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Contemporary World Affairs

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North Korea

- “We can’t find a state that runs purely randomly in terms of violence.”
- Have to have a goal of self-preservation: preserve self interest; if we had no government, we would live with self-preservation.
- North Korea is just focused on nuclear bombs.
- “The black box of decision making of North Korea”
- There was a one child policy.
- “North Korea is predictable.”
- 2003 study by a political scientist, David Kang, found that North Korean leaders shrewdly determine their ideas and act on them. He says that all the evidence points towards leaders making very sophisticated decisions. There's no guess work for these people.
- Two problems with the end of the Cold War: When the bipolar world came a one dimensional world (hegemonic force) 1. Military problem - Korean peninsula is still in a formal state of war 2. Political problem - claim to represent all Koreans (1950 til 1980 both Koreas were relatively equal)...solved both problems with songun, military first policy means that North Korea is going to be permanently on a war footing which would justify the state's poverty to maintain its massive military. Justified oppression to keep out any kind of traitors.
- There’s a culture shift in the relationship between China and the United States. With trade comes cooperation.
- North Korea actively risk accepted and willingness to go to war.

- if a state is irrational then it is total unpredictable
- if you say a state is non rational then you are saying they aren't interested in self preservation
- states are always going to act in their self-interest if there was no government your first interest would be self-preservation
- when a state is rational doesn't mean they will always succeed in acting in their best interests and might not always succeed in short term gains or long term
- when states look for self-preservation this lets the world shape their decision making.
- the only time states can be irrational is when they don't follow their own self interests.
- in china Chairman Mao came up with the one child policy and to get rid of all the colleges and make them all farmers.
- around 60 million people died over 25 years
- David Kang found that North Korean leaders shrewdly determine their decisions nothing impulsive about it. They do so with very extreme precision
- it begins with the country trying to solve 2 problems after the cold war. 2 problems they faced when the bi-polar world turned into a Hegemonic world.
- one was the military problem because the Korean peninsula is still in a state of war.
- once Soviet Union falls North Korea goes to China
- China helps but to a certain extent because China is a rising economic power and trade with China and the US is about 10 years old at the time
- the other problem is political they both claim to represent all Koreans and from 1950-1980 both Koreas were relatively equal.
- the south Koreans really open themselves up to trade while the north Koreans did not.
- SONGUN the military first policy means that North Korea is permanent going to be on a war footing
- North Korea is hyper risk accepted

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Extra credit. Submit Notes for 9/26 Class Session:

Matthew Dresselhouse

Class Notes for 9/26:

- We've never had a president that has threatened to attack another nation.
- A state that is rational will follow its own interest.
- From a realist standpoint - If a state is not following a rational goal, you cannot tell how it will behave.
- Even if a country like North Korea destroys its own people, they are still interested in self preservation (meaning that they are rational).
- Even if a state is rational, there may still be mistakes made.
- The world shapes incentives for rationality - The geopolitical environment create a Checks and Balances system for every country's action.
- Domestic factors inside of the state - Ideologic extremism and opposition to power.
- 2003 study by David Kang - North Korean leaders will make very sophisticated actions, nothing is just "done on the spot. They love collection massive amounts of information on other states and act accordingly.
- Two problems at the end of the Cold War - Military is still at war at the DMZ, and a lack of allies (being only allied to China).
- Both Koreas were equal in economic power. North Korea's economy collapsed after 1980 when the Soviets stopped funding them. South Korea was becoming a mass producer due to opening themselves up to trade. This caused for the South Koreans to be freer in terms of economy and prosperity.
- Solved the problems is by Songun, or "military first" policy, it put the country on a war-footing. It would justify the state's poverty in order to sustain its massive military. This would eliminate any sort of traitors inside the state. It wants the world to see its glorified military with people cheering in the streets.
- North Korea intentionally employs a posture of seemingly bolstered up military and show of might.

9/26

Realist - if you don't assume a state is doing what's in their best interest then their unpredictable (irrational).

If emotional, emotional in achieving a certain goal.
Self preservation.

Even if a state is rational doesn't mean they don't make mistakes and not act in best interest.

Idiological regime extremist North Korea, consumed by how right you are.

Maoistun (founder of communist china) everyone farmers. so many people died.

David Kang found that North Korean leaders make sophisticated decisions. collect intelligence, lots.

2 problems end of cold war
North Korea faced when bipolar world became uniworld.
U.S. dominant / hegemonic forces).
Military problem, Korean peninsula in formal state of war.

Soviet, U.S. problem
1989 Berlin wall comes down. Soviet Union no longer exerts dominance geopolitically.

NK = North Korea

China economic rising, ties with U.S. & West

Mortal adversary.

Trade = cooperation

Political problem of 2 Koreas

North Korean economy bad now because no financial support from Soviet Union.

Songun - military first policy

North Korea permanently on a war footing. Justify states poverty.

Maintains massive military.

Kill "traders" for minimal reason, even relatives.

Roy says NK intentionally risk

If we attack NK, China pissed b/c NK flood into China & China doesn't like NK.

9/26/17 TUES

Self preservation can shift within a state as well.

Mao Zedong was a Chinese communist leader who decided to eliminate higher education & make everyone farmers however it wasn't enough to support the economy. When he ruled in **the 1960s**, (1949-1945 etc)

millions of people died & when he died, communists stepped up to fix the country he destroyed. Politicians are surrounded by those who can see the errors in their ways but those cannot always ~~be~~

voice their opinion b/c of a lack of power. There's a **shift for self preservation** here. You wanna fight for your country you also wanna live so you may not speak out against a dictator **LOT live.**

David Kang found that NK leaders have a way to determine interest.

Using qualitative data (like simulations, graphs, etc.), he shows that **they as leaders use a lot of info to make very sophisticated decisions.**

They **DO NOT** act irrationally. They do everything w/ **EXTREME CAUTION.** They enjoy collecting as much info as possible.

→ therefore, they are very rational state opposed to popular belief.

→ 2 problems they faced during bipolar → **unipolar hegemony:**

↳ US & Britain

↳ U.S

Hegemon - predominance or dominant influence (US).

1. Korean peninsula

- Korean peninsula is still in a **state of war** b/c of Soviet American issues. That state of war now tips to the benefit of the South Korea b/c democracy but now NK is exposed. **1989, when Berlin wall falls**, NK can't exert as much dominance. Now NK ~~is~~ has to focus efforts w/ **China.**

However, in **1989/1990, China begins to rise economically** so they begin to raise allies w/ the west (U.S/Europe).

→ these trade lines allow for **STRONG TIES** b/c cooperation must **NOT** successfully trade. Each member of society is now a customer in trade.

- North Korea saw that they were exposed b/c of Korean peninsula being run now by SK & U.S, which was a self interest to NK leaders.

Extra credit. Submit Notes for 9/26 Class Session: Noah Johnson

North Korea's Rationality

- The country is a rational actor, looking after its self interest
- Its actions are easier to predict if you look upon it as a rational actor

When acting rationally with self-interest, your main goal is self-preservation

- North Korea may not be interested in protecting their society or human rights, but that doesn't mean they're acting irrationally

Interests

- A state without structures first interest is often self-preservation (survival instincts)
- Short term gains, Long term gains
- States Incentives and goals

The only time when states can become irrational is when they act outside of their interests

Ideology

- Moammar Ghaddafi, Mao Ze Dong, ideological leaders can destroy countries
- Ideology and ideological leaders can be irrational

These factors can destroy incentives, as the important things come out of view

David Kang – “North Korean leaders shrewdly determine their interests and then act on them”

- All evidence points to the insight that North Korean leaders make very sophisticated decisions
- No guesswork – all precise
- “It's not possible to argue that these are irrational leaders”

Two Problems with the end of The Cold War

- When the bi - polar world became a uni – polar worlds and the Soviet Union leaves
- The Korean Peninsula, which is still in a formal state of war
- As S.U. leaves power, scale tips to the South and the U.S.
- Political problem: both claimed to settle all Koreans
- 1950 – 1980; both Koreans were reverently settled
- Loses Economic lifeline
- South Korea takes a technologically forwards stance in 1990, lots of technology being produced
- South opens-up to trade, North Shelters

With trade comes co-operation

Both problems (Economy and military)

- Country develops **Songun** (develops military first policy)
- Prioritizes the Korean People's Army
- This also justified its oppression to keep out traders (those who have the "life could be better" mindset)
- Denny Roy – "North Korea intentionally employs a posture of hyper risk acceptance. Their willingness to go to war is their only way to intimidate adversaries"
- This mindset may be just for show, but it creates a real, deadly danger

If North Korea makes peace with South Korea, it will ruin their political legitimacy

9/26 notes

- NK is a rational actor to poli scientists
- They make many sacrifices in regard to the lives of their people but they will still preserve their military and the power of the state
 - Self-preservation
- Only time a state can be irrational is if they don't act in attempting to gain their own best interests.
 - As long as they are acting in their best interest, they are rational.
 - They do not need to succeed in best interests, just need to be attempting to reach them.
- David Kang- poli scientist- nk leaders shrewdly determine their interests and act on them
 - Creates simulative leaders of countries
 - They make very sophisticated decisions
 - Everything is carefully thought out
 - They collect as much data as they can on anyone
 - They faced two problems after the cold war
 - Military problem- Korean peninsula still in a state of war and because they lost the backing of the Soviet Union, it gave the advantage to the south (around 1989). They could go to the china but china is at that time becoming an economic super power which means they are making ties with the western world
 - Political problem- They both claim to represent all Koreans. 1950-1980 both koreas were relatively equal. Sk provided no better life for people than nk in that time. Sk by 1990 is taking off, making a lot of technology and some clothing and really opened themselves up to trade. Nk did not open to trade
 - They solved both with the songun- "military first policy"-nk is going to be permanently on a war footing- justified its oppression and to keep out traitors
- Denny Roy- nk intentionally employs a posture of seemingly hyper-risk acceptance- that's the only way they can get what they want

If you do not assume a state is assuming its self interest, then there is no prediction of what is going to happen.

- Cant analyze randomness
- Which means not interested in self preservation

States are always going to act in there own self interest

- When a state is rational
 - Does not always succeed
 - May make a lot of mistakes
 - States will shape there decision making
 - We could have leader that are so deranged that no one knows they are capable of
 - Ideological consumes your self image, how right you are, how great you are
 - Create internal issues
 - Mow sayton
 - Everyone should be a farmer
 - Millions died due to famine
 - Irrational
 - Distort incentives
 - At least they are predictable
 - David Kane
 - Shrewdly determine there interests and act on them
 - Sophisticated decision making
 - Manage Palace
 - Domestic affairs
 - Popular belief thinks that foreigners act impulsively
 - Not possible for countries to act impulsively
- 2 problems with the end of the cold war
 - Bipolar war became a uni-powered world
 - Soviet American problem
 - North Koreans worry about being exposed
 - If soviets are gone the south get the advantage
 - Hegemon
 - Exerts a dominate influence

- Korean peninsula is in a state of war
- Pionyang very little reason to exist
 - Need to solve military problem
 - Need to solve political power
 - Songon
 - The military first policy
 - Rule out traders
 - Hyper risk accepted

Extra credit. Submit Notes for 9/26 Class Session: Brian McCabe

If you don't assume a state is following its self interest then you cannot possibly predict its behavior

states always act in perceived self interest, first of which is self preservation

Ideological zeal can lead to internal problems, someone the likes of Mao Tse dong taking charge of a centralized an economy and making decisions based upon his own perceived sense of self interest, but it led to famine and despair, soft irrationality

states such as these behave in an unproductive way, but they are still predictable

North Korean shrudely determine their interests and act on them, make very sophisticated decision making

political hegemon - dominant political influence, ex. the US

fall of Soviet Union brings a shift of power in favor of South Korea

Son Gon - Military First policy

North Korea permanently on a war footing, justifies state poverty as a measure to maintain military, justifies oppression and quell internal traitors

North Korea employs Hyper Risk Acceptance

Willingness to go to war is the only way to intimidate adversaries

9/26 Notes

North Korea - Rationality

- They follow their self-interests: Any states
- Self-preservation
- Ex: Hitler was driven by self-preservation, he was rational
- There's rationality in the "Black Box" of North Korea, meaning geopolitics effect it's decisions
- Only time a state can be irrational is if it doesn't follow it's self-interests
- Softer version of irrationality, inter-country domestic
- Mao sae tung, irrational Chinese communist

David Kang - Professor at University of Southern California

- He found that NK leaders shroudly determine interest and pursues them
- Their decision making is very sophisticated

Two problems after cold War - NK

- When U.S.S.R. collapsed and U.S. became only superpower

From 1950-1980, both Koreas were relatively equal, simple economies
1990's - Sk in takeoff stage, making tons of TV's and VCR's, etc.

Son gun - Military First Policy

- NK Permanantly on a war footing
- Use it to justify their poverty

Over time NK's rep. for being irrational has become an asset - they want/like it

Roy

- North Korea employs internationally an ideology and show it built up power

Extra credit. Submit Notes for 9/26 Class Session:

Harrison Rego

- Being a rational state means it's looking out for its self interest
- If it's irrational that means it acts randomly
- You can't analyze randomness
- hitler was driven by self preservation
- everyone has the goal of self preservation
- when a state is rational it doesn't mean they will always succeed in acting in their best interest
- when states look for self preservation it allows the world to shape it
- domestic factors such as ideological zeal that consumes the population could cause problems internally
- mao zedong killed over 50 million people after a failed attempt at a simple economy
- soft irrationality is more prevalent in geopolitics
- at least these states like NK are predictable
- David Kang found that NK leaders shrewdly determine their actions and make very sophisticated decisions
- very into collecting intelligence
- its not possible to argue that they are irrational
- while having the unhinged behavior they started at the end of the cold war
- two problems occurred one was when the bipolar world became a hegemonic one (one power)
- another is the military problems because to this day the korean peninsula is still in an active formal state of war
- NK felt exposed when soviets left
- NK goes to china for help
- china is on the uprise as an economic power and making ties in trade with the west
- as trade takes place stronger cooperation grows

- culture shift takes place between china and US
- both koreas declared they spoke for all
- 1950-1980 both koreas were relatively equal, simple economies
- waves of S.koreans were coming here to study and live
- songun (military first policy)
- permanently justify the state's poverty
- a traitor would be anyone who thought life could be better or was pro south korea
- all domestic propaganda describes a life that doesn't exist
- governments wants the reputation as irrational
- roy says NK intentionally employs a posture of hyperrisk accepted
- if NK is attacked they will all flood in china
- weak states that face more powerful states face two choices
- make peace with foes
- find a way to survive the conflict

Ezekian Spaulding

World Affairs

9/26/2017

Classroom Notes

North Korea

- Viewed to act Rationally
 - Every State and Non-State have rationality
 - Will always act upon goals and beliefs
 - With their own rationality
- Everything that they do is carefully thought out
- Took on two problems at the end of the Cold War
 - The Military
 - The Korean Peninsula is still in a formal state of War
 - The Political
- Songun
 - Military-First Policy
 - North Korea will permanently be on a war footing
 - Keep out any “traitor”, anyone who says life could be better
- They are Hyper-Risk acceptant
 - Threatening with war is the only thing that they do to be threatening

Notes:

9/26/17

North Korea

- States are rational actors
- If its irrational
 - o There's no randomness
 - o Can't analysis randomness
 - o Self- preservation
- If they're willing to destroy people
 - o Still want self-preservation
 - Example of self- preservation; Hitler
- States will always preserve self interest
- Used to a lot of routine
- States don't have regulation
- May not always succeed (theses states)

- Irrationality
 - o Things going on inside the state
- Mao
 - o Ruler of china
 - o Comes up with some ideas
 - o Irrationality
 - o Wanted to create simple people with simple needs
 - o He came up with the one child policy
- Instead of people benefiting from other people they kill them
- Some people want to question these rulers but they don't because

2013 study by political scientists

- David Kang
- North Korean leaders
 - o Everything is carefully throughout
 - o Survive

Bipolar- two poles od power

- Hegemonic force
 - o Dominate influence
- English language

- Korean peninsula
 - o War
- Soviets are gone
 - o State of war will tilt
 - South Koreans

1989

- Sign that the soviets

North Koreans are exposed

China is rising

- Trading

Liberal analysis

- Become accustomed

Cultural shift

- With trade come cooperation
- Ties with the west (china)
 - o They don't want it to get worse

Military

- Koreas
- Claim to represent all Koreans

1950-1980

Both Koreas were relatively equal

- By the 90s south Korea becomes more prosperous
- Families moved here from Korea
- Usually south Korean come not north Korean

Leadership

- Songon
 - o The military first policy
 - o Perinatally on a war footing

- Justify the states poverty
 - To maintain
- Rally around the flag
- The land is badly treated
- Propaganda
 - Shows something that isn't true

Roy

- North Korea intentionally employs
- Always looks like they will take chances

Country or president reacts a different way

- Problems will occur

All the North Koreans will flood into China if this happens

2 choices

- Make peace (N.Korea cant because they want to see each other)
 - Screw up their legitimacy
- Find a way to solve a conflict
-