

Summary of Nye and Keohane, 1-3

- Questions:

- 1) What are the major features of world politics when interdependence, particularly economic interdependence, is extensive?
 - 2) How and why do international regimes change?
- Definition of interdependence: high level of transaction flows across international boundaries and reciprocal costly effects associated with these transactions.
 - Definition of power: the ability of an actor to get others to do something they otherwise would not do.

--To understand power and interdependence, it is important to distinguish between sensitivity and vulnerability.

- Sensitivity: within a given policy framework, how quickly do changes in one country bring costly changes in another and how costly are these changes?
- Vulnerability: The country's ability to offset these costly effects by making policy changes

--Keohane and Nye see it as useful to think of these asymmetrical interdependencies as sources of power among international actors.

- International Regimes: networks of rules, norms, and procedures within which relationships of interdependence occur. The intermediate step between the power structure of a system and the political bargaining process that occurs within it.

--Keohane and Nye seek to contrast their theory of world politics, which they call complex interdependence, with realism. It is important to note that they do not see either theory as comprehensive and explanatory in all situations, but as ideal types which apply to different situations in greater or lesser degree.

- Realism:

- 1) states are coherent and are the dominant actors in the international arena
- 2) force is a usable and effective policy tool
- 3) there is a clear hierarchy of issues in world politics, headed by military security

- Complex Interdependence:

- 1) Multiple channels connect societies: informal ties among governing elites, transnational actors and organizations, and formal international channels.
- 2) The agenda of international politics consists of multiple issues which are not arranged in a clear hierarchy
- 3) Military force is not used when complex interdependence prevails on a set of issues.

--These 3 characteristics give rise to political processes which translate power into outcomes:

- 1) Linkage strategies: Because there is no clear hierarchy of issues, state goals will vary by issue, as will the distribution of power and the political process associated with the issue. Militarily strong states will find it difficult to use their military dominance to prevail on issues where they are weak. Linking issues will become more problematic because of the negligible role of force.
- 2) Agenda setting: the politics of agenda formation and control will become more important because there is no clear hierarchy. Domestic and other groups may be able to politicize issues that would not otherwise make the international agenda.
- 3) The line between domestic and international politics becomes blurred because there are multiple channels of interaction. This limits the ability of statesmen to manipulate

interdependence. National interests become less clearly defined and differ with different issues, times, and actors.

- 4) Significant role for international organizations.
 - they define relevant issues and link them
 - bring officials together to create coalitions
 - allow weak states to pursue linkage

Why do international regimes change? 4 possible models:

- 1) Economic Process: technological and economic changes make existing regimes obsolete, and they are then dismantled and reconstructed to account for these changes.

Weaknesses:

- governments sometimes sacrifice economic efficiency for other values
- can't explain why sometimes regimes change in response to economic and technological changes and sometimes they do not

- 2) Eroding hegemony: regimes are created by hegemonic states who will benefit most from the regime and can afford to pay the costs of maintaining it. As the power hierarchy of states changes, international regimes will change as well. Changes in international economic relations can be explained by shifts in military power.

Weaknesses:

- inadequate assumptions about the role of domestic politics
- inability to differentiate between issue areas.
- ignores multiple channels of contact

- 3) Issue structure: states which are strong in a particular issue area will make the rules for that area. Linkage between issues will generally be unsuccessful.

- Distinguishes between activity within a given regime where the legitimacy of the rules is not challenged and activity designed to change the rules of a regime. Entails 2 different types of power resources. The former relates to sensitivity, the latter to vulnerability issues.
- allows us to predict that if there is an incongruity between the distribution of power in the current regime and the underlying distribution of power, there will be regime change.

Weaknesses:

- cannot explain successful issue linkages
- ignores domestic and transnational actors
- doesn't take into account process, only structure

- 4) International Organization Model: international organizations link governments at many levels and create norms prescribing behavior. Once these norms and institutions arise, they are difficult to change. These institutions arise with respect to the distribution of power capabilities among actors, but the process associated with the international organization itself limits the actors' abilities to use these capacities. Power over outcomes becomes organizationally determined by procedural constraints associated with the institution, and is not directly determined by the raw power of the states in the particular issue area.

Keohane and Nye seek to combine these 4 models in explaining regime change.