

Political Science 12: IR -- Second Lecture, Part 2



1

**What Shaped Our
World?**

What Shaped Our World?

1. Cooperation Through History
2. The Mercantilist Era, 1492–1815
3. The Pax Britannica, 1815–1914
4. The Thirty Years' Crisis, 1914–1945
5. The Cold War, 1945–1990
6. Post–Cold War, 1991–Present
7. Future Trends and Challenges

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Cooperation Through History

- 1800s: *Relative* peace and prosperity
- Early–mid-1900s: Wars, depression
- Late 1900s: Economic globalization
- 2000s: Still unknown

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The Mercantilist Era, 1492–1815

Explorers and
traders discover
the “New World”



The Mercantilist Era, 1492–1815

- Mercantilism as economic doctrine
- Military and economic power complementary (guns *and* butter)

The Mercantilist Era, 1492–1815



The Mercantilist Era, 1492–1815

Table A

Mercantilism: Costs and Benefits

	1763–1772 (average/year)	1770
Burdens		
Burden on colonial foreign commerce	\$ 2,255,000	\$ 2,660,000
Burden per capita	\$ 1.20	\$ 1.24
Benefits		
Benefit of British protection	\$ 1,775,000	\$ 1,775,000
Benefit per capita	\$.94	\$.82
Balance	\$ -.26	\$ -.42

The Mercantilist Era, 1492–1815

Mercantilism: Costs and Benefits



The Mercantilist Era, 1492–1815

- The Struggle for Supremacy
- Competition Goes Abroad

The Mercantilist Era, 1492–1815

- The Thirty Years' War, 1618–1648
- The Peace of Westphalia

The Mercantilist Era, 1492–1815

- Fight for Hegemony
- Anglo-French Rivalry
 - Seven Years' War
 - Napoleonic Wars (Waterloo)

The Mercantilist Era, 1492–1815

- **Interests**
 - Security through power
 - Control of markets and resources
- **Interactions**
 - Zero-sum bargaining among states
- **Institutions**
 - Few international institutions beyond the norm of sovereignty

What Shaped Our World?

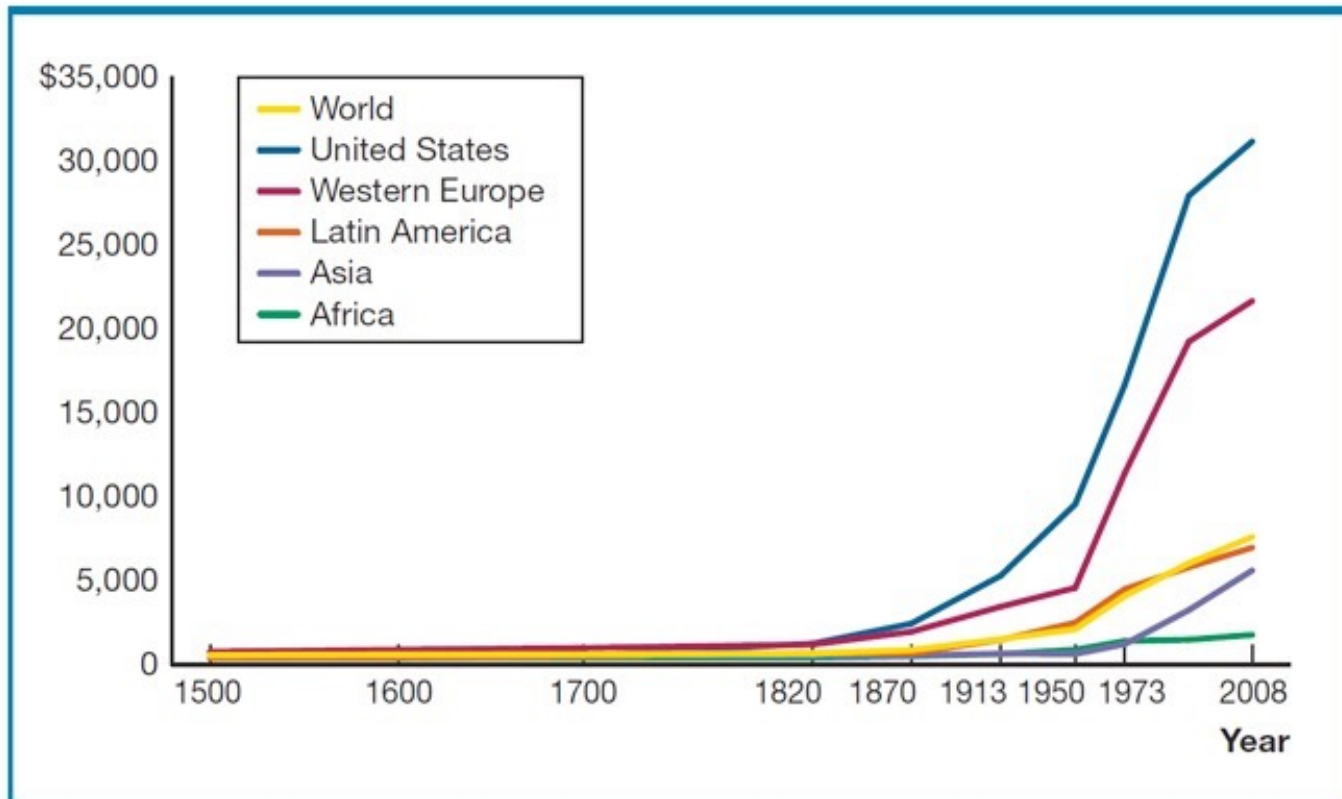
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The Pax Britannica, 1815–1914

- “The Hundred Years’ Peace”
- Sources of Cooperation

The Pax Britannica, 1815–1914

Figure 1.1: GDP per Capita, 1500-2008



The Pax Britannica, 1815–1914

- Industrial revolution altered interests
- Exchange replaces mercantilism
- Economic integration increases
- Mechanisms
 - migration
 - free trade
 - gold standard

The Pax Britannica, 1815–1914

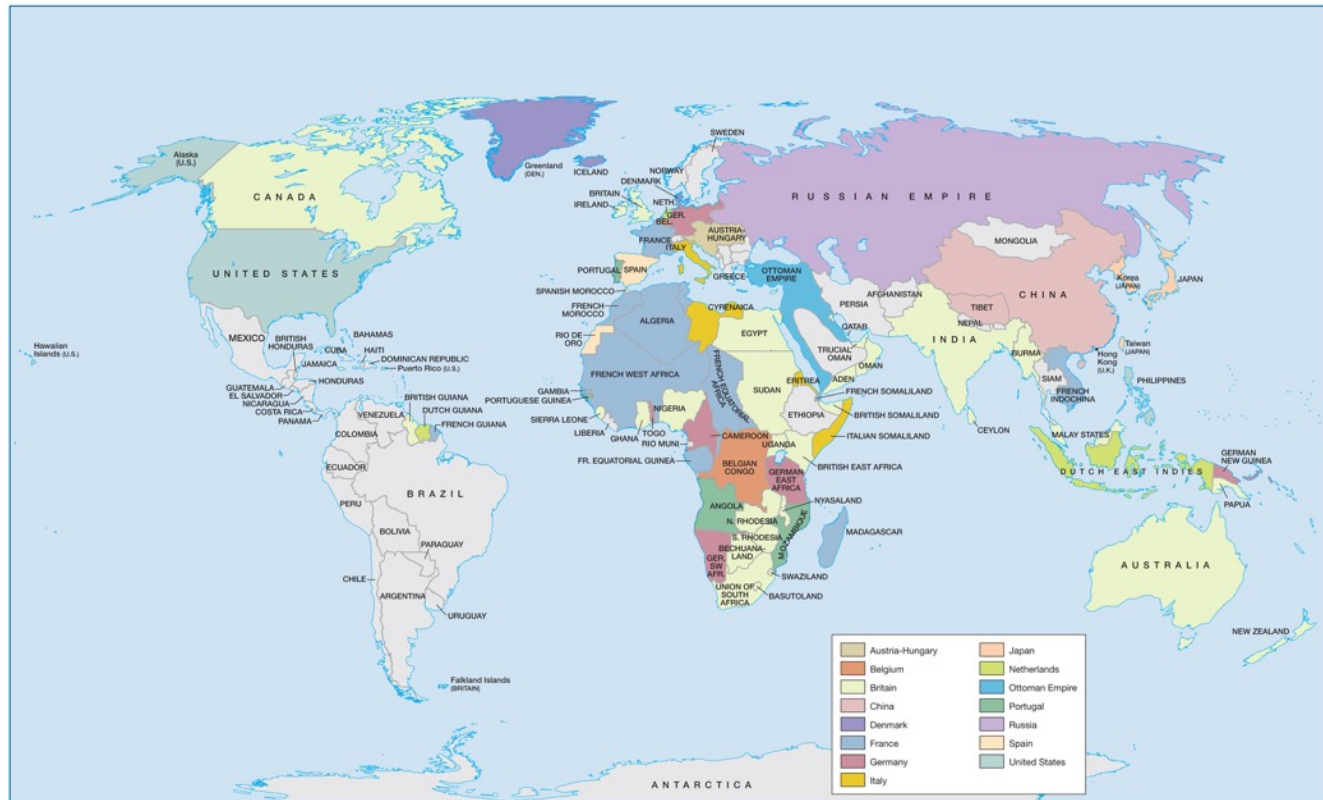
The Gold Standard

Gold becomes the major monetary system, promoting stability and predictability.

The Pax Britannica, 1815–1914

- The Congress of Vienna
- The Latecomers Scramble for Colonies

The Pax Britannica, 1815–1914



The Colonial Empires, 1914

The Pax Britannica, 1815–1914

- **Interests**
 - Economic wealth through trade and investment
- **Interactions**
 - Informal diplomacy; state cooperation in security and economic affairs
- **Institutions**
 - British hegemony and the Concert of Europe

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The Thirty Years' Crisis, 1914–1945

- Europe divides into two camps
- Central Powers
- Allied Powers

The Thirty Years' Crisis, 1914–1945

Map 1.2:
Europe, 1914



The Thirty Years' Crisis, 1914–1945

Map 1.3:
Europe after
World War I,
1920



The Thirty Years' Crisis, 1914–1945

- The Treaty of Versailles



The Thirty Years' Crisis, 1914–1945

- Inflation



The Thirty Years' Crisis, 1914–1945

- The Great Depression of 1929
- Countries turn inward

The Thirty Years' Crisis, 1914–1945

- World War II
- Axis Powers
- Allied Powers

The Thirty Years' Crisis, 1914–1945

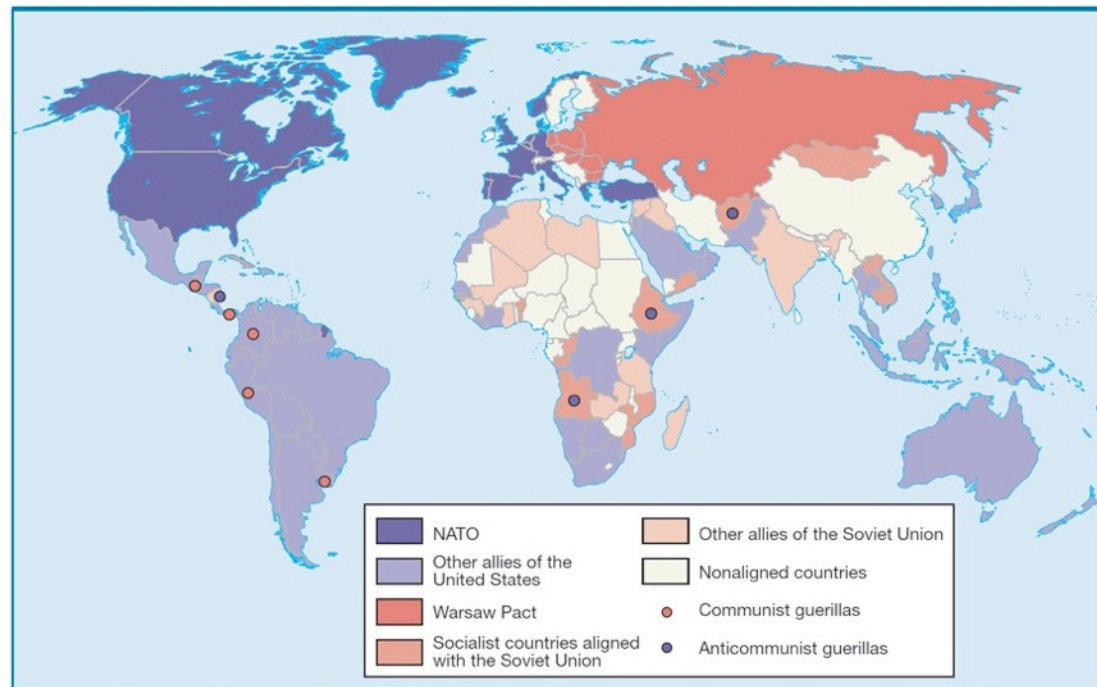
- **Interests**
 - Security through alliances, expansion, and economic self-sufficiency
- **Interactions**
 - World Wars I and II
 - Beggar-thy-neighbor policies
- **Institutions**
 - The League of Nations

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The Cold War, 1945–1990

Map 1.4:
The Cold
War and Its
Alliances,
1980



The Cold War, 1945–1990

- The Eastern Bloc
- The Western Bloc

The Cold War, 1945–1990

- Conflicts, crises, and coups
- Rise of the Third World
- Cold War phases

The Cold War, 1945–1990

- **Interests**

- Superpowers and allies sought to maximize global influence
- All countries sought gains in wealth

- **Interactions**

- Bipolar structure turned more pluralistic
- Coercive diplomacy slowly yielded to bargaining

- **Institutions**

- U.S.-supported institutions survived
- Soviet institutions lacked legitimacy

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Post–Cold War, 1991–Present



Post–Cold War, 1991–Present

- Collapse of the USSR
- Cooperation

Post–Cold War, 1991–Present

- **Interests**

- States increasingly focus on wealth gains through trade and investment
- Rise of non-state actors with diverse goals

- **Interactions**

- “Complex interdependence”
- Weak states often bargain with global institutions

- **Institutions**

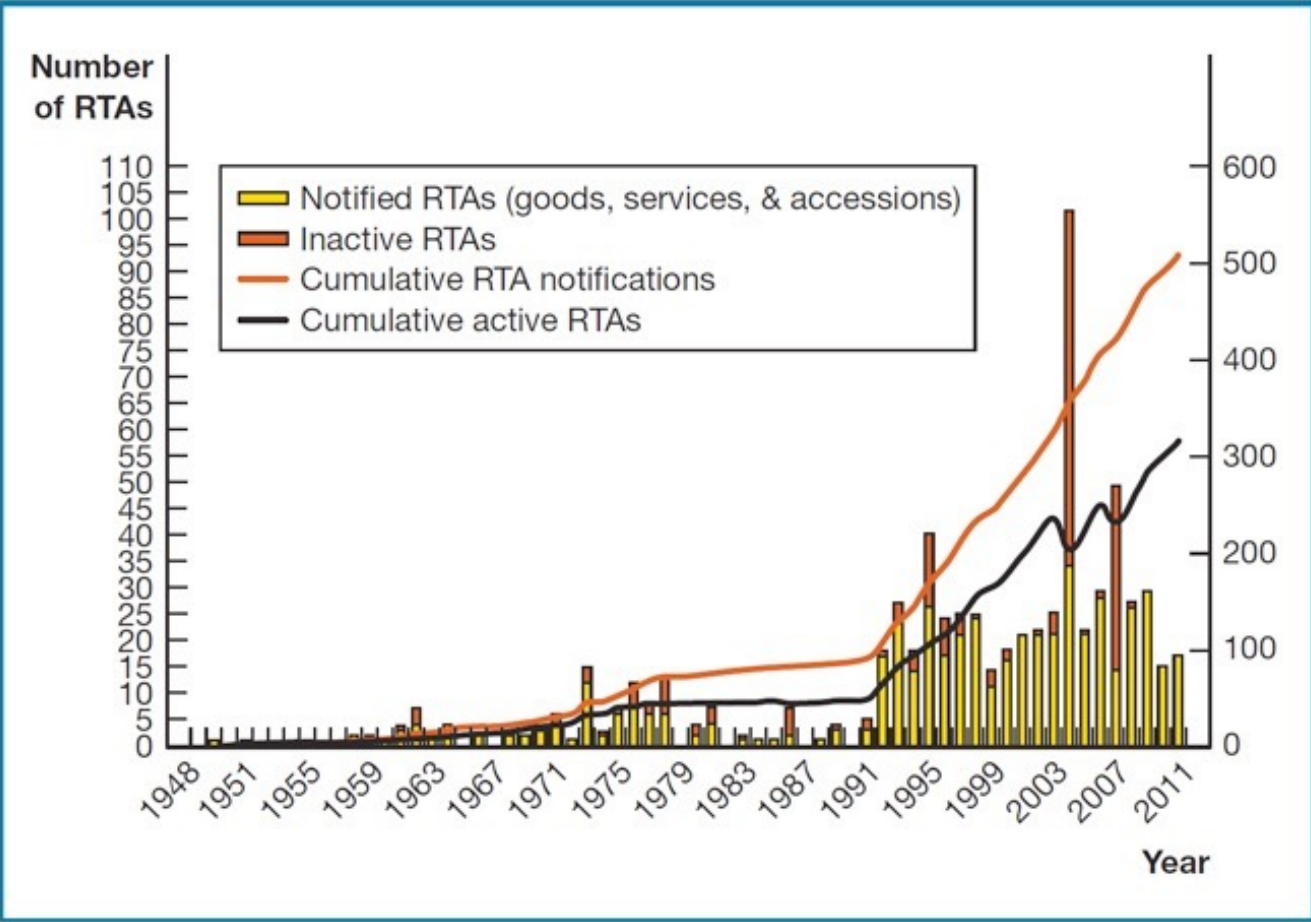
- UN and global financial and trade institutions
- NGOs participate

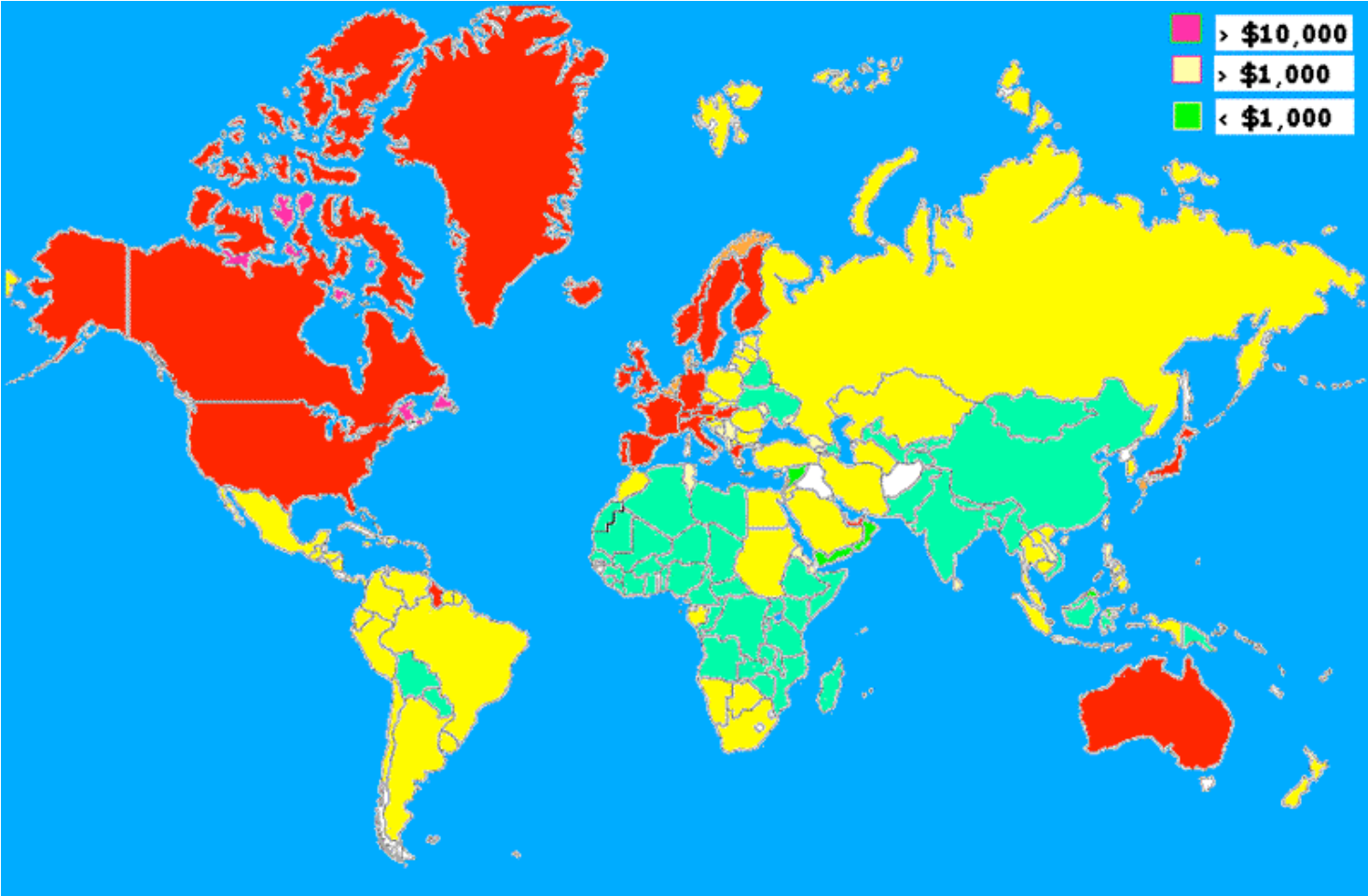
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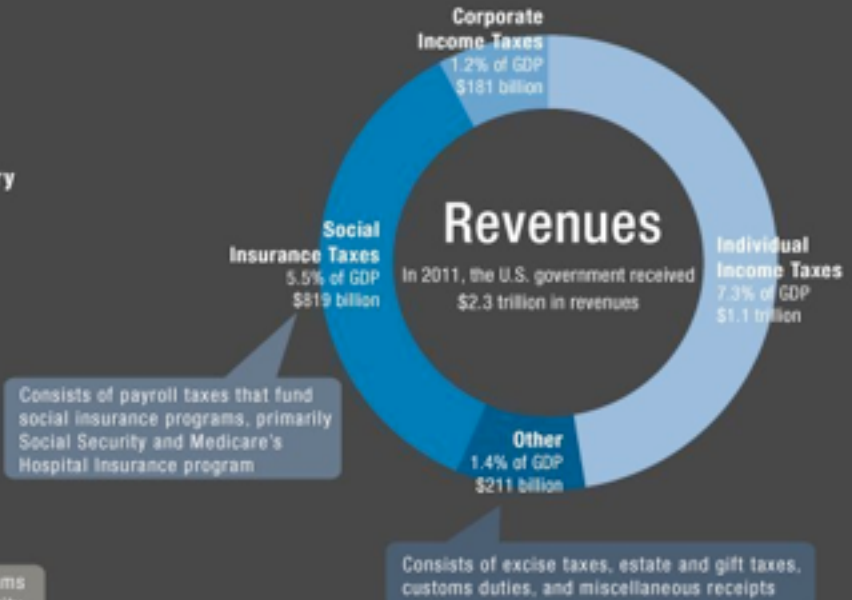
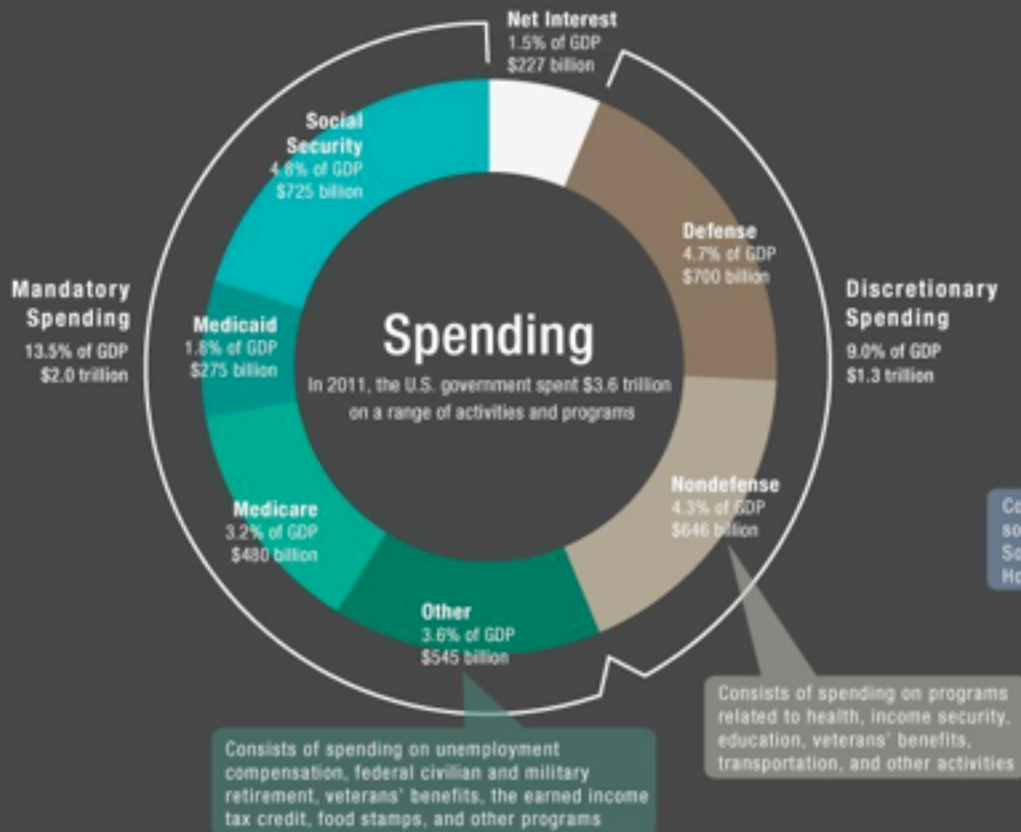
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Future Trends and Challenges

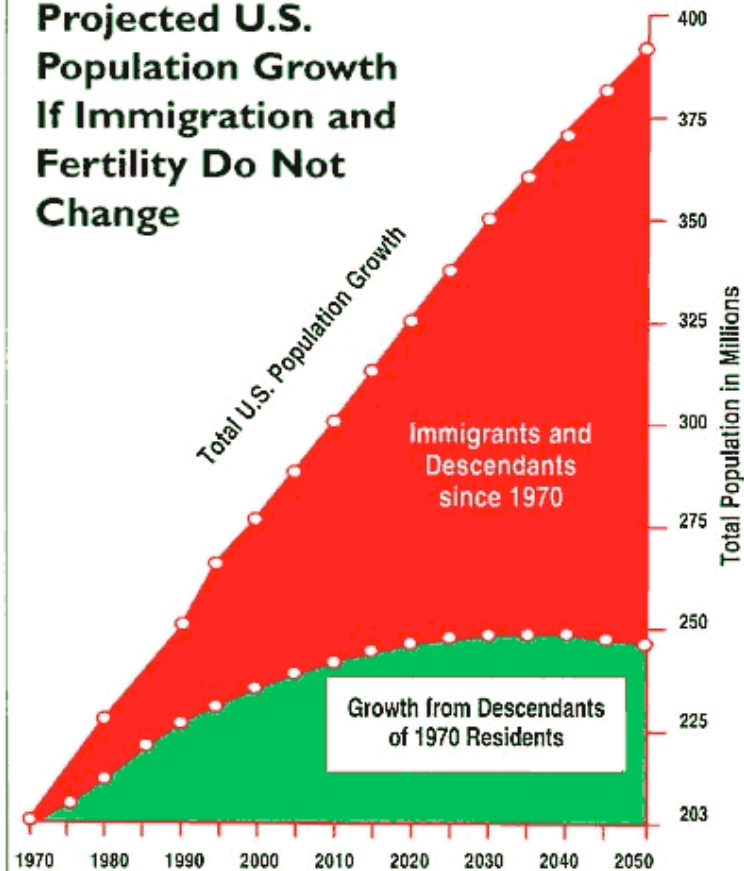
- Predominance of the United States?
- Environmental costs
- Nuclear proliferation
- Financial crises
- Power shifts



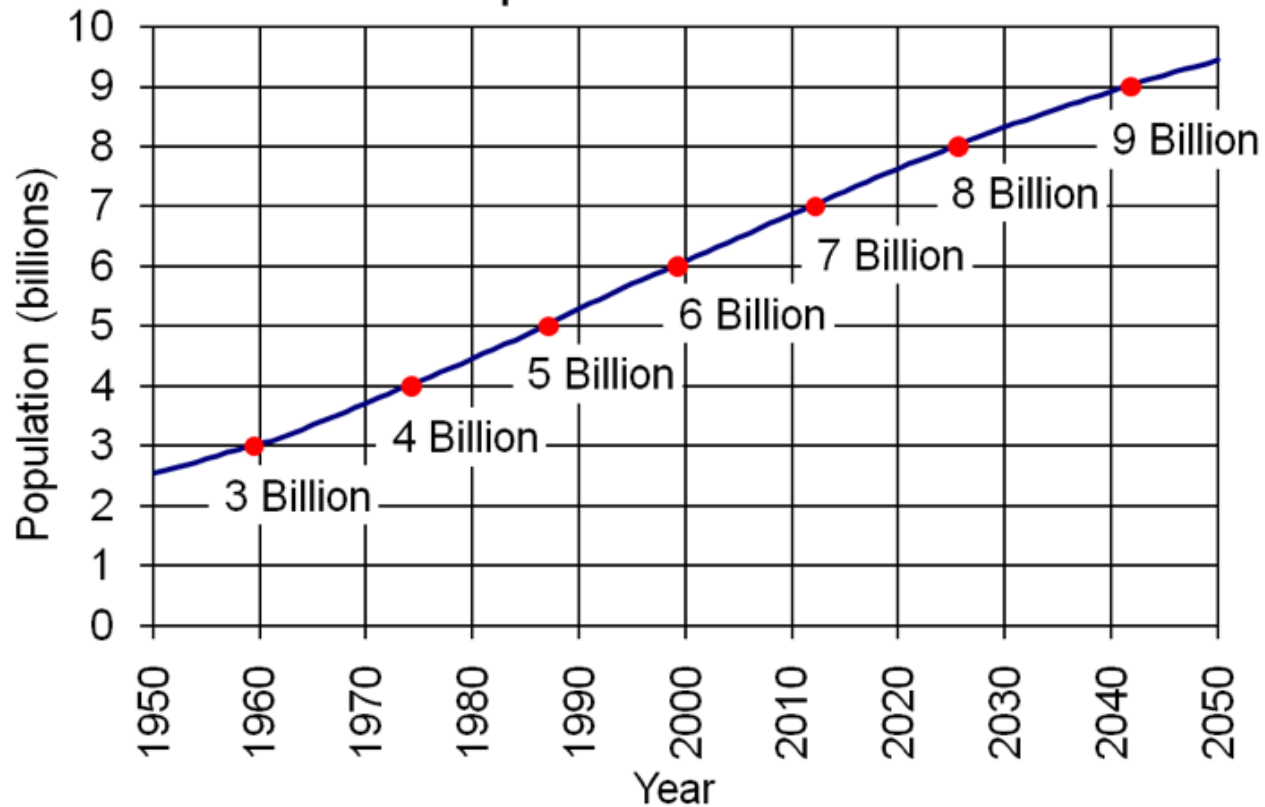




Projected U.S. Population Growth If Immigration and Fertility Do Not Change



World Population: 1950-2050



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, International Data Base, June 2011 Update.

Political Science 12: International Relations

