¶ 6.1

Political Economy, Cooperation, and World Politics

At a glance — Political economy; collective action and the commons; welfare state families; anarchy among states; realism, liberalism, and constructivism; why states fight; nuclear deterrence; international organisations; and the path forward.



The Two-Part Agenda

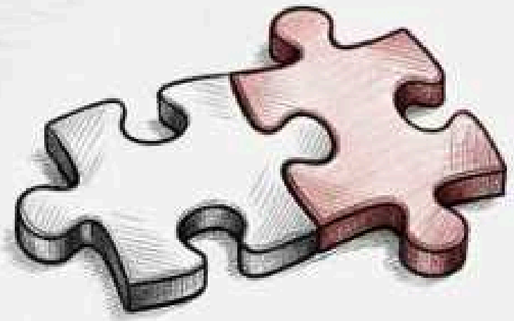
¶ 6.2

1. Politics, Economy & Collective Action



From domestic political economy

To the complexities of global anarchy

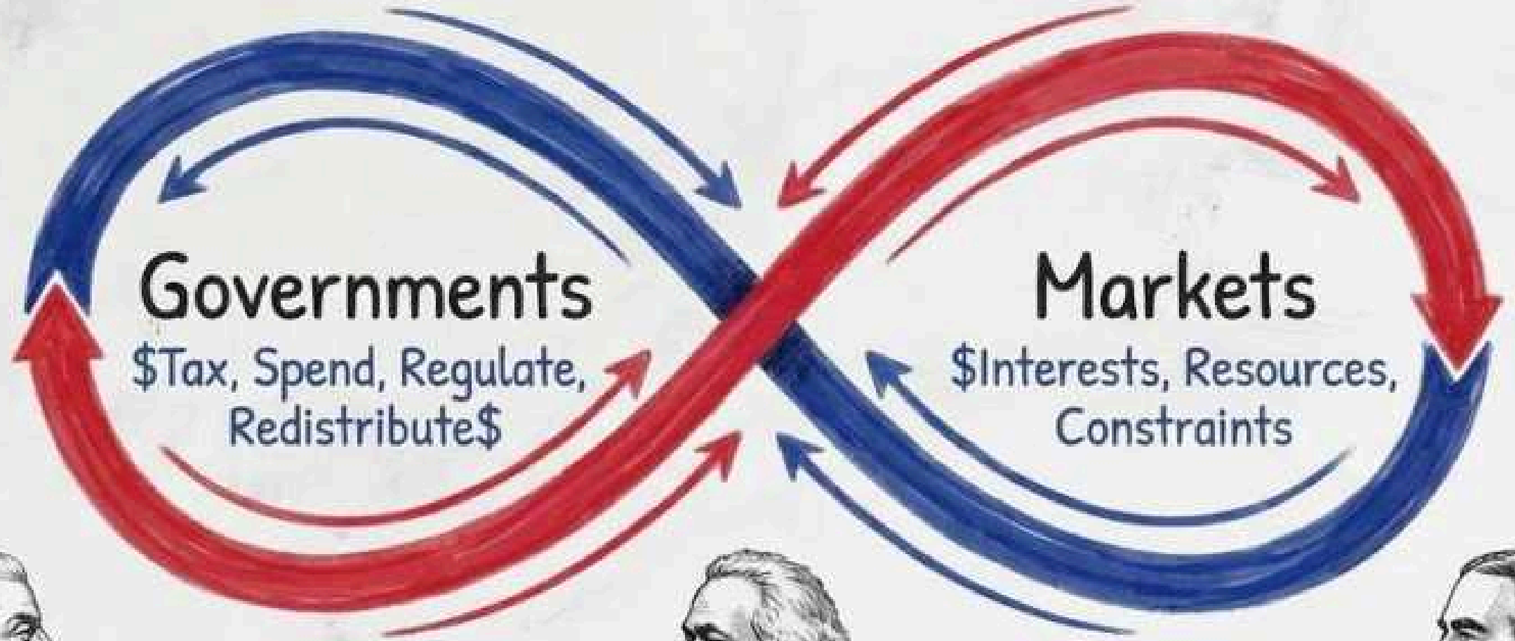


2. World Politics: Conflict & Cooperation

Continued Learning.

The Political Economy Interaction

¶ 6.3





Adam Smith



Karl Marx



John Maynard Keynes

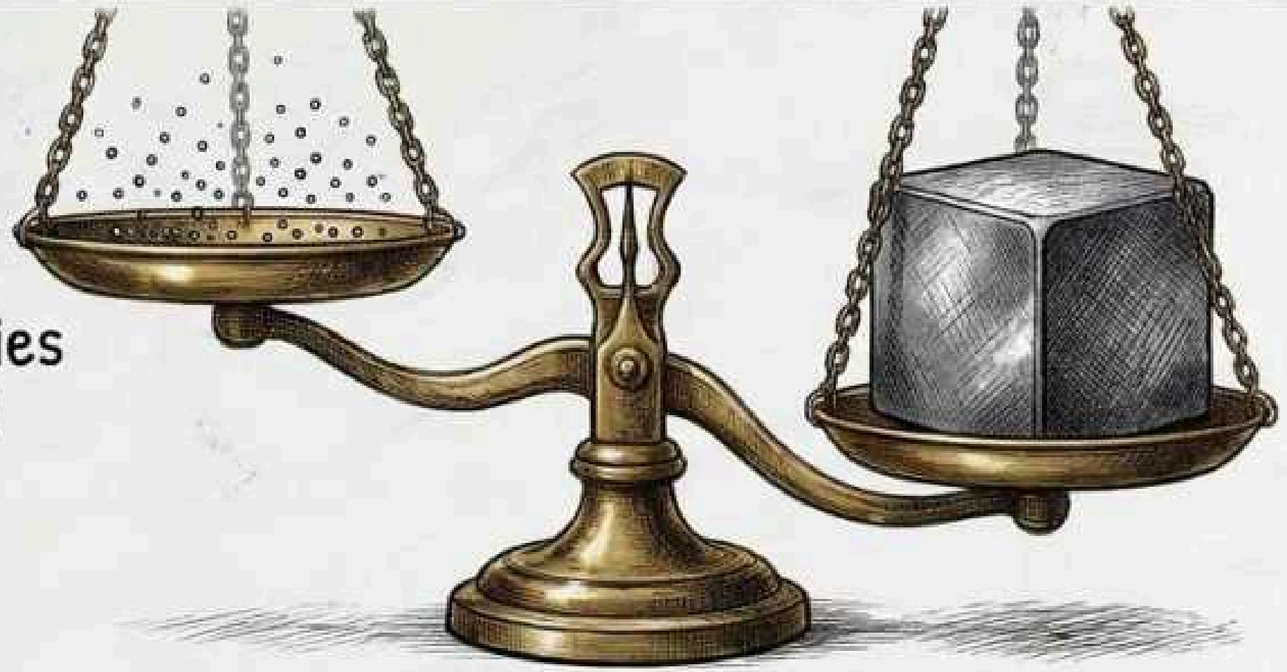
Historical disagreements regarding the state's proper role persist in every modern budget debate.

The Logic of Collective Action

¶ 6.4

$\text{Cost}_{\text{individual}} > \text{Benefit}_{\text{marginal}} \Rightarrow$ Free Riding (Mancur Olson, 1965)

Diffuse majorities
(Consumers)



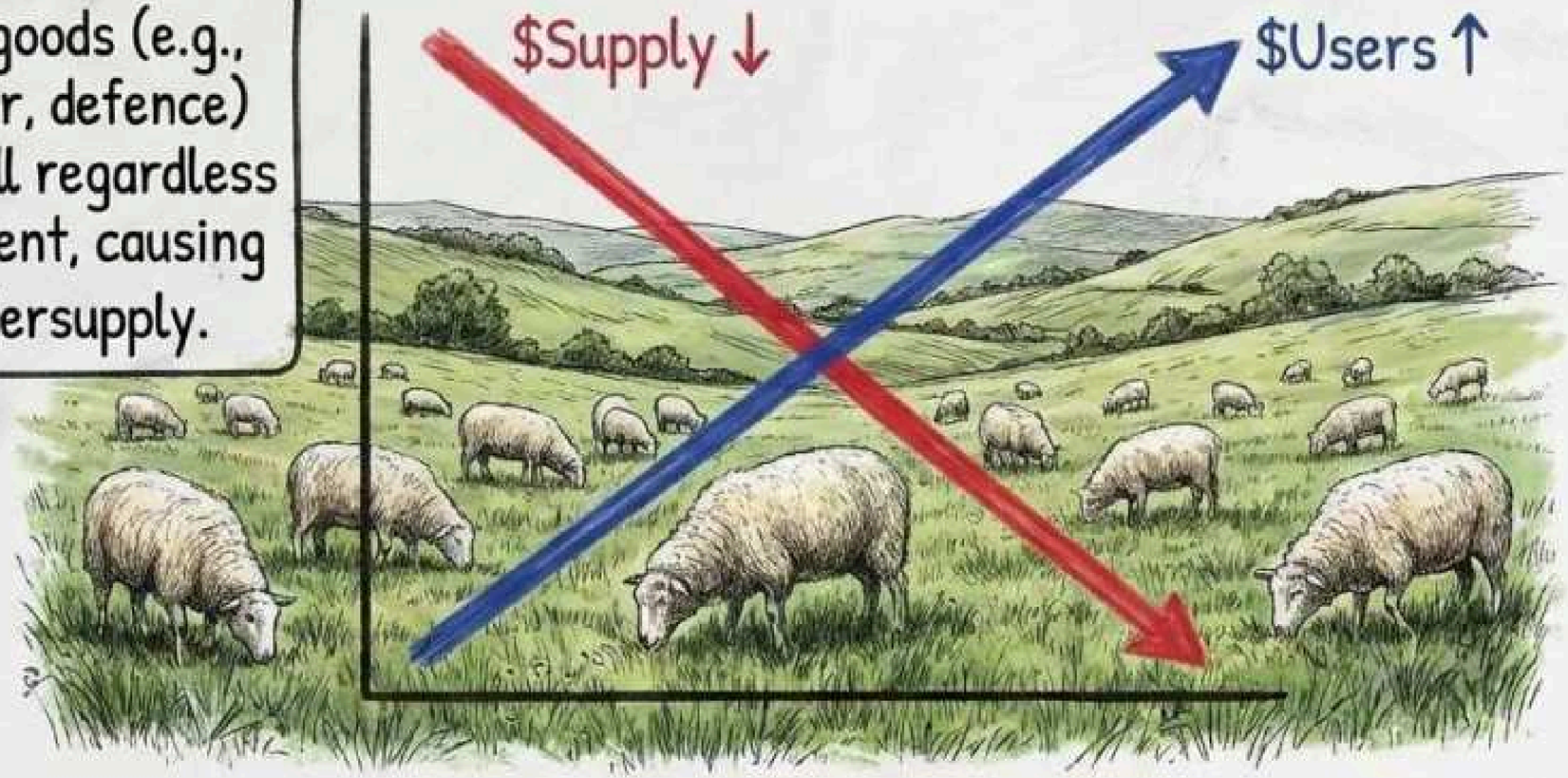
Concentrated
interests
(Industry)

Shared interests do not guarantee joint action because individuals are incentivized to enjoy benefits without paying the costs.

Public Goods & The Commons

¶ 6.5

Public goods (e.g., clean air, defence) benefit all regardless of payment, causing to undersupply.



Garrett Hardin (1968) - Tragedy of the Commons (overexploitation).

Elinor Ostrom (2009 Nobel) - Communities can successfully manage shared resources through localized, self-enforced rules.

Families of the Welfare State

¶ 6.6

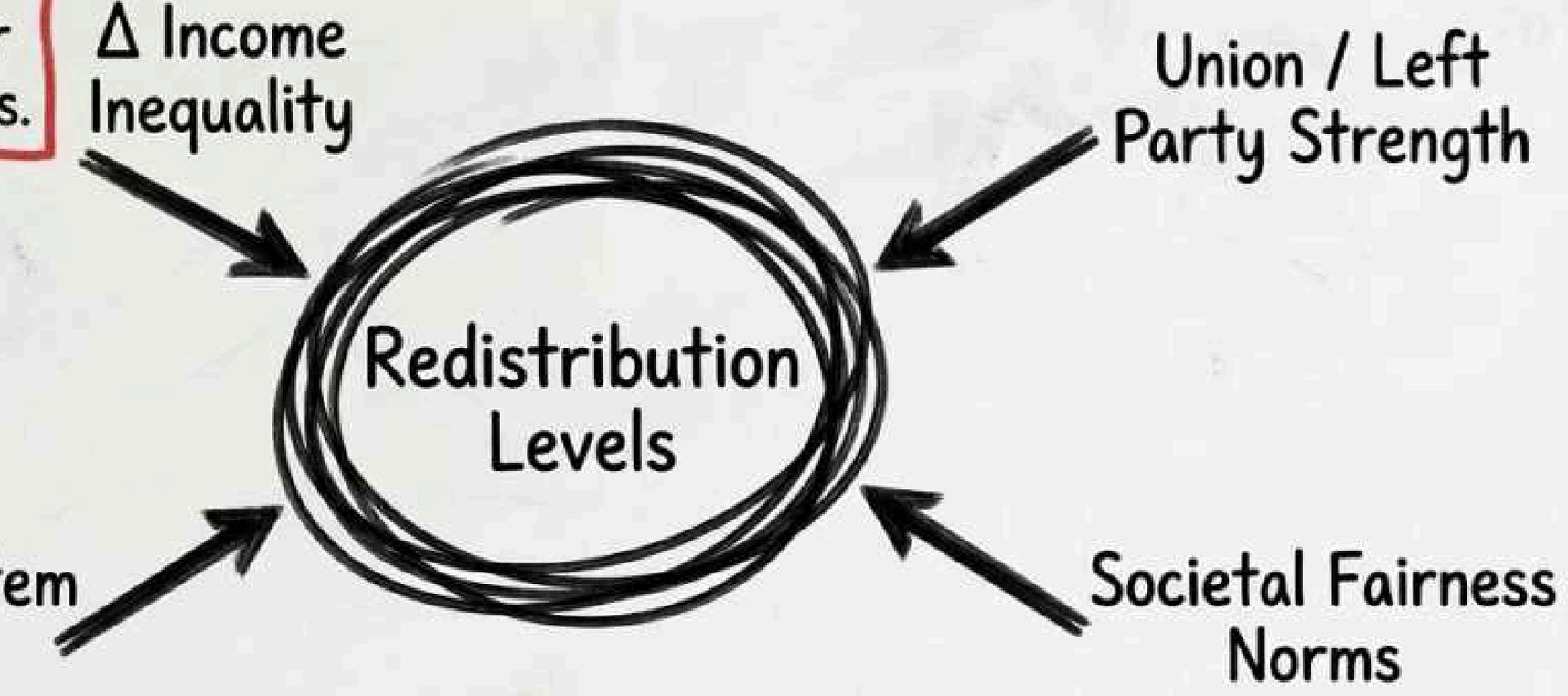
Liberal	Conservative / Corporatist	Social-Democratic
Benefits: Modest, Targeted	Benefits: Tied to employment and societal status	Benefits: Generous, Universal

These deep variations reflect enduring history, institutions, and political coalitions, rather than fleeting voter preferences. (Gøsta Esping-Andersen, 1990)

Why Democracies Redistribute Differently

¶ 6.7

No single factor explains all cases.



The essence of political science: testing competing explanations against cross-national evidence.

The Concept of Anarchy

¶ 6.8

(Domestic)



Monopoly on Force / Government

(International)



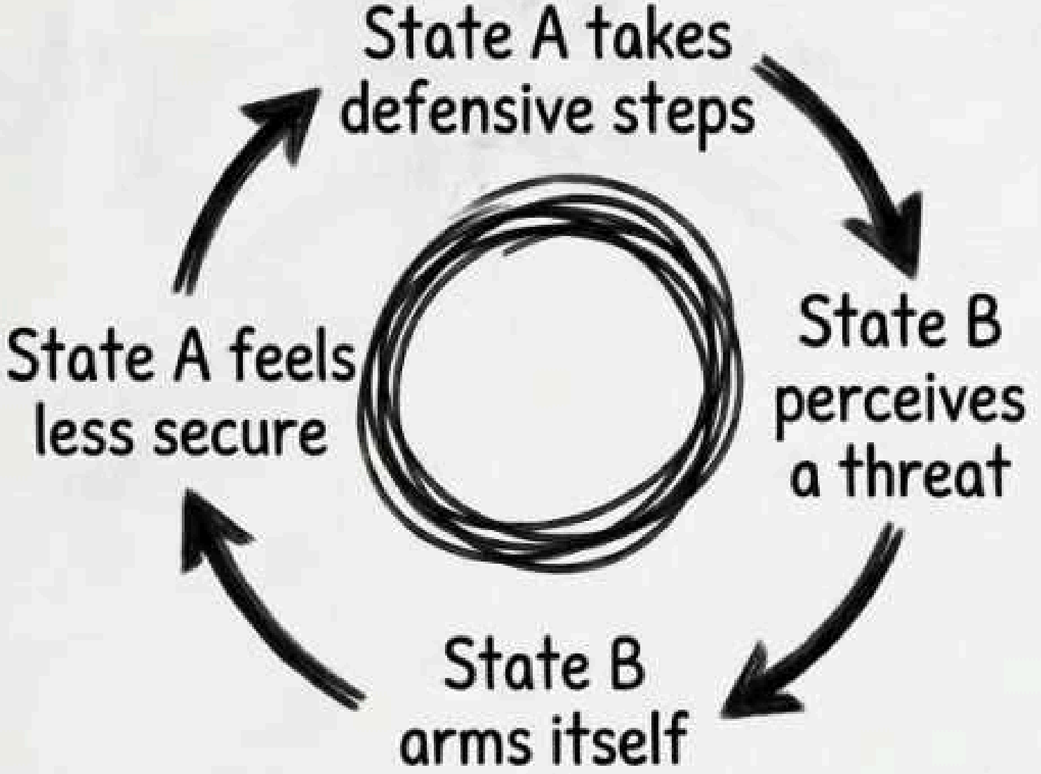
Ø Higher Authority

Anarchy in political science is strictly the absence of a global sovereign enforcer—not chaos—driving the core puzzle of international relations theory.

Realism & The Security Dilemma

¶ 6.9

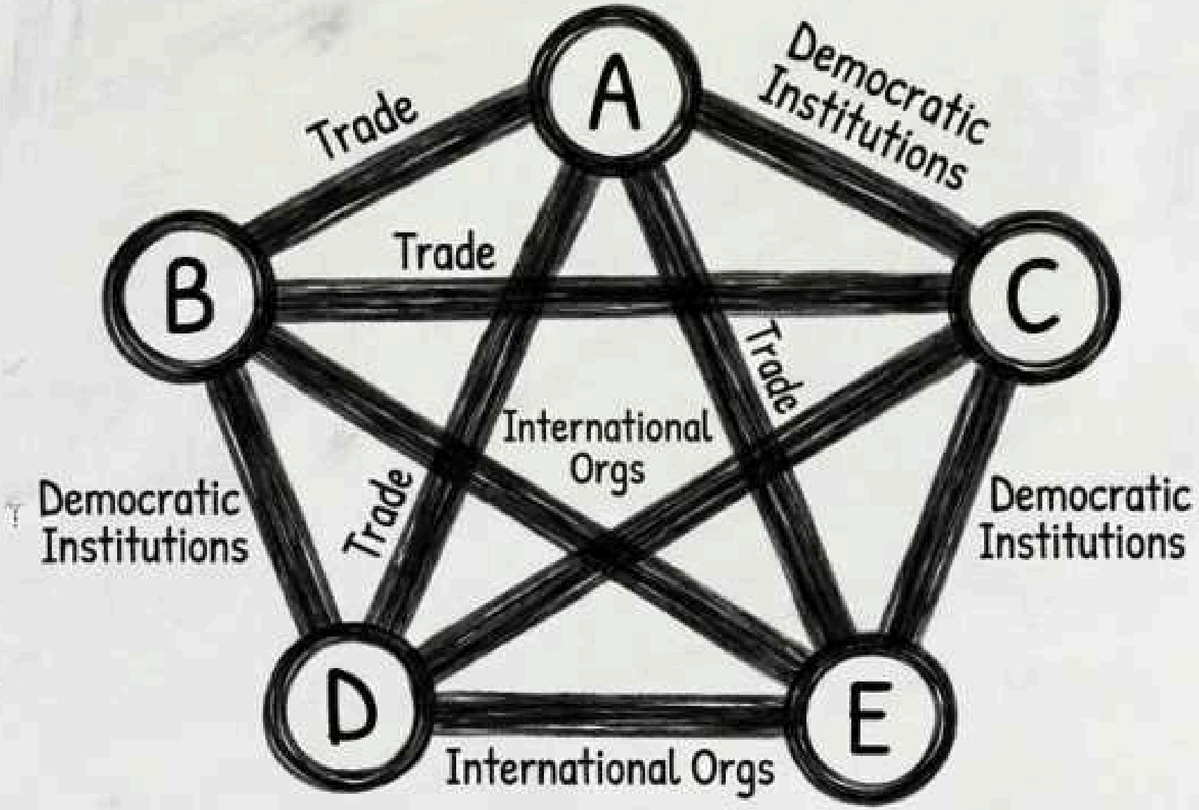




Intellectual roots: Thucydides, Hans Morgenthau, and Kenneth Waltz. States are the main actors, seeking balance of power in a system where conflict is always possible.

Liberalism & International Cooperation

¶ 6.10



$Information Exchange

$\Rightarrow \downarrow$ P(cheat)

(Robert Keohane)

Institutions help states cooperate by providing information and raising the costs of war.

Critique: These arrangements still depend on the power of the strong states backing them.

Constructivism & Norms

¶ 6.11



"Anarchy is what states make of it."

– Alexander Wendt, 1992

Ideas, identities, and shared understandings (not just material power) dictate whether neighbours are rivals or partners. The nuclear taboo is a key example of an established norm.

Why States Fight: The Bargaining Model

¶ 6.12

High Cost of War (c$)

Peaceful Bargaining Space



Private Information | Commitment Problems | Indivisible Issues

High Cost of War (c$)

Since war is extremely costly, rational states should bargain (James Fearon, 1995).
Wars happen when these three obstacles prevent a deal.

¶ 6.13

Nuclear Deterrence and MAD

	Status Quo / Peace	Attacker Strikes First
Status Quo / Peace	+5, +0	M, 3 / M, 3
Retaliator Strikes First	−0, −1	⚠ Mutual Attack

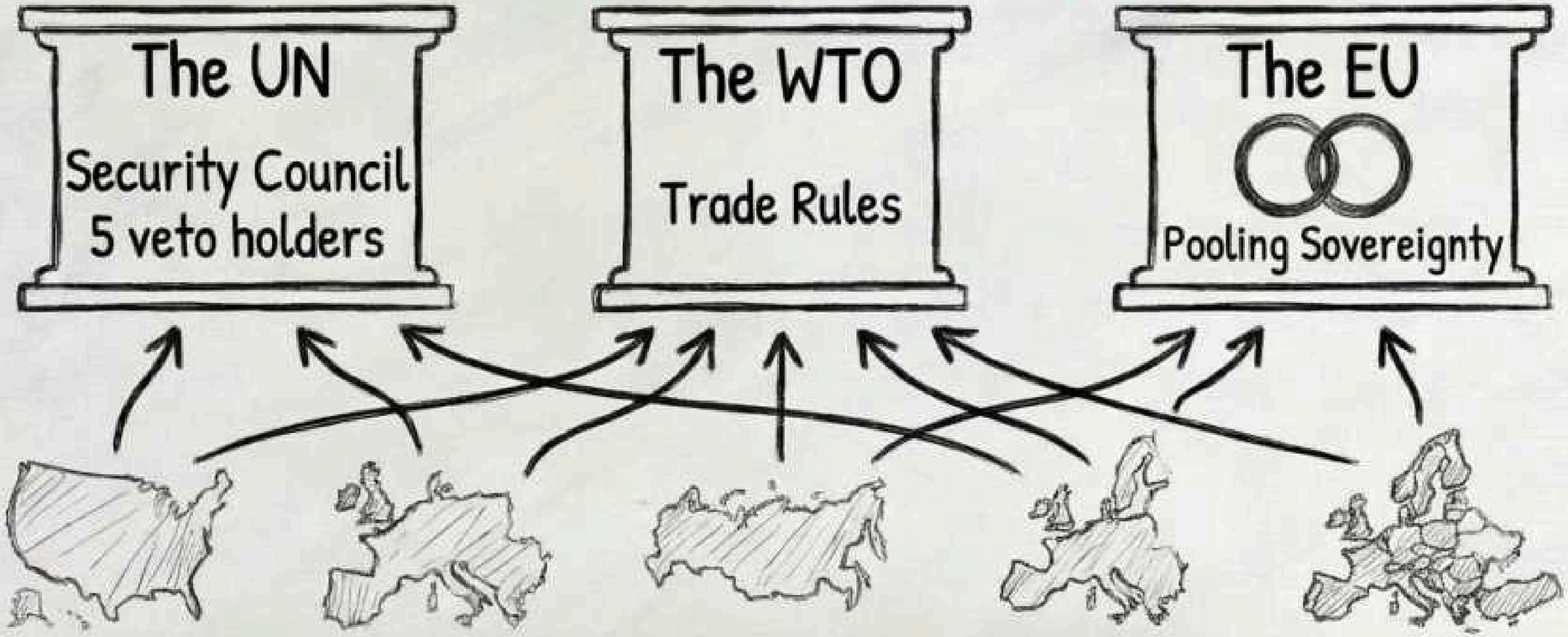


Deterrence rests on the threat of retaliation so severe no rational leader strikes first. 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Arms aims to limit spread, but risks of accidents remain.

International Organisations & Sovereignty

¶ 6.14

$$Power_{IO} \leq Power_{Members}$$



These bodies are only as strong as their member states allow.

Global Collective Action & Non-State Actors ¶ 6.15



The collective action problem reappears on a global, existential scale requiring unprecedented cross-border cooperation (e.g., the 2015 Paris Agreement).

How to Keep Learning

¶ 6.16



- [x] **Read Primary Sources**
  (The Federalist Papers, Hobbes, Locke, Weber)
- [x] **Compare Cases**
  (Avoid arguing from a single example)
- [x] **Use Open Data**
  (e.g., V-Dem; read methods before conclusions)
- [x] **Describe opposing views fairly**

Studying political science methodology is direct preparation for acting as an informed citizen.

The Final Question

¶ 6.17

[Choose a Political Problem]	[Apply 3 Course Ideas]	[Required Evidence]
(That matters to you)	(e.g., legitimacy, veto players, free riding)	(To prove or disprove your explanation)

Actively use the semester's theoretical frameworks to explain why a real-world problem is hard to solve.

¶ 6.18

End of Political Science 101 B



Thank you for taking this course.

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