INTERNATIONAL POLITICS LECTURE #1

Early International Systems

1648 = key date

Hunter Gatherer Bands

- States have not always existed – early human communities known as 'HGBs'

→ very different internal social structure

→ no institutionalized hierarchy like in modern states

→ had surplus, but not production *for* surplus ie not capitalism

→ no surplus = no enduring political institutions

Agricultural/Neolithic Revolution (10000 bc)

= development o settles communities, population growth, first 'states'

Is this the creation of the distinction between domestic and international?

→ Order inside, absence of order (anarchy) outside

Anarchy = absence of overarching government

Nomads and Empires

International Politics was driven by complex and interconnected relationship between *nomads* and *empires*

- nomads (pastoral famers) – sat outside frontiers of empires/sit on borders of empires ie no fixed territory
    - states/nomads would interact at border
- states created surplus through food → nomads could not produce the same surplus
- Nomads created surplus through raiding empires → taking expensive goods back with them
- On occasion – nomads could conquer empire → as a result, both entities change
    - nomads become somewhat 'civilised'
    - empires take on characteristics of nomadic society
    - empire then assimilate their new rulers while adding aspects of Nomadic cultures → generates new social forms
    - great internal change and development takes place which drives social development over time
- Relationship between nomads and empires has created much social development

Interaction between different political communities is essential to driving its internal affairs and social development

Dynamics of Interaction – if there has been great **change** of the ordering of states (international politics), there is nothing to say it will not continue to change
→ change is key

1648 – one of most significant historical dates – defines the emergence of the 'modern' system and *sovereignty*

Peace of Westphalia
Transition from attempt to create one universal sovereign body to recognising that what was needed was system of states in Europe

Thirty Years War
- incredibly violent conflict, millions die
- Two treaties, Munster and Osnabruck
- Treaties between HRE and France/Sweden

→ my domestic affairs are my business, no other state has the right to come in to my state and change my domestic affairs
Outcome:
- Sovereignty established as principle of international politics
- "inside/outside" firmly defines – domestic politics characterized by hierarchal governance and order
- international politics has no overarching authority (ie anarchy)
- Theory changes – cannot use theories of domestic politics to study international states

Debate
  Some debate over 19648 – not as significant as it is made to be – many argue that it is not the beginning of international relations

Focus shifts from 'high politics' and diplomacy to long-term processes
- 'war makes the state, and the state makes war' (Tilly 1975)→ eg. WW1 and WW2 – extends state
- cultural centralization

- Revolution in Military Affairs
- Sovereign states that are separate and equal → this is a **myth** → significant uneven development of societies- still reliant on strong sovereignty states

<u>1648 and IR Theory</u>
- Eurocentric – European history as starting point for IR Theory → Where is the rest of the world?
- Underplays role of 'empire'
- Overemphasizing anarchy, under emphasizing hierarchy
The Impact?
- informs how we think of 'modern' international relations/how we build theories
→ 1648 is a significant date of debate in IR

From Westphalia to Modern International Relations
→ Evolution of the State

Modern International System:
- Westphalia institutionalized the European states system
- Formalized doctrine of state sovereignty
  → states accepted ideas of non-intervention and non-interference
- Westphalia = historically significant – gave us set of structures and principles used today - BUT doesn't fully explain current dynamics/distribution of power

After Westphalia
- After 30 year war → states realised need a way to cooperate/manage relations with eachother
  → this begins to happen in 18C
- **Balance of power = key**
  Solutions:
  - international law/custom
  - legitimacy
  - diplomacy (resident embassies)
  - limited way
- Invested interests in maintaining these agreements/institutionalised arrangements of mutual benefit
- Pressure came from peers – social accountability rather than a hierarchy/sovereign above them

Revolutions
Intellectual revolutions
- no sort of democracy → while no one could do anything from outside the state, nor could anyone inside the state
- citizens didn't feel free – are we citizens or subjects who must obey the sovereign leaders?
- Outcome = the social contract
  – the idea that there is an agreement between the citizens and leaders: citizens looking for freedom/security – in exchange for security/freedom the citizen is loyal to the sovereign → American and French Revolutions

Political Revolutions
- American Declaration on Independence (1776)