



# **DIPLOMACY DECODED**

**An Introduction to Diplomacy**



# **Lesson 01 - The Foundation**



# What is a State?



1. A state has defined borders and its own territory
  2. A state has people who live there permanently
  3. A state has a government that makes laws, has relations with other states, and is independent
- What are examples of states you can think of?
- The United States
  - China
  - The United Kingdom



# Different Forms of Government



- Democracy
  - All citizens in a state are allowed to vote to determine the decisions of their government
- Monarchy
  - A state that is led by a monarch or a royal family
- Dictatorship
  - A state that is centered around a dictator who makes decisions on their own
- Aristocracy
  - The nobility determine the decisions of the state
- Let's watch a video to learn more!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LBFXD06fudM>

## A stylized blue column with a fluted shaft and an Ionic capital. The column is oriented vertically, with the capital at the top. The shaft is composed of many thin, vertical blue lines. The capital features two prominent scrolls on either side of a central horizontal band.

- 
- A tall, stylized blue column with a fluted shaft and an Ionic capital. The column is composed of many vertical blue lines of varying thickness, creating a fluted effect. The capital at the top features two prominent scrolls (volutes) on either side of a central rectangular block. The entire column is rendered in a solid blue color.



# What is Diplomacy?



- Diplomacy is how states, people, or organizations build relationships with others to advance their interests
- Diplomacy is conducted through dialogue and negotiation
- Let's watch a video to see diplomacy in action!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LdKFN1g62PM>



# How does Diplomacy Work?



- States have departments that focus on diplomacy called the Department of State, the Foreign Ministry, or the Office of Foreign Affairs
- States have embassies, consulates, and missions in other nations with diplomatic relations
- Each state appoints an ambassador to oversee diplomacy with another nation
- The ambassador negotiates and speaks on their state's behalf
- Let's watch a video on how diplomacy works!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bOs5H39dlRA>



# What are Intergovernmental Organizations?



- Intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) are organizations established by a treaty where groups of states work together
- Why are IGOs useful and what do they do?
  - Establish economic policy
  - Write International Law
  - Allow for open dialogue
- What are some examples of IGOs that you can think of?
  - The United Nations
  - North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
  - African Union
  - Organization of American States (OAS)



# What does the U.N. do?

- The United Nations was established in 1945 after World War II
- The United Nations' goals are to end war, promote peace and security, and improve the well-being of people around the world
- There are 193 voting member states of the United Nations
- Members of the United Nations introduce, debate, and vote on resolutions
- There are six committees of the United Nations and the Security Council:
  - Disarmament & International Security
  - Economic & Financial
  - Social, Humanitarian & Cultural
  - Special Political & Decolonization
  - Administrative & Budgetary
  - Legal



# What do Ambassadors to the U.N. do?

- Every member state of the United Nations sends an ambassador to speak at United Nations' meetings on their behalf
- Ambassadors to the United Nations are typically appointed by their state's leader or head of foreign affairs
- Ambassadors must clearly articulate their state's positions on all topics
- Let's watch part of an interview with the Ambassador from Kiribati to the United Nations!



# Let's do an Activity!

- Now you are an ambassador to the United Nations!
  - Pick a country, do five minutes of research, and speak about the topic of climate change for 30 seconds

United States -



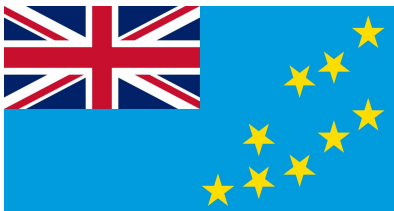
China -



India -



Tuvalu -



Kenya -



Chile -





# **Lesson 02 - How Do States Behave?**

# What is Power?

- Hard Power is the ability to influence the decisions of other states through strength
  - Economic strength
  - Military might
  - Natural resources
- What is Soft Power?
  - Soft Power is the ability for a state to project their culture and values across the globe to influence its image on the world stage
  - What are some examples of Soft Power that you can think of?



# What is a Hegemon ?

- A hegemon is the most powerful state on the global stage
- What is a state that you think is/was a hegemon and why?
- What makes a hegemon a hegemon?
  - Dominant economic power
  - Military strength
  - Influential soft power



# Let's Analyze how States Behave

- How do you think states should behave towards one another?
- There are three main theories in international relations explaining how states act:
  - Realism
  - Liberalism
  - Constructivism



# What is Realism?

- States always act in their best interests
- States are constantly in competition with each other
- States will work towards achieving the maximum amount of security and relative power because there are other states that could challenge them
- The Thucydides Trap: The most powerful state and the rising power will always come in conflict because they are competing







# Now You are a State



- The State's Dilemma:
  - Everyone is assigned a State - They can choose its name
  - 1. You can either attack or defend
  - 2. If both states attack, both states are out
  - 3. If both states defend, both states continue
  - 4. If one state attacks and one defends, the state that defended is out at the state that attacked takes the card of the other player
  - 5. Go until one or two players are left and there is a winner!
- Let's discuss what this activity means and how it works with real states

# What is Liberalism?

- Cooperation between states is the most beneficial for all involved
- States should engage in trade and deepen economic ties
- Intergovernmental organizations are critical for allowing states to keep dialogue open and work together
- Democracy is the most stable form of government and democracies do not fight wars against each other
- Liberals believe wars can be completely stopped through diplomacy and cooperation





# What is Constructivism?



- The international system is a social construct, as everything is based on a conceived concept
  - What are social constructs?
- States adhere to the norm because it is what is 'socially acceptable'
- Why is North Korea more threatening to the United States than the United Kingdom is?
- Soft Power and popular opinion are most important in international relations





# Debrief and Discuss!



- Which of the political theories do you agree with most and why?
- What did you find most interesting from the lesson?
- Which form of government do you think is best?
- Did you enjoy being an ambassador to the United Nations?



# Thank You!

For any questions please email:  
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