

MAY 2009

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Maharaja College

WEDNESDAY

140-225

Week 21

20

BA-2, Paper-4, Unit 3

08 Hans J. Morgenthau's Realist Principle

09 Hans J. Morgenthau (1904-1980)
10 developed realism into a comprehensive
11 international relations theory. He places
12 selfishness and power seeking at the
13 center of his picture of human
14 existence. According to him the desire
15 to dominate is the main cause of
16 conflict. He asserts in 'Politics among
17 Nations' (1948), "international politics,
18 like all politics, is a struggle for power".
19 Morgenthau systematizes realism in inter-
20 national relations on the basis of six
21 principles.

1- In the first principle he states that
22 realism is based on objective laws
23 that have their roots in unchanging
24 human nature.

2- The assumption that political leaders
25 think and act in terms interest defined
26 as power.

3- Interest defined as power is a
27 universally valid category and indeed
28 an essential element of politics.

4- Morgenthau considers the relationship
29 between realism and ethics. Universal
30 moral principles cannot be applied to
31 the actions of states in their abstract
32 universal formulation but they must
33 be filtered through the concrete
34 circumstance of time and place.

JUNE
2009

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