

# NATURE, SCOPE & IMPORTANCE OF I.N.R.



MR. THOMAS G.M.  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,  
POMPEI COLLEGE AIKALA D.K.

# Introduction:



- It has been considered as the youngest branch of the study of Political Science.
- But now it has been treated as an independent discipline and also has been regarded as the youngest of all social sciences.
- It is also called as International Politics.
- It is the study of the complex relations existing among the sovereign states of the world.
- The word “International” is derived from the Latin word “Intergentes” which means law of nations.
- The credit for coining the word International for the first time goes to Jeremy Bentham.

# Introduction.....



- As a subject of independent discipline it may be of recent origin but as a matter of practice it has been practiced from the earliest times.
- The advent of the two world wars, the creation of UNO, the development of atomic bombs and cold war situations have contributed a lot to the study of INR.

# Definitions:



- Some important definitions of INR as follows –
- “International relations covers all intercourses among states and all movements of people, goods and ideas across the national frontiers.”
  - Prof. Hartmann
- “International relations concerned with the factors and activities which affect the external policies and power of the basic units into which the world is divided.”
  - Stanly Hoffmann
- “International relations is a study of all human behaviour that originates on one side of a political boundary and affects the human behaviour on the other side of the boundary.” – Prof. Sproute

# Meaning:



- The term “International” was first used by Jeremy Bentham in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- In the beginning the term International relations was used to indicate the official relations between the sovereign states.
- Quincy Wright was the one who favoured the use of “Inter-state” than International, as political societies were known as states.
- The term INRs has been interpreted in two senses – broader sense & narrow sense.

# Meaning.....



- In the narrow sense, its study is confined to that of the “official relations conducted by the authorised leaders of the state” only.
- In the broad sense, it includes “all intercourses among states, and all movements of the people, goods and ideas across the national frontiers”
- In other words, it includes the study of political as well as various kinds of non-political relationships.
- Its study includes official or political as well as non-political kind of relations.
- It is the study of the world community in transition.

# Nature of the study of INR:



- The nature of the study of INR has the following striking features –
  1. The study of INR is centered around Nation-states,
  2. INR is not a well organized discipline,
  3. It centers around power approach,
  4. Change from Bipolarity to Multi-Polarity & Realism &
  5. International Politics or International Relations.

# Nature of INR.....



## **1. The study of INR is centered around Nation - States:**

It is the nation-states which is the central actor but other organizations and groups at the international level plays only a secondary role.

## 2. Not a well organized Discipline:



- It lacks a clear-cut conceptual framework and a systematic body of theory.
- It is heavily dependent on better organized disciplines.
- But it has a distinctive methodology, distinctive theories & a distinctive subject-matter.

### 3. It centers around power approach:



- It centers around power approach.
- The League of Nations & Collective security system failed to prevent war.
- This has given rise to the realistic school of international politics which emphasized the need of power politics & the inevitability of war.
- They argue that the optimism of peace & tranquility through the UN is utopian.

## 4. Change from Bi-polarity to Multi-polarity & Realism:



- Many a conflicts and crisis between the two power blocks led to the creation of a multi polar world from that of a bi-polar world in the later part of the cold-war era.
- Later on the multi-polar world changed into a uni-polar world.
- International relations operate under any circumstances.
- What is realism to some is unrealism to others.

## 5. International relations and International politics:



- Many a times these two terms are used interchangeably but in fact they have distinct meanings.
- The term International politics is narrower in scope than that of the International relations.
- International politics is only a part of the study of International relations.

# Difference Between International Politics & International Relations:



International Politics	International Relations
1. Its area is confined to the study of only political relations among the nation-states	1. It includes political as well as non-political kind of relations among nations.
2. It primarily deals with the state-to-state level relations/official relations conducted by the authorised leaders of the state.	2. Apart from the official relations it also includes in its scope the people to people level relations.
3. Therefore, the scope of International politics is narrower & very much limited.	3. But INRs has a much wider scope than that of the INP.
4. Mostly the study of INP employs Descriptive and Analytical Methods	4. It uses wider versatile & Scientific methods in its study.
5. It mainly deals with conflicting, oppositional or unfriendly relations between the nations.	5. Co-operative as well as oppositional & all kinds of relations are included in its scope.

# Scope of INR:



- It is a study of the world community in transition.
- Different writers have defined the scope of INR differently.
- Broadly speaking the relations between the states can be of three types –
  1. Co-operative or friendly,
  2. Oppositional or Unfriendly &
  3. Indifferent or Neutral kind of relations.

# Scope.....



- **Co-operative relations** are non-political in character like e.g. cultural or trade relations between the states. These do not involve any use of force.
- **Power relationships**(Oppositional relations), these involve conflicts or struggles among groups – demands a considerable use of force or power.
- **Indifferent or neutral relations** are co-operation of a limited nature.

# Scope....



- a. In the initial stages INRs was treated as a study of diplomatic history.
- It was the study of the contemporary foreign affairs as conditioned by the happenings of the past with a view to finding out the short-comings of the previous Statesmen.
- Thus its scope was very narrow in the initial stages.
- Then, INL was included within its field with a view to understand INRs.

## 2. Scope after the establishment of League of Nation:



- Its scope expanded as it included the study of International organizations and institutions.
- The behaviour of the Sovereign states in these international organizations and also how far these organizations exercise their control over their member states were also included in its study.

### 3. Its Scope after the II World War:



- Here, it included the study of Foreign Policies & Military Policies of the states, the study of war and war strategies were also included.
- During these period, the study of the behaviour of leaders and groups, the study of the impact of public opinion(world as well as domestic) were also included in its study.

## 4. Expansion of the scope of INR:



- Because of various developments the scope of the study of INR has expanded tremendously after the II World War.
- Today, its scope includes not merely Diplomatic history, International Politics, International Organization & administration, International Law, motives of member states but also includes the whole International community in transition.
- Some important contents which come under the study of INRs today may be listed as follows -

# Important Contents of the study of INR :



- 1. State System:** Nation-states constitutes the basic units of the study of INRs. And the study of conflict of interest among sovereign states is the main area of its study.
- 2. National Power:** It is one of the major determinants of international politics today. It is the ability or capacity of a nation to its goals or national objectives(interests).
- 3. International Law:** which regulates the behavior of the states both in times of war & peace.

# Contents of its study.....



4. **International Organizations:** a forum for co-operation & conflict resolution. E.g. UNO, IMF, IBRD, etc.
5. **International Systems:** Out-come of the application of systems theory in International Politics. It developed typology of International systems such as Uni-polar, Bi-polar & Multi-polar International systems.
6. **Conflict Management & Conflict resolution:**

# Contents of Study.....



7. **War & Peace:** Its study also covers the problems of war and peace.
8. **Ideologies:** Rival ideologies and ideological warfare complicated International politics especially during the cold-war era.
9. **Nationalism, Colonialism & Imperialism:** posing challenges to world peace endangering the cordial relations between the nations.
10. **Foreign Policy:** these are the external policies of a state which defines the plans actions of a state in its dealings with other states.

# Contents of its study.....



- 11. National Interests:** These are the national goals & objectives of a nation-state.
- 12. Military Strategic Factors:** Preparation for and protection against war and also involves security arrangements.
- 13. Alliances & groupings:** NATO, SEATO, CENTO, WARSAW & Regional groups like Arab World, African Countries, Non-Aligned Countries, etc.
- 14. Arms control & Disarmaments:** Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, NPT, CTBT, SALT – I, SALT –II, START – I, START – II etc.

# Contents....



15. **Economic Forces:** Most of the International problems are economic in nature like international trade & commerce, foreign aid, customs and Tariffs, etc.
16. **Diplomacy:** It is an important instrument of foreign policy & Diplomatic history is of significance in the study of INR.
- Conclusion: Its scope expanded very rapidly after the world wars.
- The field of the study of INR is the International society itself.

# IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY OF INR:



- Its study is useful both to the individual and society.
- Purpose of its study is to understand the international society as it is & not as it should be.
- Its study is of great significance in the present day problem ridden & interdependent world.

# 1. For human survival and progress:



- It promotes human survival & progress by solving international conflicts amicably.
- By cultivating the lessons of goodwill & co-operation between nations.
- By promoting world peace & world government.

## 2. To avoid wars:



- Mankind must put an end to war or war will put an end to mankind.
- Wars are highly destructive, instead of solving problems it causes hundred and one problems which has no solution at all.
- Through an international agency like UNO can be used to avoid wars and to promote world peace.

### 3. To understand the defects of nationalism:



- Extreme nationalism caused a number of wars.
- World peace and world government becomes difficult due to this nationalism.
- The study of INRs helps mankind to devise some solutions to these problems to make this world a better planet to live in.

## 4. To study the basic motivations of the nation-states in the world politics:



- The study of international relations enables us to understand and analyse the basic motivations and objectives of any state in world affairs and the techniques which it adopts for the attainment of these objectives.
- Most of the states in reality take any decisions or action based on their national interest.

## 5. To achieve International co-operation:



- Today no state can lead an isolated life.
- Without international co-operation problems of international society like that of Global Terrorism cannot be solved.
- International co-operation is necessary to promote Internationalism & world Government and also world peace.

## 6. To know the significance of Internationalism:



- Its study helps us to understand that international co-existence is more important than National sovereignty, so as to achieve the welfare of all nations in the international society.
- In fact, internationalism creates a feeling of oneness among the people of all nations in the world.

## 7. To understand the significance of Collective Security & Disarmament:



- These are the methods for achieving world peace, forming part of the study of INR.
- Any state which violates international peace should be silenced by the collective action of all the states.
- Collective Security is based on the principle of “Each for all and All for each.”
- Disarmament is the reduction or elimination of certain or all armaments for the purpose of ending armament race.

## 8. To understand world public opinion:



- No statesman or leader can ignore world public opinion in their dealings with other states.

## 9. Goal of attaining a better world:



- It is an intellectual discipline which will make the people more intelligent, more vigilant, more co-operative and tolerant.
- Its study will make everyone of us a better citizen and pave the way for a better world & a peaceful one.
- “The better the world is understood by the better people in it, better for the world will it be.” -UNESCO Report.
- Human civilization on earth can be saved by its study alone.

# Conclusion:



- Its study has thus both theoretical & practical value.
- The famous saying of George Bernard Shaw is very much holds good with the study of INR when he says, Political Science is the science by which alone civilization can be saved.