

Post-Westphalian International Order

Semester 4 MJC 7

The Post-Westphalian International Order refers to the evolving global system beyond the principles established by the Treaty of Westphalia (1648), which shaped modern international relations. Key aspects include:

Westphalian System Recap:

- Sovereignty: States have supreme authority within their territory.
- Non-interference: No state intervenes in another's internal affairs.
- International Law: Basis for state interactions.

Post-Westphalian Shifts:

1. Globalization & Interdependence:

- Increased economic, political, cultural exchanges blur state boundaries.
- Challenges like climate change, terrorism require collective responses.

2. Erosion of Sovereignty:

- Human Rights & R2P (Responsibility to Protect): International community intervenes in severe human rights violations.
- International Institutions: Bodies like UN, ICC influence state behavior.

3. Non-State Actors:

- NGOs, corporations, terrorist groups impact global governance.

- Transnational issues (cybersecurity, migration) involve multiple stakeholders.

4. Multipolarity & Emerging Powers:

- Rise of countries like China, India shifts global power dynamics.

- Challenges Western-centric norms and institutions.

Implications:

- Cooperation & Conflict: Need for collaborative governance vs. state-centric interests.

- Norms & Law: Tensions between sovereignty and global norms (e.g., humanitarian intervention).

- Future Directions: Debates on reforming institutions (UNSC, IMF) for inclusivity.

The post-Westphalian order reflects a complex interplay of traditional sovereignty and emerging global challenges, requiring adaptable frameworks for governance.