Main Topic: Identify what states fight over, the role of nationalism, and why war is an inefficient outcome according to the bargaining model.

1 Key Terms

- nationalism
- imagined community
- clash of civilizations
- print capitalism
- economic modernization
- Creole pioneer
- bargaining model of war
- bargaining range

2 Key Themes/Ideas

Q. What do states fight over?
   Answer: States fight over regime change, territory, and nationalism.

Q. What are the two prevailing views of nationalism?
   Answer: The primordial story argues nationalism-as-sentiment or “in the blood” while the modernist story argues nationalism as political doctrine or a modern concept.

Q. What does the modernist story of nationalism mean for the study of international politics?
   Answer: It introduces the idea that government is only legitimate if it “is run by nationals on behalf of the nation.”

Q. What existed before this concept of nationalism?
   Answer: In the agrarian period, peasants had local identification and no opportunity for upward mobility. Rulers were international and it was actually preferable to have leaders not from your culture.

Q. How did we get nationalism?
   Answer: Industrialization brought economic modernization (including print capitalism) which, coupled with barriers to upward social mobility, created nationalism.

Q. What is the puzzle of war?
   Answer: The puzzle of war argues that because war is costly, leaders should never want to go to war, but wars still occur. War is Pareto inefficient because it is costly.

Q. What is the bargaining model of war?
   Answer: The bargaining model of war argues that because war is costly, there exists a bargaining range or set of mutual peaceful deals acceptable to both parties that is preferable to war. War occurs when bargaining fails.

Q. What affects the bargaining range?
   Answer: Issues that can affect the bargaining range are (1) changing the probabilities of victory and (2) changing the costs of war.

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3 Key Readings

- Anderson, Imagined Community, Chp. 1-4
- FLS, Chapter 3, 82-94
- Huntington, “Clash of Civilizations,” 25-29

4 Review Questions

Check your understanding of this week’s material and key ideas with the following questions.

- Huntington wrote clash of civilizations shortly after the fall of the Soviet Union, yet some might argue his theory has never been more relevant than today due to the rise of violent extremism. Do you agree or disagree? What evidence supports your opinion?

- How can nationalism explain why territorial disputes occur?

- Anderson argues that nationalism began in the Americas, but his argument could also apply to parts of southeast Asia. How does Indonesia’s nationalist awakening fit Anderson’s concept of “imagined community?”

- Does Anderson and Gellner’s concept of nationalism explain the growing nationalist sentiment driving Brexit, the rise of Trump, and other movements in America and Europe? Why or why not?

- What assumptions does the bargaining model of war rely on? Which assumptions seem unlikely to be true?

- Are theories about rationalist explanations for war applicable to non-state actors like terrorists who are often deemed “irrational?”

- Is war as simple as a bargaining model? Why do political scientists use this simplifying model in their work if war is a much more complex phenomenon?

- Your friend Failing Frank is helping you study the causes of war and says the following: “nationalism explains why war happens because it is a source of conflicting preferences and these preferences determine the set of deals that states prefer to war.” Explain to Frank why he is wrong.

- Increasing the costs of war should make the bargaining range wider, yet World War I broke out at a time when European countries had never been more economically integrated (and war thus costly). Why?