
 <p><u>Norbert Merkovity</u></p>	 <p><u>11-16 minutes</u></p>	<p>Thing to remember:</p> <p>Feminists of various kinds have highlighted the importance of aggression in defining ‘masculinity’.</p>
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Feminism and International Political Economy (IPE)

As it was already mentioned, many theories could be originated from Marxism. However, not just from the ‘old’ or ‘traditional’ Marxism.

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.

For instance, feminism (in IR) is originated from Marxism, too (instead of class fight we will find gender fight).

Feminism in IR

One symptom of the gendered approach to IR is the tendency to depict the world in masculine terms.

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.

Making women visible in international politics (relations), this is the most important aim of this theory. Eventually, this aim will lead to the further aim that is **exposing and deconstructing socially constructed gender norms**.

Various feminisms 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 Political Economy (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 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.

IPE and the economic development

Mercantilism refers to a set of ideas related to the balance of trade between states. It is associated with the doctrine and practice of European states in the 17th and 18th centuries. A basic premise of mercantilism is that the economic prosperity of a state is intimately linked to its military power.

The decline of mercantilist thinking can be dated to the appearance of Adam Smith’s Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations, in 1776. Smith argued that if nations stuck to those trades which suited them best, the international economy as a whole would benefit. Smith’s opposition to state interference in international trade was consistent with his laissez faire views on the domestic economy (i.e. the state should not interfere in the market either at home or abroad). In reality, Smith did allow for state interference in specific enterprises (e.g. the provision of certain ‘public utilities’).

Smith believed that although human beings were self-interested, their interactions would lead to the benefit of all through the ‘invisible hand’ of the market. His ideas were extremely influential in government circles until after the First World War.

The experience of the Great Depression of the late 1920s and early 1930s inspired a rethink of the proper role of the state. John Maynard Keynes (1883-

1946) argued for extensive state intervention in the economy, on the premise that Smith had been too optimistic in his view of the benevolent effects of unrestricted economic interaction between selfish people. Keynes’s ideas have had a profound and lasting effect on IPE.

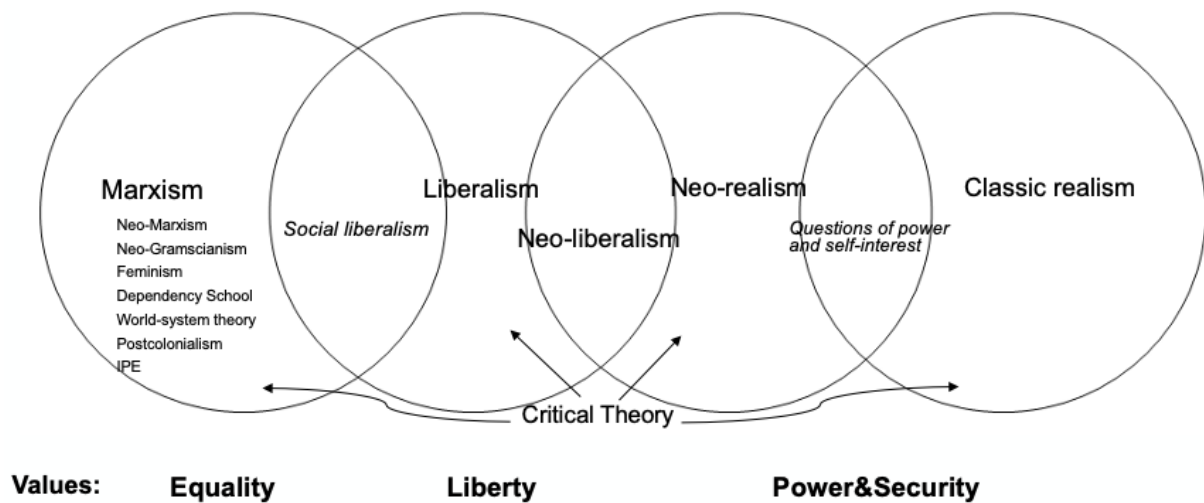
Karl Marx was heavily influenced by Adam Smith, although he reached far less optimistic conclusions about the operations of the free market.

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.

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.

Explaining IPE: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cJRQkwMyup8>

Progress



Questions

1. What are the characteristics of *New Marxism*?
2. What describes *feminism* in IR?
3. What types of feminism do you know?
4. How is masculinity visible in IR?
5. What is *IPE* for?
6. What are the origins of IPE?
7. What is the focus of IPE?
8. How could you explain mercantilism through IPE?
9. Why is Keynes important for IPE?
10. How could you connect Marxists to the IPE?

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