

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY (INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORIES)

FEMINISM AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY (IPE)

8th lesson

EFOP-3.6.2-16-2017-00007

SZÉCHENYI 2020 



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LEARNING GUIDE

- Lesson length: **7** slides
- Content:
 - New Marxism
 - Feminism in IR
 - International relations and the study of IPE



- Recommended minimum duration for review: 30 minutes
- Suggested minimum time for learning: 1 hour and 30 minutes
- The learning of the curriculum is aided by a course book and self-assessment questions.
- Recommended minimum duration of this full lesson: 2 hours

NEW MARXISM

- New Marxism is characterised by a direct (re)appropriation of the concepts and categories developed by Marx.
- Some deploys Marx's analysis of capitalism and colonialism to criticise some of the central ideas of Dependency and World-System theorists.
- Justin Rosenberg uses Marx's ideas to criticise realist theories of international relations and to develop an alternative approach which seeks to understand historical change in world politics as a reflection of transformations in the prevailing relations of production.

FEMINISM IN IR

- Feminism in IR arises from a wide range of theories. Most of them have connections to new Marxism.
- A common strand is the extent to which women have been *undervalued*, *dismissed* as passive onlookers, or *completely ignored* in international relations.
- One symptom of the gendered approach to IR is the tendency to depict the world in masculine terms.

FEMINISM IN IR

- **Empirical feminism** asserts that women have played a more active role than the mainstream literature on the subject would have us believe.
- **Analytical feminism** attempts to re-address gender biases within IR's traditional theoretical frameworks.
- **Normative feminism** uses feminist concerns in order to critique existing forms of power and to construct an agenda for global reform.
- Feminists *of various kinds* have highlighted the importance of aggression in defining 'masculinity'. From this perspective, the use of rape as a weapon of war (especially in civil conflicts) is particularly pertinent.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND THE STUDY OF IPE

- The study of **International Political Economy** (IPE) has become increasingly important in recent years.
- A major impulse towards the study of IPE came in 1970, with the appearance of an article by [Susan Strange](#). This focused on the relative neglect of international economics within academia.
- The term ‘political economy’ suggests a merging of two aspects of social life.

IPE

- IPE focuses on the interplay between **political power** and **economic forces** from the national through to the international and global levels.
- More specifically, it can be argued that IPE focuses on the **relationship between states and markets**.
- There is a tension between states and markets, because the former is concerned with preserving sovereignty while the latter thrives on openness and the absence of barriers to trade.

MARXISM AND CRITICAL IPE

- Karl Marx was heavily influenced by Adam Smith, although he reached far less optimistic conclusions about the operations of the free market.
- Although Marx was writing at a time when international trade was relatively underdeveloped, he understood that capitalism could not be constrained by state boundaries.
- His work provides the basis for much critical thinking in the field of IPE, focusing in particular on the tendency of capitalists to seek profits wherever labour is cheapest.

MARXISM AND IPE

- Supporters of globalization argue that the 'invisible hand' of the market operates on a wider scale, bringing higher labour standards to workers in developing nations.
- For many Marxists, this process is not just morally repugnant: it also promises to bring an end to global capitalism, at the point when 'entrepreneurs' run out of sources of cheap labour.

ABOUT THIS LESSON

The images used in the curriculum can be found online and are freely accessible.

The curriculum is for educational purposes only.

Compulsory and recommended literature sources for the given course were used as sources for the lesson.

This teaching material has been made at the University of Szeged, and supported by the European Union by the project nr. EFOP-3.6.2-16-2017-00007, titled Aspects on the development of intelligent, sustainable and inclusive society: social, technological, innovation networks in employment and digital economy. The project has been supported by the European Union, co-financed by the European Social Fund and the budget of Hungary.



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