

Main topic: to explore the sources, consequences, and discontents of American hegemony and the liberal international order.

1 Key terms

- hegemonic stability theory
- liberal international order
- anti-Americanism
- public diplomacy
- mosaic audience effects

2 Key readings

- Kindleberger, “Dominance and Leadership in the International Economy” (1981)
- Cooley and Nexon, “The Illiberal Order” (2021)
- Datta, “The Decline of America’s Soft Power in the United Nations” (2009)
- Flynn et al., “Building Trust: The Effect of US Troop Deployments on Public Opinion in Peru” (2019)

3 Key ideas

Question: What are the three types of order in the international system (Gilpin 1983)?

Answer: (1) Hegemonic; (2) Bipolar; (3) Multipolar.

Question: What are the origins of hegemony?

Answer: There are material explanations of hegemony, which emphasize the role of military and economic supremacy. Other explanations rely upon the role of leadership and legitimacy.

Question: What are the implications of hegemonic stability theory?

Answer: (1) US as “indispensable nation”; (2) hegemonic decline leads to global instability; (3) US hegemonic exceptionalism.

Question: What are three ways of understanding anti-Americanism?

Answer: (1) liberalism (value/freedom envy); (2) realism I (power is threatening); (3) realism II (opinion reflects US actions)

4 Additional review questions

- After major wars, what are the potential strategies victorious powers may pursue? Which route did the US take after WWII?
- What is the link between Olson’s logic of collective action and hegemonic stability theory?
- How do policy-makers try to address anti-Americanism? Under what conditions are soft power tools (e.g., public diplomacy, disaster diplomacy, etc.) effective?