

**EDITORIAL
DIGITAL**

TECNOLÓGICO DE MONTERREY

REGIONAL STUDIES

GEORGINA

GONZÁLEZ MENDÍVIL

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About this eBook



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GEORGINA GONZÁLEZ MENDÍL

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She is currently the head of the Humanities Department in the high school division of Campus Sinaloa.

Si no puedes ver el video, haz clic [aquí](#).

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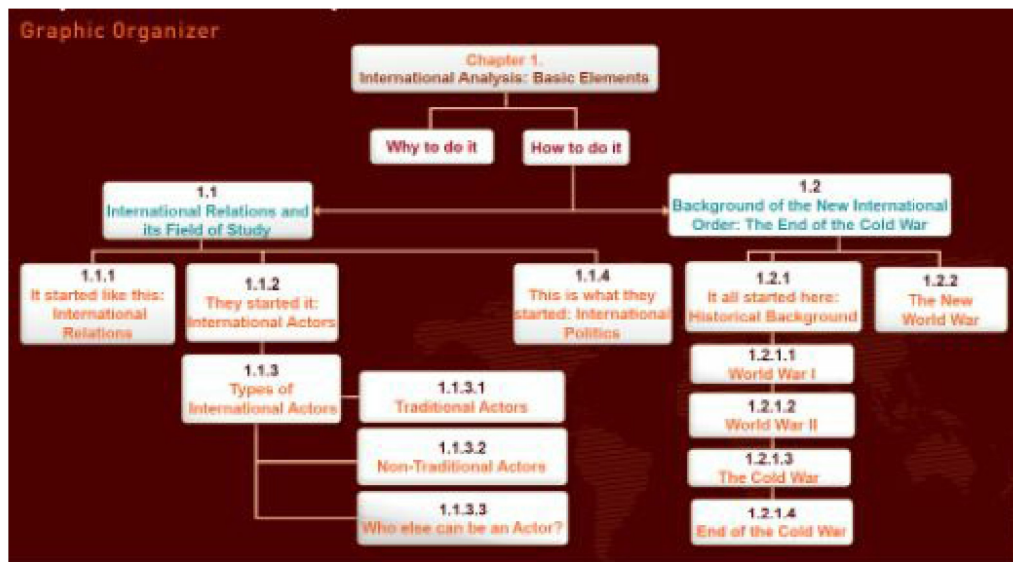
“The world today...” I bet this is an expression you have heard time after time It appears in movies, in the news, and even in songs. The question is: why?



Well, today, knowing about the place you live in, does not mean to know about your house, your town, your city, or even your country. Nowadays, the place you live in is the entire world. History has evolved into a situation where globalization is the norm; businesses are conducted everywhere at the same time, movies are launched simultaneously in every country, and working and living do not necessarily happen in the same place. And since you would not dream of going through life without knowing your house, it is only logical that you do not go on without stopping for a while to get to know what this “world today” is.

This book intends to help you do just that. It is an introduction to the real world history. This is not just about the Industrial Revolution or the World Wars. This is a small tour of all the different regions that constitute our world. In this way, you will understand what has been going on out there and why. Who knows? Maybe it will help you make some sense of what is happening now. It is also about giving you the tools to piece back together all these regions and to see what they have in common, and what challenges they are facing or are about to face. But above all, hopefully this book will become a compass to help you navigate “the world today” whatever that is, whenever that is.

Chapter 1. International Analysis: Basic Elements



Why to do it

Analyzing something is about finding its different components and the way they relate to each other. It is about looking into those components and their relations to study them and try to understand that something.

There are many types of analysis depending on the subject matter. For us, analysis has to be worldly; It has to be an international analysis.

Analysis:

- Components.
- Relations.
- UNDERSTANDING.



An international analysis HAS to help you understand the world, its components and their relations. But why would you want to do this?

Well, it turns out that this is the place where you live. You may as well take a good look at it. You are human; it is in your nature to question your surroundings. But nowadays, that means questioning the whole world.

And basically:

You have to know you are, to know where you are headed.

How to do it

1.1 International Relations and its Field of Study

1.1.1 It started like this: International Relations

Human beings are social by nature. We tend to get together, and to organize ourselves in communities to make our lives easier and better.



Figure 1. Evolution of Primitive Social Groups

As they traded among themselves, or went to war, they basically started interacting with each other. In a few words: when history started, that is when the concept that would later become **International Relations** began.

For a long time, the study of the affairs between nations was exclusive to Kings, ambassadors and the aristocracy. It was not until World War I happened that countries began to see the need for a more widespread study of these matters.

World War I, at the time, was known as the “Great War”. Nothing like that had been seen before, and the people were trying to do what they could so it would not happen again. Lots of social scientists devoted their time in trying to understand what had occurred. One of the most important things they found was a large number of secret agreements. According to these scholars, it was precisely the secrecy what precipitated the war.

Another event related to World War I was the program known as the “Fourteen Points” proposed at that time by the U.S. president Woodrow Wilson. The document outlined a proposal of how the relations between powerful countries should be conducted after the war. One of the most important conditions was the disclosure of agreements.

As you can see, not only scholars, but politicians as well, interpreted the dramatic results of World War I as a reason to learn more about what had been going on between countries, hoping to prevent a new outbreak of war, or at least expecting it would provide a better framework for understanding and thus solving conflicts between nations.

This led to the development of university programs specially dedicated to **International Relations**. That is how the field was born as a formal discipline.



RECOMMENDED LINKS

Visit this site to learn more about World War I.

[Word War One - Causes](#)

This site contains multimedia history of world war one.

[First World War](#)

This document outlined a proposal of how the relations between powerful countries should be conducted after the war.

[Fourteen Points of Wilson](#)

1.1.2 They started it: International Actors

World history is sometimes like T.V. shows, movies and theater plays: treasons, alliances, leading men, unions, destruction... you name it. To describe it, John T. Rourke, author of "International politics on the World Stage" even revives a phrase written by Shakespeare long time ago. His words read:



International actors are all the people involved in World history, and as such, their participation has to be felt at a global level.

The phrase clearly relates to theater, identifying the world with a scenario where the theater play called history takes place. Now, let us play with the analogy.

World = stage History = play
What is missing?

**International
Actors**

I think you will find that there HAS to be people that enact what the play says; the characters. Those would be the **actors**. But these are not regular actors, not even acclaimed actors. We are definitely not talking about Brad Pitt or Angelina Jolie here.

If you agree to call the World a “*scenario*” and History a “*play*”; let us see who the actors can be, and how can we call them.

1.1.3 Types of International Actors

Now let us take this theater comparison just a little bit further. If you remember anything from your literature lessons, you will know that theater has not remained exactly the same since it started. Different themes, layouts, props, characters and stories have become predominant in a determinate period of time. The same is true for the world and its actors.

If we were talking about theater, the Greeks would mark the “*Classic period*”. So, what would be classical about the world? One could argue that whatever has been here the longest can be considered as classical. That translates as: *Traditional Actors*.

1.1.3.1 Traditional Actors

We call traditional actors all those entities that have participated in international affairs since the beginning of the study of those relations as a distinct discipline.

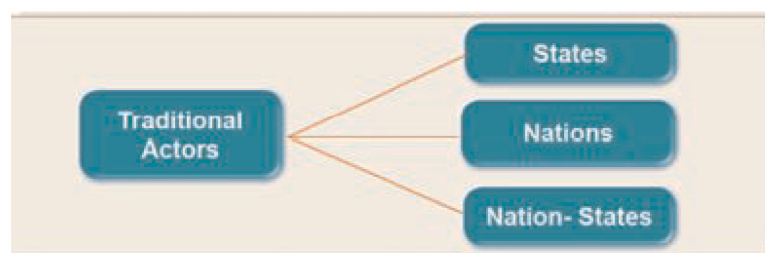


Figure 2. Traditional Actors

States, Nations and Nation-States are traditional actors. We will discuss each one of them in the following sections.

States

According to most Political Science books, a State is composed by a territory, the population that inhabits that territory and the form of organization that the population choose to give itself (i.e. government).

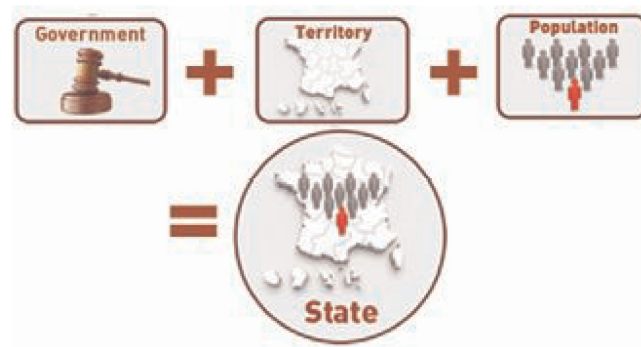


Figure 3. Composition of a State

Different sources mention many other different elements besides the ones we discussed. Among those, we can find:

- a) Diplomatic recognition
- b) Sovereignty
- c) Armies
- d) Secularism
- e) Tax administration



When we are talking about the “Mexican State” or the “German State” we are referring to Mexico and Germany but we are stressing the importance of the unity of population and territory under the guidance of a government. It is the existence of the government that gives formality to this entity we call State, and that is the reason why International Relations are based on States and their interactions.

What this means, is that International Relations are ultimately about what countries can do with themselves and to each other. What they can do is determined by the power they have, which in turn is deeply related to the natural and non-natural sources of power they have access to.

We can consider as natural sources; the geography of a country, its natural resources and also its population.

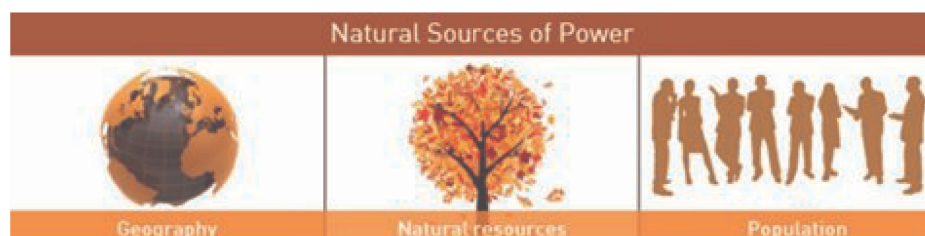


Figure 4. Natural Sources of Power

These factors are really important because they determine the size of the country, number of rivers, proximity to the sea, quantity of mines, presence of oil, weather, and of course, people. It is not hard to see that a big country with oil reserves and a weather that favors the agriculture has a much better chance of success than a small country with no oil and plagued by monsoons.

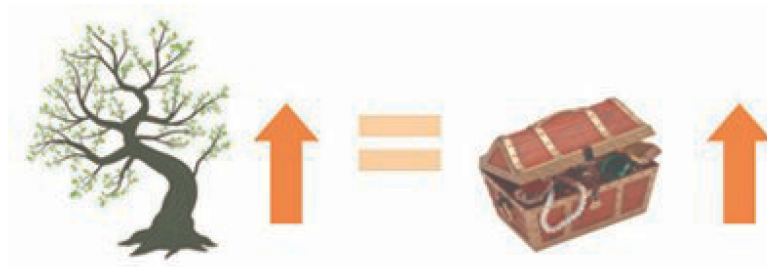


Figure 5. A country with more natural resources has a much better chance of success.

We also have non-natural sources of power. They are usually divided in **Hard Power** and Soft Power.



Figure 6. Non-Natural Sources of Power (Hard Power)

The level of industrial development of a country, the size and qualifications of its army as well as its infrastructure are part of the Hard Power. It is called like that because these characteristics are tangible and they translate into the physical strength the State in question has.

Soft Power is composed by the unity of the population, the public support of the government, the image portrayed by the country (both inside and outside), and the leadership the country sustains. As you can see, these characteristics are not easy to measure and are greatly based on perception. There is no hard evidence to back them up. Thus the name “soft”.



Figure 7. Non-Natural Sources of Power (Soft Power)

To sum up view the following figure:

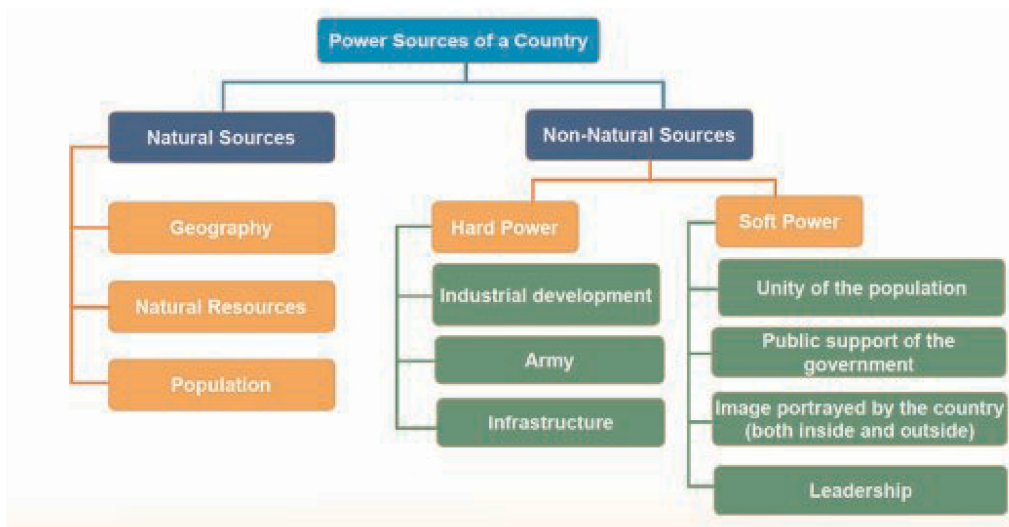


Figure 8. Power Sources of a Country

Nations

A **Nation** can be defined as “an ‘imagined community’ in which a group of people believe that they share common cultural features” (Bradshaw, White & Dymond, 2004). Nations are often linked to a specific area of land, but the control exercised by certain group over that area (in a political sense), is not necessary for the existence of the Nations.



Figure 9. Aspects shared by a Nation

All of them give the members of a Nation a sense of belonging to a group set apart from all other groups that do not share their same language, religion, history, etc.

Some political scientists may argue that a key factor for Nations is their desire to govern themselves.



Nations and all ideological and cultural elements linked to them, as well as the distinct identity they bestow on people are the seed for nationalism.

Nation-States

A Nation-State is the union of these two concepts.

Nation + State = Nation – State

We keep the main elements of a **State**: territory, population, and government. The difference is that by force, in a Nation-State, the members of the population (at least a vast majority) share the same cultural identity.

Nation-States arise from the desire Nations have to have an *independent government* and be sovereign.

One could argue that a Nation-State is the ideal form of organization for people, because it provides the stability of a State AND the respect of the culture of a Nation.

RECOMMENDED LINKS

Nation States

This is a game for you to create your own country and see how you do. [Nation States](#)

Nations and States or Nations vs. States

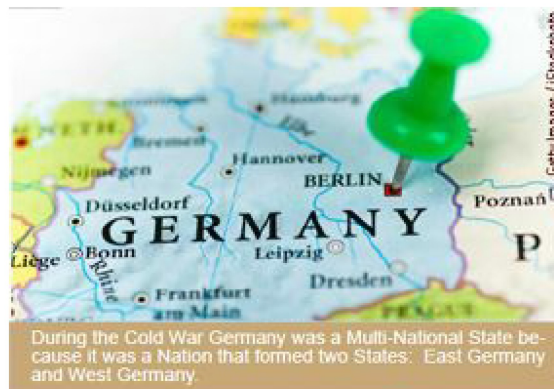
All the concepts we have reviewed are theoretical. In real life, the lines between Nations, States and Nation-States are not all that clear. Actually, their interactions produce some special cases that we are about to see.

Theory vs. Practice?

If you remember what we discussed in the “State” section, there is nothing there concerning culture. This means that the population of a State does not necessarily share the same culture. The main requirement for a State is that THERE IS a population. When it just so happens that most of the population belongs to the same nation, we have a Nation-State, as we just saw.

But there might be countries that hold two or more nations inside their borders. They are known as *Multi-National States*. A good example of this would be Canada, where the population is divided into a French speaking portion and English speaking one.

It may also happen that one Nation forms more than one State or that its population is distributed among several countries. Such was the case of Germany during the Cold War: the Germans were one nation divided into two states, the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic.



1.1.3.2 Non-Traditional Actors

For a long time, States and Nations dominated the scene, but in the XX century, with the World

Wars, the way of doing politics changed forever and new actors came into the scene. Among them we find Intergovernmental Organizations, Multinational Corporations, and Nongovernmental Organizations.



Figure 10. Non-Traditional Actors

Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs)

As you can probably figure out from the name, an **Intergovernmental Organization** is composed by the governments of different **States**.

It is usually formed around a treaty signed by the member States. They arise because countries recognize an issue for which a number of them have an interest in, or a problem with, and they decide to constitute an organization to help them deal with that issue.

These organizations are often in charge of settling disputes, create regulations and maintain a certain order regarding a subject matter.



The United Nations Organization is a perfect example of multinational corporation, as it is composed by representatives of the governments of all its members; it was created through a treaty countries signed in 1945 and has world peace as its goal. Besides, there are covenants and

regulations that spread from it.

The recent developments of capitalism have played a crucial role in the growth of Multinational Corporations as international actors. Businesses have always sought to expand, but it was the tendency towards open economies (open markets, deregulation, and free trade agreements) that paved the way for this type of enterprises.

IGOs are considered as Non-Traditional Actors because even though there is evidence of treaties and organizations all the way to the treaty of Westphalia, their importance and frequency became fundamental after World War II.

Multinational Corporations (MNCs)

Multinational Corporations are large business enterprises that manufacture goods and/or provide services in many international locations. A very important characteristic is that their entire operations are directed from a single country where they keep the headquarters. Frequently, the term Transnational Corporation is used as a synonym.

Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs)

Technically, all international organizations formed by civilians representing private interests can be considered as Nongovernmental Organizations. However, if we took that definition, we would have to include MNCs here, and that is not the case.



We use the term Nongovernmental Organization to describe any group of people committed to collective action.

RECOMMENDED LINKS

This is the official site of the United Nations organization. Visit this site to learn more about the UN and its approach on global issues.

[United Nations Official Site](#)

Visit this site to learn more about the economic policy that made the peace of Westphalia and the Treaty of Westphalia. [The Treaty of Westphalia](#)

If you want to know more, here is an article that explains the concept in more detail.

[Multinational Corporations \(MNC\)](#)

A lot has been said about the influence MNC's have in our world. If you want to know more, go to this site. [The rise of Corporations](#)

They can have local bases, but to be considered as international actors they have to be large and to engage in international issues.

They do not seek profit nor act in behalf of a government. They do not use violence as a tool. They focus mostly on social problems for which they seek to provide aid and create awareness.



1.1.3.3 Who else can be an Actor?

Pretty much any entity or person with enough pull to influence world affairs can be considered an actor. For example world leaders are international actors. A president may be considered a world leader, but it is not necessary to be part of a government. Leaders of opinion such as the Dalai Lama or the Pope are actors too.

Mass Media often function as actors as well. Of course we are not referring to local papers or T.V. stations. We are talking about the big names that are known worldwide like The New York Times, Le Monde, El Pais, BBC, or CNN. Their influence comes from the prestige and credibility that they have with international audiences. For a number of people things published or shown on these Media are as true as the Bible.

In a more somber picture, groups dedicated to illegal activities might become actors given the situation. In the tragic events of 9/11, a terrorist organization (Al Qaeda) was the responsible agent. Its actions affected the world, turning Al Qaeda into an international actor.



Figure 11. *Other International Actors*

1.1.4 This is what they started: International Politics

Approaches to analyze political theory are all the different ideas on what is relevant to make sense of what is going on with the world. There are many ways of deciding what matters. But the two more classical approaches are **Realism** and **Idealism**.

International Relations evolve as history does. Therefore, it is no coincidence that the important events of the in-between-wars period gave birth to Idealism and Realism. The clearest difference between them is the level of optimism with which they see international relations.

Idealism became very important after World War I, when societies started to pay attention to International Politics. The establishment of the League of Nations is a clear example of Idealism. It stems from this idea of cooperation and presents itself as a forum for countries to solve their issues peacefully.

Realism dominated political analysis after World War II. The atrocities of Nazism and the tension of the Cold War made more sense through the realist optic. However, even though Realism is more widely used, it does not imply in any way that Idealism is to be forgotten.



Idealism

has a more positive take on politics. It starts from the belief that cooperation is the way in which countries achieve their goals.

Idealists believe that the sovereignty of States is a major cause of war (Joseph Smith, 2001), and therefore the entire system of

international relations should be reformed to include the preeminence of international law and organization.

Idealism is based largely on the writings of **Immanuel Kant**.

Realism

Realism on the other hand, claims that cooperation is not really possible because in “reality” the humans that construct the countries are not all that cooperative. Therefore, the only way to explain a country’s decision is to see how that decision fits into the pursuit of its own agenda.

Realists believe that the search for power is what motivates the behavior of the States. Since all States are after the same thing (power), problems are bound to happen. From the realist perspective, conflict and competition are the characteristics of International Relations.

Philosophically, it can be linked to **Thomas Hobbes**’ ideas of the selfish nature of man. Realists argue that the same shortcomings afflicting men, also affect in turn the States created by them.

The existence of the United Nations and other organizations engaged in promoting growth and development of every country, is a living proof that Idealism is still around.

RECOMMENDED LINKS

If you want to know more, here is a college lecture about this topic.
[Debating International Relations](#)

1.2 Background of the New International Order: The End of the Cold War

1.2.1 It all started here: Historical Background

The world we live in today is the result of the end of the Cold War. The technology we have developed, the powerful countries, terrorism, and all other important aspects that set up the international scene are explained because the Cold War happened. Now, the Cold War did not come out of the blue. It is a consequence, a result of the end of World War II and the way this war was fought and by whom. World War II would be impossible to understand without World War I. So let us state.

***If you want to understand today, you have to search yesterday.
~Pearl Buck***

1.2.1.1 World War I

When we talk about World History in the XIX century, all emphasis shifts immediately to Europe because it was the home of all the important countries at that time. There, one of the most important characteristics of the century was the consolidation of States as the predominant form of political organization. In particular, we can mention the unification of Italy and Germany. Besides that, another phenomenon marking this century was the *Industrial Revolution*. The combination of these two circumstances brought about some interesting consequences that played a key role in the events that precipitated World War I.



Figure 12. Today's World is the result of many events.

States have a population to support. They have a government that is supposed to respond for their inhabitants, and they also tend to generate feelings of belonging and distinction from others. The logic brought about by the Industrial Revolution meant that for countries (that is for STATES) to be successful they had to achieve a high level of industrial development. Such thing is not possible if there are no cheap raw materials available. Countries in Europe are not all that large, which made the accessibility to raw materials, let alone cheap ones, a little difficult.

RECOMMENDED LINKS

Visit this site to learn more about World War I.
[World War One Causes](#)

In this light, what was there for States to do?

The solution they resorted to, was a combination of **Imperialism** and **Nationalism** that later proved to be really dangerous.

Nationalism had a lot to do with the consolidation of States that we have discussed before. The States taking the lead in Europe were Nation-States. These entities naturally give birth to loyalties. If we combine the ideas of Darwinism and the survival of the fittest, we have that Nationalism became a matter of not just being different from others, but better than them.

Because of the Industrial Revolution and the capitalistic system spreading with it, Nationalism became a question of economy. Being a better country meant being a richer country. To be rich, States needed to make sure to: a) have the raw materials necessary for production, and b) have a market for their finished products. In order to have this, the easiest answer was having colonies, and as a result, Imperialism was thrown into the mix.

We have to keep in mind that in this scenario, Nationalism meant, in very simple terms, a competition between countries. Anyone will tell you that in an environment like the one we are describing, it does not hurt to have someone on your side. So, the European countries began to form alliances either to counter the power of someone, or trying to maximize their own position. Some of the most important ones were (formed by Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy) and the Triple Entente (Russia, France and Great Britain).



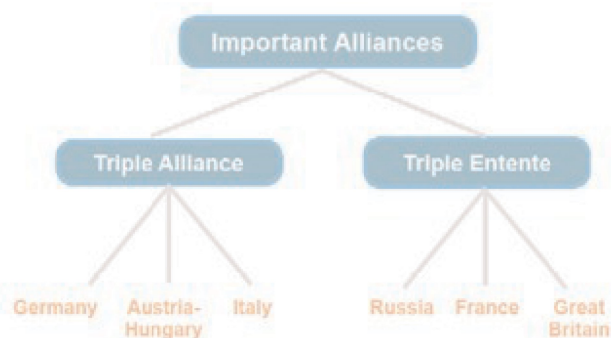


Figure 13. Colonialism in Africa

Figure 14. World War I Important Alliances

The atmosphere prevailing in the Europe of the 1800s was that of competition and distrust. Countries would only get together for ulterior motives. To make matters just a little bit more complicated, in August 1914, the Austrian archduke Franz Ferdinand was murdered. This event initiated the World War I.

Nationalism led countries to compete with each other. The competition led them to form alliances, and the way the alliances were formed ultimately meant that there was no way for one of them to go to war against another without all of them being involved in the conflict. Thus, instead of an Austrian war, we are talking about a world war.

Alliances	
1789	<p>The Dual Alliance</p> <p>Germany and Austria-Hungary made an alliance to protect themselves from Russia.</p>
1881	<p>Austro-Serbian Alliance</p> <p>Austria-Hungary made an alliance with Serbia to stop Russia gaining control of Serbia.</p>
1882	<p>The Triple Alliance</p> <p>Germany and Austria- Hungary made an alliance with Italy to stop Italy from taking sides with Russia.</p>
1894	<p>Franco-Russian Alliance</p> <p>Russia formed an alliance with France to protect herself against Germany and Austria-Hungary.</p>

<p>1904</p>	<p>Entente Cordiale This was an agreement, but not a formal alliance, between France and Britain.</p>
<p>1907</p>	<p>Anglo-Russian Entente This was an agreement between Britain and Russia</p> <p>Triple Entente This was made between Russia, France and Britain to counter the increasing threat from Germany.</p>
<p>1914</p>	<p>Triple Entente (no separate peace) Britain, Russia and France agreed not to sign for peace separately.</p>

Figure 15. *Timeline of Alliances*

The War lasted from 1914 to 1919. In 1917, Russia had to withdraw from the Entente due to domestic problems (the Russian Revolution). To make up for the lost member, France and Great Britain sought help in the then young United States. This new version of the Triple Entente was victorious. Battles ended by November 1918, but the official peace treaty was not signed until 1919, that is why we set this date as the end of the war.

It is the Versailles treaty that marks the end of what was then known as the “Great War”. Unfortunately, the terms it set for the defeated countries were a little harsh for them, imposing severe payments on the former members of on account of “reparations of war”. Germany felt particularly humiliated, and Italy had its part as well.

After years of war and with the debt created by the terms of the Versailles treaty, it was very hard for the economy of the defeated countries to recover. On top of that, by 1929 the world experienced its first official **world economic crisis**. Add all this up and you will see that the situation for countries like Germany was pretty desperate. This desperation was the breeding ground for Fascism and Nazism.

Both Fascism and Nazism are totalitarian regimes with profound nationalistic ideas.

Fascism arose in Italy with Benito Mussolini whereas National Socialism (Nazism) arose in Germany with the infamous Adolf Hitler.

Although both ideologies may seem a bit extreme for a more current point of view, one has to understand that at the time, it seemed like a very plausible alternative, particularly for the countries involved. The Nationalism that propelled World War I made losing the war a humiliation that only got worse with the economic problems caused between the debt and the depression.

In this situation, people were willing to believe almost anything and anyone if that meant solving their problems. In a way, it was as if Fascism and Nazism were a new outlet for the nationalistic pride wounded by the Great War. On top of that, many people feared the expansion of the USSR's newly adopted Communism. Fascism and Nazism offered an opposite party.



Figure 16. Fascism arose in Italy with Benito Mussolini whereas National Socialism (Nazism) arose in Germany with Adolf Hitler.



Figure 17. World War I Alliances

However, nationalism proved again to include an imperialistic element that triggered yet another

war. Totalitarianism provided the common ground for a new alliance to be formed. Japan, Italy and of course Germany became the “Axis Powers”, and once in the “safety” of an alliance, Germany decided that it was time to recover all territories that should have been German either by right or might. Hitler had first annexed Austria and later Bohemia and Moravia (currently part of the Czech Republic). This made France and Great Britain realize war was near. So, by the time Germany invaded Poland, World War II was officially on the way with France and Great Britain as the “Allies” that hoped to counter the “Axis”.

At the beginning, the Axis Powers had the lead with Germany effectively occupying a large portion of France and isolating Great Britain through the constant bombarding of its cities. The Non-European Powers (The United States and The Soviet Union) were not taking part of this. But when in 1941 Hitler decided to break its non-aggression pact with the USSR he made a new enemy. Later that year Japan attacked the United States in Pearl Harbor causing the US to decide to openly participate and thus bringing yet another member to the Allies.

By April 1945 Germany’s defeat was evident, but Japan continued the fight. The United States decided to prove a new weapon they had been developing in the hopes of achieving the unconditional surrender they deemed as the only acceptable option for Japan.



1.2.1.3 The Cold War

The end of World War II inaugurated a new era in International Relations, one where Europe no longer played the most important role. Two new super powers had been introduced: US and USSR. Moreover, new armament had been brought into the picture: nuclear weapons. With these new contenders and their latest toy, the new period called “Cold War” started.

Both the United States and the Soviet Union emerged from the war not just as world powers, but as superpowers. There were no other competitors, and their contribution to the end of World War II helped them consolidate their status. In order to fully understand their dynamics, you have to understand that although they were both allied against the Axis, their partnership was unwilling. They were opposing regimes by nature; with the Soviet Union being communist and the United States capitalist, their ways of organizing and understanding the world and themselves was not just different, but contradictory. The only thing that kept them together during the war was the existence of a common enemy. Once the enemy was gone, so were the reasons for an alliance.

Many historians mark the beginning of the Cold War around 1947; but we will argue that in fact,

the Cold War was on its way somehow since 1945. It is the end of World War II that gives us a clue: the nuclear weapons launched on Japan. This was not a joint operation, as neither were the bombs among the weaponry that they both had at their disposal. It was the US alone who had the last word. The Soviet Union had a reason right then and there to be suspicious.

It is called “cold” because there was never any direct act of confrontation between its participants. The conflict took up the form of a competition where countries were striving to expand their ideologies (communism and capitalism), while attempting to demonstrate to be the best alternative by trying to get the most allies, the best weapons and the most effectiveness in countering the advances of one another.

The Cold War is an ideological confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union that took place since the end of World War II in 1945 until the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991.

The competition to get the biggest and best weapons was known as the “arms race”. Countries devoted themselves to the accumulation and development of weapons, in particular of the nuclear kind due to their potential to destroy the enemy.

During the Cold War, with the excuse of protecting a country from the opposing ideology, there was a great deal of interventionism on the part of the superpowers. This intervention could go from financing a “guerrilla”, to supporting a regime, or even sending troops to support a certain party in a war. It is important to keep in mind that even though this war was on the overall “cold”, that does not mean there were no confrontations. It only means that the confrontations were not direct between the US and the USSR. The wars in Vietnam and Korea bear proof of this.



Figure 18. Cold War Sides

A very important characteristic of the Cold War was the existence of a particular logic, under which everyone and everything were to be interpreted. For example, friends were all those people that pledged to support you and not your enemy. It did not matter if you were being supported by dictators, terrorist, warlords, or democratic governments. As long as they supported your side, they were your friends.

Arms race

The contradiction laid in the fact that due to the size and strength of these weapons, in many cases, destroying the enemy meant also blowing the rest of the world to pieces.



Probably the most symbolic event of the Cold War was the division of Germany and the construction of the **Berlin Wall**. Since Germany had been involved in both world wars, towards the end of the war, the Allies deemed necessary to occupy Germany as a precaution, so they wouldn't regroup and cause another war. Germany was divided in 4 sections, one for each of the allies. The same was done to the capital of the German Empire: Berlin. But the city itself was on the part assigned to the Soviets. The portions assigned to France, Great Britain, and the United States started organizing together which was interpreted by the Soviet Union as treason.



Figure 19. Germany's division after WWII

By 1991, devoid of its power, the Soviet Union disintegrated marking the end of the Cold War.



Figure 20. Germany's division after WWII. Berlin's position.

As a response, the Soviet Union declared the formation of the “**German Democratic Republic**” (GDR) as an independent country with a communist government in what had been Soviet-occupied Germany. Not much later, France, Great Britain, and the United States did the same with the western part of Germany, naming it “**Federal Republic of Germany**” (FRG).

They came to be known as East and West Germany respectively.

Inside East Germany was Berlin. Once communism was established and their former country divided, many Berliners decided to move to the capitalist part. In order to prevent an exodus that would damage the image of communism, the USSR started building a wall that separated the two Berlins.

The partition of Germany, but in particular the Berlin Wall became symbols of the division of the world in two blocs: Communist and Capitalist.

1.2.1.4 End of the Cold War

For many years the Cold War went by and it seemed that it would last forever, but by the mid-80s it was evident that it would not be the case. Communism had survived due to the tight grip the Soviet Union had on all countries that belonged to their bloc. The problem was that economically, Communism was far from a success. Moreover, as the economy of the USSR weakened, so did its control over the communist countries. The result was that once without the pressures of Moscow, countries started deposing their communist regimes and rejoining the ranks of Capitalism.

Around 1989, virtually all European countries were leaving Communism behind. The Berlin wall was demolished that year, and in 1990, Germany became a single country again.

1.2.2 The New World Order

Life today is a direct result of everything we have discussed in this section. The Industrial Revolution along Nationalism and Imperialism gave birth to World War I. The unresolved issues of this war caused a new one. This Second World War ended with two new powers that embarked themselves in a Cold War. All the alliances, proxy-wars, technological advances, etc., that characterized it, are shaping the world we live in nowadays.

So far there is no clear definition as to what exactly is this era

we are living in. But without a doubt, we are the heirs of our history.



Take the internet for example. It is the result of a communication device created in World War II.

Or what about Al-Qaeda, it was created in the context of one of those indirect confrontations between Communism and Capitalism.

Integrative review exercise at the end of this chapter

Chapter 1. Conclusion

Let us see what we have learned so far:

You are a



You live in a

You **HAVE** to know where you live



Let us see what we have learned so far:

The



has changed because of history.



There are many actors in the



such as:



There are different ways of



at the



such as:



and



Chapter 1 . Integrating Exercise

» [Integrating exercise chapter 1](#)

Chapter 1. Resources

Si no puedes ver el video, haz clic [aquí](#).

Which elements you consider are important to explore in order to understand our world today?

- » Doctors Without Borders - This is the Official Site of Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), an international medical humanitarian organization working in nearly 70 countries to assist people whose survival is threatened by violence, neglect, or catastrophe: <http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/>
- » Fourteen Points of Wilson - To know more about the Fourteen points of Wilson go to: <http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=old&doc=62>
- » Fourteen Points of Wilson - This document outlined a proposal of how the relations between powerful countries should be conducted after the war:
<http://www.firstworldwar.com/source/fourteenpoints.htm>
- » Green Peace Official Site - Greenpeace is an independent global campaigning organization that acts to change attitudes and behavior, to protect and conserve the environment and to promote peace: <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/>
- » Multinational Corporations (MNC) - If you want to know more, here is an article that explains the concept in more detail: <http://www.globalissues.org/article/234/the-rise-of-corporations>
- » NationStates - This is a nation simulation game. Create a nation according to your political ideals and care for its people. Or deliberately oppress them. It's up to you: <http://www.nationstates.net/>
- » The rise of Corporations - A lot has been said about the influence MNC's have in our world. If you want to know more, go to this site: <http://www.globalissues.org/article/234/the-rise-of-corporations>
- » The Treaty of Westphalia - Visit this site to learn more about the economic policy that made the peace of Westphalia and the Treaty of Westphalia: http://www.schillerinstitute.org/strategic/treaty_of_westphalia.html