and fast of common policies in worldwide law that could update the risky balance-of-electricity gadget that he argued had did not save you the war. The League of countries was therefore created to sell peaceful cooperation among states primarily based on the idea that there must be reason-based substitutes for conflict. despite the fact that the realists were content to allow the harmful sport of electricity politics to arise unrestrained primarily based on an risky stability of strength, Wilson's view become that the warlike impulses of states, statesmen, and different instruments of war may be controlled with the aid of an intelligently designed global institution. This perception of Wilsonian idealism turned into as a consequence based totally at the liberal view that after rational humans practice cause to global troubles, they could set up establishments that may enhance the human situation (Jackson & Sorensen, 2007).

relatively prompted by using Wilsonian idealism, IR scholarship all through the interwar duration consisted specifically of ahead-looking liberal conceptions of worldwide federations, blueprints for a extra perfect League of nations, and the improvement of recent international establishments and legal codes for interstate behavior, all amid a robust normative preference for the avoidance of wonderful-electricity war (Wilson, 1995). but as we recognise, the League of nations was doomed to failure, and the ideas being championed by means of the likes of Angell and Wilson got here underneath extreme complaint. The League changed into helpless against the onslaught of the remarkable depression and the protectionist policies that ensued, as well as the expansionist rules of Germany, Japan, and Italy. perhaps the exceptional acknowledged critique of the interwar idealists is that of E. H. Carr's two decades' crisis (2001), that is maximum famous for its try to debunk the pretensions of the liberal wondering that dominated the international family members discourse for the duration of the twenty years' disaster, between 1919 and 1939. Carr argued that liberal thinkers had basically misinterpret history and therefore misunderstood the character of worldwide members of the family (Knutsen, 1997). Even though the idealists believed that international family members may be based on a harmony of pursuits amongst special states, Carr argued that this became wishful thinking (consequently utopian) and that we must expect that there are conflicts of pursuits amongst states. In short, Carr accused the liberals of being too preoccupied with what international relations have to resemble in place of what it absolutely resembled and for overemphasizing the position of worldwide law and morality and underestimated the function of energy (Carr, 2001; Wilson, 1995). This framework, which posed a dialectic among utopia and fact, could be pretty influential within the

development by way of later realists of a extra scientific, fact-based manner of analyzing IR that emerged in the Nineteen Fifties with the behavioral revolution within the social sciences (Waltz, 1979). With the unfold of autocratic and militaristic states and the failure of the League to prevent the outbreak of worldwide warfare II, the liberal assumptions underlying Wilsonian idealism fell out of fashion amongst IR pupils, and the field quickly have become dominated via realist thinking, with its pessimistic view of human nature and emphasis on worldwide relations as a conflictual warfare for power inside an anarchical gadget. yet liberal thinking remained an influential part of IR concept and would quickly reemerge as an important supply of scholarship because it became refined in light of the realist venture to its foundational principles.

Modern-day Liberal IR idea

A. Liberalism within the postwar technology

The bipolar shape of the bloodless war duration put sizeable strain on liberal principle's ability to explain worldwide politics, due to the fact that realism arguably supplied extra explanatory power inside the context of an anarchical gadget ruled by two powerful hegemony mired in a security predicament (see Waltz, 1979). But as worldwide actors emerged from world war II and were forced to confront urgent issues about the destiny worldwide political and financial order, liberal principles persevered to play a prominent role. The postwar order turned into essentially prepared by and large-based totally international order, in which worldwide cooperation changed into encouraged as a means to ensure peace, monetary prosperity, and human rights. Such changed into the rhetoric of the founding treaties of many postwar worldwide companies (IOs), consisting of the United international locations (UN), EU network (EC), and the Bretton Woods institutions. Although not solving the world's issues, the interstate cooperation that these agencies advocated gave liberal IR students renewed optimism about the role global establishments could and must play in world politics and furnished a whole new set of companies, institutions, regimes, procedures, and interactions that became the subject of research by means of liberalist IR pupils.

Despite the emergence of several new international companies at some point of the postwar generation, the worldwide protection surroundings become ruled by using bloodless warfare electricity politics. yet at the least within the West, the Bretton Woods institutions and the UN provided glimmers of wish to those still trying global cooperation in a threatening, tough, energy-ruled bipolar gadget. those key institutions had been created to govern financial members of the family a number of the global's states, to encourage unfastened alternate amongst them, and in the long run to facilitate the unfold of free market economics.

As IR students began thinking about the power realities of the postwar duration—specifically the hostility among the us and the Soviet Union—the idealism that ruled interwar wondering gave way to realism, mainly among U.S. teachers, which turned into similarly fueled by way of the upward thrust of behavioralism in political technological know-how. The upward thrust of behavioralism inside the social sciences became basically a name for extra rigorous methodologies that applied stricter, extra medical reasoning in IR scholarship that was to be much less normative and ideologically driven and more inquisitive about observable records, measurable data, and the locating of “regulation-like” behavioral styles (Knutsen, 1997). Even though the supposedly more objective and dispassionate realism turned into perhaps a better suit to such a technique for social-technological know-how scholarship, new formulations of each realism and liberalism emerged in an try and answer the decision of the behavioralists for extra methodological rigor.

Inspired via the scientific pursuits of behavioralism, Kenneth Waltz (1979) developed a brand new shape of realism—dubbed neorealism—that focused at the structure of the worldwide gadget created from unitary states, in which he attempted to attain regulation-like statements about worldwide politics that could obtain medical validity. For Waltz, the anarchical structure of the gadget leads rational states to be electricity in search of and inherently distrustful of different states, therefore main to the fundamentally conflictual man or woman of global politics. Liberal theorists, consisting of Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye, took a slightly distinctive technique in their tries to answer the behavioralist undertaking. This work became in large part based totally on the early functionalist research of these scholars studying european integration inside the 1950s, who studied how cooperation in one trouble region can “spillover” to permit for cooperation in different areas (Deutsch, 1957; Haas, 1958; Mitrany, 1966). This new logo of liberalism—or neoliberalism—sought to provide an explanation for the diverse times of cooperation amongst democratic states by using connection with the concept of complicated interdependence, which includes the various styles of connection among states similarly to the political relations in their governments, which includes transnational links among agencies (Keohane & Nye, 1971, 1977). This ends in an absence of hierarchy amongst problems—that is, a circumstance in which army protection is not always states’ pinnacle priority. for that reason, in comparison to the neorealist vision of global politics, the neoliberals argued that there are other important actors in global relations that make contributions to interdependence among states, which results in much less warfare among them.

In such an interdependent global, openings evolved for international establishments and IOs to become influential actors that facilitate cooperation thru records exchanges and the availability of arenas for resolving disputes. This has become the idea for another wave of neoliberal IR scholarship that centered on the role that international groups and regimes played in nation behavior (Krasner, 1983). It becomes Robert Keohane’s (1984) *After Hegemony* that turned into possibly the maximum influential booklet on these preferred issues. Looking for to cope with the neorealist critique of neoliberalism head-on, Keohane adopts a number of the foundational assumptions of neorealism. Whereas the neorealists argue that this rationality leads to war, Keohane demonstrates that it can lead to cooperation and the establishment of establishments. constructing on hegemonic balance theory, Keohane seeks to provide an explanation for why such cooperation persists even after the decline of the hegemon’s energy relative to different states. at the same time as admitting that hegemonic leadership may be helpful in growing a strong order wherein cooperation thrives, he develops his functional concept of regimes to give an explanation for why such cooperation persists “after hegemony.” according to Keohane, even rational, egoistic states can have an incentive to participate in regimes because they assist states overcome obstacles to achieving premiere results. In this sense, international establishments sell cooperation between states because they help alleviate the problems related to international anarchy: mistrust and uncertainty among states and the transaction costs related to interstate cooperation. In short, regimes are advanced due to the fact actors in international politics consider that they help them make at the same time beneficial agreements that would otherwise be difficult or impossible to attain (Keohane, 1984).

B. The Liberal Revival After the cold war

The disintegration of the Soviet Union and the give up of the cold struggle brought dramatic changes to domestic and international political structures and supplied each demanding situations and possibilities for the various strands of each realism and liberalism. In a assured reassertion of the optimism and modern outlook of liberalism, Francis Fukuyama’s (1989) essay, “The end of history?” proclaimed the ideological victory of liberalism over all different opportunity theories of politics. For Fukuyama, the stop of the cold warfare and the

various democratic transitions in Africa, east Asia, Latin the united states, and japanese Europe represented the triumph of liberal capitalism and that there could be no development on its underlying concepts and institutions, at the least in theory. Fukuyama helped to restore the long-held view that the spread of liberal-democratic standards is the first-rate prospect for a peaceful global order, spurring a vigorous scholarly debate on exactly how democracy, market economics, or each result in peace, in addition to the extent to which democracy desires to be consolidated inside states so as for them to behave greater peacefully.

Every other related development in liberal concept inside the post-bloodless war generation turned into the proliferation of human rights norms, treaties and companies, as well as a vigorous debate over what is known as humanitarian intervention. Even though the essential human rights treaties predate the give up of the cold war, the victory of the pro-Western forces in this ideological warfare made room for each country and nonstate actors to work extra toward understanding human rights for the duration of the arena. although it is no coincidence that dominant global norms to a big quantity mirror the values of the maximum powerful members of the global network, even though human rights are an essentially Western liberal idea, this concept has proven to be broadly appealing for the duration of the arena—even in non- Western societies such as Japan and South Korea. Thus, the controversy over human rights in worldwide politics isn't whether they exist or should be acknowledged, but instead when and how to implement them and the way to put into effect these protections whilst states violate human rights (Forsythe, 2006).

A final development in liberal idea that won prominence in the publish-cold struggle era has been the fast globalization of the world economic system. monetary neoliberalism—a time period commonly used to consult international market capitalism and unfastened trade regulations—has always desired the unfastened play of marketplace forces and the minimum role of the country in economic lifestyles. yet liberal IR scholars view these traits within the context of the nation and the global states gadget and focus on traits consisting of the boom of loose change, the elevated ability of multinational agencies to get away states' criminal jurisdiction, the supposedly increasing irrelevance of nation barriers to the conduct of economic pastime, and how those traits have an effect on states' conduct across the world (Friedman, 2000; Held, 1999). The idea of unfastened trade and the notion in its efficiency and pacifying outcomes have nevertheless been the governing ideologies of the various free-trade institutions which include the WTO, EC, NAFTA, the IMF, and world bank which have proliferated inside the past two many years.

Conclusion

With the end of the bloodless battle, the continuing globalization of the arena economy, and the atrocities because of worldwide terrorism, the conventional issues that occupied the liberal studies schedule were endowed with a brand new experience of urgency. Troubles of exchange and international economics remain critical to investigate agendas of institutional and interdependence liberals, mainly the examine of global groups, each new and old. For the reason that collapse of the sector economy in late 2008, there has been an pressing want for more knowledge on how IOs such as the WTO, the Bretton Woods establishments, and the various free-change agencies along with the eu and NAFTA have both contributed, or may be used as a solution, to the cutting-edge financial disaster. Likewise, studies on global networks of banking and different global economic establishments calls for similarly improvement because the methods of integration and transnational family members continue to intensify in locations like Western Europe.

Moreover, mainly because the 2003 Iraq war, there has been a renewed debate over the democratic peace and requires greater research on precisely how democracy ends in peace and whether or beneath what conditions it may be permissible to forcibly change the government of a country to make it extra democratic and peaceful. The function of IOs inside the location of international safety is likewise a urgent challenge, as NATO evolves from its cold war posture right into a tool for democratic enlargement and an entity higher prepared to deal with terrorist and rebel challenges in locations like Afghanistan. newer institutions together with the African Union are likewise increasingly more turning into the subject of analyses regarding how this entity, together with the United nations, can grow to be more effective at addressing the numerous crises at the African continent, which includes in Darfur, Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Likewise, the potential emergence of nuclear threats from Iran and North Korea has made collective efforts at nuclear nonproliferation a particularly essential concern as states try to use the global nonproliferation regime to save you the unfold of guns of mass destruction. Such questions that cope with the emergence, change, and results of IOs consequently continue to be vital to the institutional and interdependence liberal research agendas.

Eventually, the eye given with the aid of governments to nonstate terrorism and the sources dedicated to preventing it demonstrate an pressing need for extra studies by pluralist liberals concerning the threats of nonstate armed groups, together with worldwide terror networks like al Qaeda, as well as extra regional agencies such as Hezbollah. What's the pleasant manner for states to cooperate to fight this chance? What's the relationship among liberal democracy and terrorism? The modern-day wave of Islamic militancy is profoundly antiliberal and therefore affords a chance not handiest to liberal states but also arguably to the worldwide order over which liberal states have presided. although some have argued that the emergence of al Qaeda and its associates is proof of the deterritorialization of global politics and the further decline of the sovereign nation, others argue that it has allowed the state to build up more power, which include setting new regulations on civil liberties, improving powers of surveillance and detention, and increasing army spending (Harvey, 2003). As Scott Burchill (2005) notes, the danger posed by way of Islamic terror has been met through an growth in navy interest via powerful states which have been emboldened to intrude—even preventively—in different states' inner affairs.

Liberalism as portrayed on this research paper is an inherently optimistic technique to understanding international family members that emphasizes the position of global institutions, loose change, home (liberal) political institutions, and nonstate actors as all having essential influence on worldwide politics. Honestly all liberal scholarship is imbued with a religion that there can be progress in human affairs. although liberalism might also have originated as a broad philosophical declaration approximately human progress and perfectibility, it is today first-class understood as an analytical project concerned with exploring the opportunities for international peace and cooperation and for improving the human situation (Sterling-Folker, 2006). although there has been purpose to be positive approximately the outlook for worldwide political lifestyles over the last many years—particularly since the quit of the cold struggle—recent years have witnessed profound modifications that hold to mission this optimistic outlook. The assignment for liberal IR students these days is to enhance our know-how of those various adjustments a good way to benefit better information of their reasons and consequences inside the hopes that they may be better understood and in the long run triumph over.

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