

## Semester 4 MJC 7

### Neo-Realism in International Relations

Neo-Realism is a prominent theory in international relations that emerged as a response to the idealist views of the post-World War I era. It's also known as Structural Realism.

#### Key Assumptions:

1. Anarchy: The international system is anarchic, with no central authority.
2. Self-Help: States prioritize survival, relying on self-help.
3. Power: States seek power to ensure security in a competitive environment.

## Core Principles:

1. Balance of Power: States balance power to prevent dominance by any single state.
2. Security Dilemma: One state's efforts to increase security can decrease others' security.
3. National Interest: States prioritize their national interest over moral or ethical concerns.

## Key Thinkers:

1. Kenneth Waltz: "Theory of International Politics" (1979) is a foundational text.
2. John Mearsheimer: Advocates for offensive realism, emphasizing power maximization.

## Criticisms:

1. **Deterministic:** Critics argue it overlooks human agency and cooperation possibilities.
2. **Oversimplifies:** Reduces complex international relations to power dynamics.

## Relevance:

Neo-Realism remains influential in explaining state behavior, power dynamics, and security concerns in international relations.