

Terrence L. Monroe  
POL 375

FD 01

## Syllabus: International Relations

The world situation is shifting, confusing and controversial. Ten years ago, after more than 40 War, the Soviet Union withdrew from its domination of Eastern Europe and collapsed. Russia has had a troubled political and economic history ever since. China has continued a series of semi-capitalist reforms while repressing all dissent. Several Newly-Industrialized Countries (NICS) such as Korea, Taiwan and Malaysia demonstrated unprecedented development before suffering from a near-economic collapse that required massive Western aid. Japan, their model, suffered the collapse of the "bubble economy" that also raised Hawaii real estate prices and is still in a 12--year recession. Several brutal nationalist wars, most of them within nominal nation-states such as Yugoslavia, have punctured dreams of a peaceful post-Cold War New World Order. Religious conflicts, thought to be a relic of the past, have surfaced among fundamentalist Christians, Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Sikhs, and others.

There is fierce debate about what all this means. For instance, clearly we have a global economy. But the resurgence of nationalist conflicts shows that the global economy does not mean the end of national sovereignty, as some had predicted. What about the future of international organizations such as the United Nations? Will they become more powerful and effective, or will nation states remain the primary actors? Should the United States be more or less involved in international politics? Should we continue to encourage free trade? Such questions are being debated among politicians and in ordinary living rooms. In this class, we will attempt to raise your literacy in world politics by reviewing past events and theories and assessing the current and future situation.

**CLASS REQUIREMENTS:** Come to class, keep up with the readings and the news (at the beginning of each class, I will ask, "What's in the news, ladies and gentlemen?"), and participate in class discussions.

**Grades:** Mid-Term Exam: 33%; Final Exam 33%; Attendance and Class Discussion 33%. A = 85%+, B = 75%+, C = 65%+. Missing quizzes or deadlines lowers your grade.

**TEXT:** The Logic of International Relations      Walter Jones