

SUBJECT:PLSG. SEM: 4

TOPIC: International Relation.

Sub Topic: RealistTheory in IR.

Teacher: Apurba mohan Mukhopadhyay.

CLASSICAL REALISM:

Basic Features :

- 1) Classical realists were of the opinion that people lived in a condition of total insecurity and lawlessness. This situation was altered by a powerful sovereign state with a strong government.
- 2) The ruler needs to be powerful to resolve conflicts in politics. Classical realists emphasized the primary value of power in statecraft.

Leading Theorists : Thucydides, Niccolo Machiavelli, Thomas Hobbes.

NEO-CLASSICAL REALISM :

Basic Features:.

- 1) The Realist Theory emerged during 1930s as a reaction against Liberalism.
- 2). Conflicts between states were inevitable in international Politics because there was no international regulatory authority to curb conflicts and wars.
- 3) The law of politics is rooted in human nature which is self seeking, self interested and power-loving.
- 4) The concept of 'interest defined in terms of power' makes politics autonomous because the concept of 'power' can help to analyse all kinds of politics adequately.
- 5) Ethics in international Politics is political or situational Ethics ,and therefore sharply opposed to private morality.
- 6) Aspirations of a particular state cannot become the governing law of the universe.
- 7) Statecraft is a sober and uninspiring activity that involves a profound awareness of human limitations.

Leading Theorists : E.H.Carr, H.J.Morgenthau.

NEO - REALISM :

Basic Features:

- 1). In the contemporary world, the 'threat' of war is more fearsome than actual war.
- 2) For the Neo-Realism realists, the structure of the system and it's relative distribution of power are the focal points of analysis.
- 3) States which are more 'capable' than others would control international Politics.
- 4) Neo-Realists are sceptical about the impact of globalization throughout the world.
- 5) The Neo-Realists emphasize on continuities but do not deny the possibility of inevitable changes.
- 6) The powerful states monitor and manipulate international political system.
- 7) Despite anti-statism , there is no serious rival to challenge and replace the state in international relations.

Leading Theorists : Kenneth Waltz , T.Schelling, R.Gilpin, S.Krasner