

Seminar XXI Paradigms

Paradigm	Central Focus	Unit of Analysis	Main Tool(s)
Realism	Security	The state	Power; military force and other instruments of coercion
Liberalism	Preferences	Individuals and groups	Institutions and institutional design
Historical-Material (Economic)	Material interest	Class or economic group	Political mobilization for radical change
Constructivism/Cultural	Values/beliefs; identity	Identity (e.g., religion, race, ethnicity) or national group	Recognition; accommodation; and socialization

Paradigms and Identity Conflict

Paradigm	One theorized cause of identity conflict	Possible solutions	Impediments to success
Realism	Fear → security-seeking behavior → security dilemmas → conflict	Partition; secession; demographic re-engineering; third-party peace enforcement	Distrust, because of violence histories, commitment problems; locals tend to possess more resolve than intervenors
Liberalism	Discriminatory institutions → grievances → conflict Stoking and exploitation of (real or perceived) grievances by political entrepreneurs → conflict	Consociationalism; other forms of power-sharing; peacekeeping and peace enforcement; building robust and equitable institutions	Distrust; (violent) resistance to, and fears of, status reversal and loss of power—i.e., "spoiling"; corruption; institution-building is a hard and lengthy process
Historical-Material (Economic)	(Class) competition over resources → conflict (If grievances exist), then economic opportunities ("greed") → incentives to wage (and/or perpetuate) war	Economic redistribution; removal of rent-seeking opportunities	Distrust; spoiling; corruption
Constructivism/ Cultural	Discriminatory identity politics (including exclusionary nationalist visions) → fear and/or grievances → conflict	Cultivation of more inclusive identities; multi-culturalism; building robust and equitable institutions	All of the above