

# **LIBERALISM**

# Liberalism defined...

- A political philosophy or worldview founded on ideas of liberty and equality. (Wikipedia)
- Liberalism emphasizes that the broad ties among states have both made it difficult to define national interest and decreased the usefulness of military power. (Sparknotes)

# Reason for its emergence and its use

- “The contrast is with a society in which the society decides what the individual is to do or believe.” (encyclopedia.com)
- In those areas of a society in which **individual liberty prevails**, social outcomes will be the result of a **myriad of individual decisions** taken by individuals for themselves or in voluntary cooperation with some others.

# Liberalism...

- Begun with John Locke in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, who saw **great potential for human progress in modern civil society and capitalist economy** both of which could flourish in **states which guaranteed individual liberty.**

# Basic Liberal Assumptions

- ❑ a positive view of human nature
- ❑ a conviction that international relations can be cooperative rather than conflictual
- ❑ a belief in progress

# LIBERALISM

## Classical Liberalism

### FOCUS:

freedom, cooperation, peace, progress

### EARLY THINKERS:

Locke (1632-1704)

The rule of law  
'Rechtsstaat'

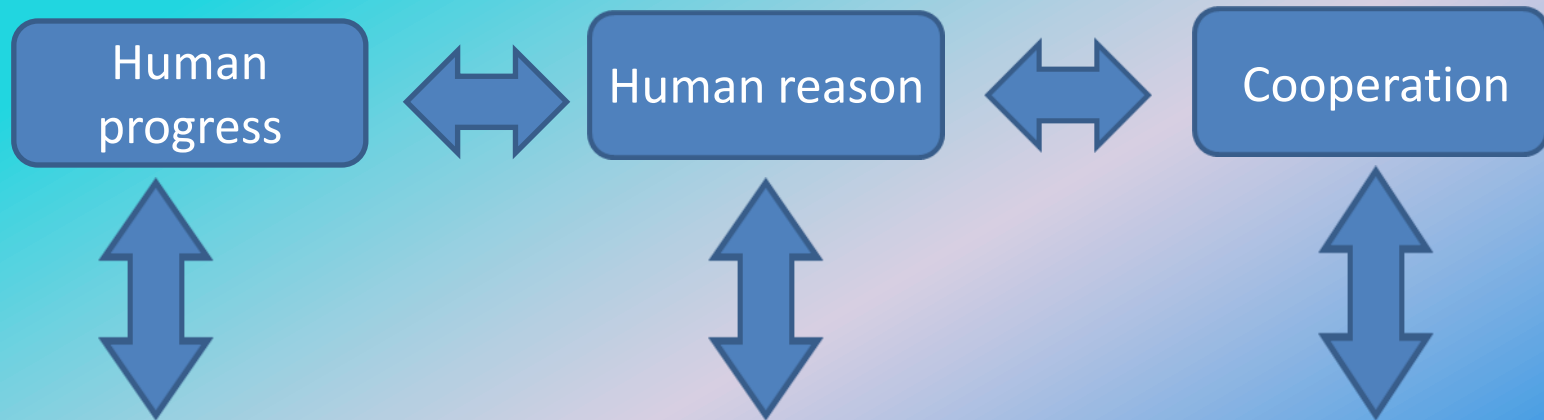
Bentham (1748-1832)

Liberal states respect  
international law

Kant (1724-1804)

'Republics will establish  
perpetual peace'

# LIBERALISM



The process of modernization: development of the modern state

# Four Strands of Liberal Thought

Sociological Liberalism

Institutional Liberalism

Interdependence  
Liberalism

Republican Liberalism



# Sociological Liberalism

- highlights the transnational non-governmental ties between societies, such as communication between individuals and between groups

# Scholars

- **James Rosenau**

defined *transnationalism* as ‘the processes whereby international relations conducted by governments have been supplemented by relations among private individuals, groups, and societies that can and do have important consequences for the course of events’

- **Richard Cobden**

‘As little intercourse betwixt the Governments, as much connection as possible between the nations of the world’

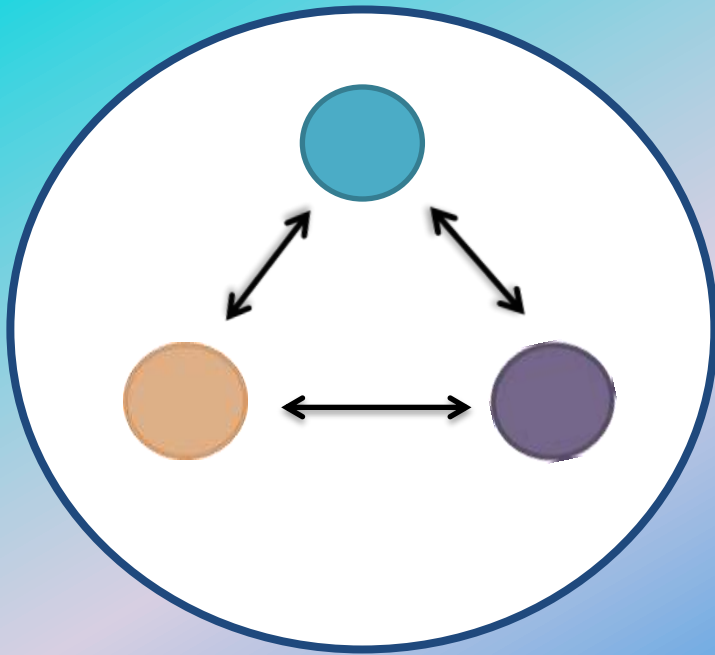
- **Karl Deutsch**

a high degree of transnational ties between societies leads to peaceful relations that amount to more than the mere absence of war

- **John Burton**

“cobweb model”

## Billiard balls collide



## Cobweb Model



# Interdependence Liberalism

- pays attention to the economic ties of mutual exchange and mutual dependence between peoples and governments
- argues that a high division of labour in the international economy increases interdependence between states, and that discourages and reduces violent conflict between states

## **Scholars:**

- **Richard Rosecrance**

traditional military vs. trading states

- **David Mitrany**

cooperation should be arranged by experts, not by politicians

- **Ernst Haas**

‘Spillover’ would ensure that political elites marched inexorably towards the promotion of integration

- **Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye**

states become more preoccupied with ‘low politics’ of welfare and less concerned with ‘high politics’ of national security

# Institutional Liberalism

- underscores the importance of organized cooperation between the states
- institutions alleviate problems concerning lack of trust between states and they reduce states' fear for each other

The extent of institutionalization can be measured on two dimensions:

❖ Scope

❖ Depth

For assessing the depth, there are three measures:

- Commonality
- Specificity
- Autonomy

# A typology of international and transnational organizations

		GOAL OF ORGANIZATION		
		Specific	General	
TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP	Regional	<i>Intergovernmental</i>	<b>NATO</b> <b>NAFTA</b>	<b>AU</b> (African Union)
		<i>Supranational</i>	<b>ECSC</b> (European Coal and Steel Community) <b>EURATOM</b>	European Union
		<i>Transnational</i>	European Anti-Poverty Network	European Movement
	Universal	<i>Intergovernmental</i>	<b>WHO</b> (World Health Organization) <b>IAEA</b> (International Atomic Energy Agency)	<b>UN</b>
		<i>Supranational</i>	---	---
		<i>Transnational</i>	Amnesty International	World Federalist Association



# Republican Liberalism

- argues that liberal democratic constitutions and forms of government are of vital importance for inducing peaceful and cooperative relations between states

# Scholars:

- **Immanuel Kant**

democracies do not fight each other

- **Dean Babst**

- **Francis Fukuyama**

‘the end of history as such: that is, the end point of mankind’s ideological evolution and the universalization of Western liberal democracy as the final form of human government’

- **Michael Doyle**

Three conditions of peace among liberal democracies:

1.

Democratic norms of peaceful resolution and conflict

2.

Peaceful relations between democratic states, based on a common moral foundation

3.

Economic cooperation between democracies: ties of interdependence