

THEORETICAL APPROACHES TO THE BALANCE OF THE WORLD POLITICAL SYSTEM

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Abstract

This article analyzes several theoretical approaches to ensure the balance of the world political system, such as the "balance of power theory", "hegemony theory", "multipolarity theory", "internationalism theory". The article considers the conceptual foundations and features, strengths and weaknesses of each approach.

Keywords: political system, world order, balance of power, hegemony, multipolarity, internationalism, realism.

INTRODUCTION

Theoretical approaches are important in balancing the world political system because they provide a basis for understanding the complex dynamics of international relations. Different theoretical approaches serve political scientists, specialists-experts as a basis for studying the motives and behavior of states, international organizations and non-state actors and forecasting their perspectives.

By examining the strengths and weaknesses of different theoretical approaches, scholars can develop new insights into the causes and consequences of global events and trends. These approaches can inform policy debates and contribute to the development of more effective strategies for managing global challenges.

METHODS

Historical and comparative analysis methods were used in the article. Articles and books in English and Russian were used in the search for information.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

There are several theoretical approaches to balancing the world political system that can be used to create a more stable and balanced world political system. Some of these approaches include:

The Balance of Power Theory. This theory states that the world can be most stable when there is no single superpower on the world stage. Instead, many smaller forces must balance each other, leading to a more stable and peaceful environment.

The Theory of Hegemony. In this theory, it is emphasized that the world can be most stable when one powerful power dominates the world stage. However, in order for hegemony to be stable, the ruling power must use its power and capabilities for the benefit of all nations and states.

Theory of Multipolarity. This theory posits that there are multiple centers of power in competition, leading to a more stable and balanced world political system. Each power center has its own interests and goals, which avoids the possible dominance of one power.

Theory of internationalism. This theory asserts that peace is most sustainable when national interests are replaced by the interests of humanity as a whole. This can be achieved by establishing international organizations and agreements that regulate international relations and solve global problems.

Each of these theories has its advantages and disadvantages, and their effectiveness may depend on specific circumstances and conditions.

The balance of power theory is the main concept within the realist paradigm and helps to stabilize the international system and ensure international order and security. It is a means of preventing the domination of one country or group of countries in the international system and preserving the independence and identity of all countries.

The theory suggests that weak states unable to ensure their own security form coalitions to increase their collective power and prevent the emergence of a strong player in the international arena. The balance of power is a natural and indispensable attribute of the struggle for power and is based on the distribution of world influence between separate centers of power. The theory proposes norms and rules, reinforced through institutions, that constrain the behavior of states and accept the balance of power as the basis of their interactions.

The main resource of the state is military, political and economic power, and the main goal of any state is to save its life. Ideas of cooperation and integration become impossible, as the desire for greater power and influence in the region ultimately prevails. The balance of power theory can be used both in regional interactions and in international relations at the global level.

H. Morgenthau defines the classic theory of the balance of power as a situation in which power is approximately equally distributed among several states. [1]

In the classical sense, the theory of the balance of power is based on the fact that the main task of each state is to preserve its own life, but at the same time it seeks to gain power in the system of international relations, because this is the guarantee of the preservation of the state.

It turns out that it is normal for any country to increase its power, which naturally creates competition between countries. Therefore, in order to resist powerful states and prevent the emergence of an extremely powerful player in the international arena, countries that cannot ensure their own security join coalitions that can increase their collective power and thereby save them from submission to the hegemon. [2]

Thus, the balance of power is “a natural and indispensable attribute of the struggle for power” that is “as old as the world.” H. Morgenthau also believes that countries that claim to be trying to maintain balance in the system of international relations are actually trying to hide their desire for hegemony with these words. An effective means of limiting the rise of power is through institutions that limit the behavior of states, as well as norms and rules that states accept the balance of power as the basis of their relations with each other. [3]

Neorealism theorist K. Waltz offers a slightly different view of the balance of power theory. His point is that all states are trying to ensure their own security, and the influence of some forces is balanced by the influence of others. At the same time, small countries often join coalitions to balance the influence of larger and more powerful powers. [4]

However, he believes that most rational states do not seek to maximize their power, because the continued growth of power inevitably leads to its downfall (as the experience of most empires shows). Therefore, the main task of the state is to maintain its position in the system. For this he must have a certain power. At the same time, states use a balancing strategy if there is an increase in the share of competitors in the global distribution of power.

The theory of hegemony, according to Marxist teaching, involves the ruling class enforcing its worldview as a universally recognized cultural norm and dominant ideology. It allows the ruling class to legitimize the social, political, or economic status quo, presenting it as a natural and immutable order. Throughout history, various state structures have claimed hegemony, including the city-states of Sumer,

Babylon, Assyria, the New Kingdom of Egypt, the Hittite state, Mitanni, Athens and Sparta, the Roman Empire, and the British Empire.

According to the Italian scientist Antonio Gramsci, the term "hegemony" has domestic and international dimensions. It examines the early theoretical situations of hegemony in terms of society, civil society, and the power factor in the global South, using the example of the Italian reality.

The theory of multipolarity is a global position in the development of scientific views, which openly rejects the idea of a single struggle for the dominant standard of relations between states. He noted that world politics can be in many directions, not according to a single standard. Some of the ideas proposed by this theory, such as multilateral agreements, continuous risk management, and the development of a self-regulatory transnational network, affect the modeling of political power and the image and reality of international relations.

The theory of multipolarity states that most political systems in the world are characterized by flexible social and political realities. This means that different countries and groups can influence how governments conduct their policies. The theory of multipolarity rejects the concept of two dominant world powers – Great Britain and the former USSR – offering a more complex view of world politics. According to the authors of the theory, there is no single center of global power, on the contrary, there are several less centralized and “multipolar” structures in the world.

Multipolarity theory seeks to explain the traditional form of world politics, where each actor has a certain influence. This theory assumes the existence of various independent sources of world order, including states, national interests, as well as economic and social realities.

A leading idea in the theory of multipolarity is that the cooperation of various actors is necessary to reach an agreement on peace. It consists of understanding the existing problems and the communication space.

According to the theory of multipolarity, none of the existing world power centers alone can be absolutely dominant over other actors, instead, several actors with equal influence and able to conduct an equal dialogue with each other are needed. In order to successfully solve the world's problems, it is necessary to recognize the equal influence of all participants and develop communication mechanisms between them. The theory of multipolarity considers world political relations to be a balancing act between equal and independent centers of influence.

The theory of internationalism emphasizes the need for states and nations to cooperate and interact on the world stage in order to achieve common goals and interests. The theory states that peace can be achieved not through competition and conflict, but through cooperation and exchange between states. The concept of internationalism is based on the idea of world unity and cooperation. It calls for the establishment of global norms and values common to all countries and peoples. [5]

Also, the theory of internationalism emphasizes that countries should work together to solve international problems such as poverty, hunger, disease and environmental problems.

The theory of internationalism remains relevant today, especially in terms of global problems that require international cooperation and coordination of actions. It encourages countries to cooperate in solving international problems such as poverty, hunger, disease and environmental problems.

The theory of internationalism believes that states should act not in their own interests, but in the interests of the world community. In this sense, this theory is an ideology that promotes friendship and cooperation between peoples. In Marxism, proletarian internationalism means the unity of the proletarians of different countries in the struggle against the exploiters. In our time, the concept of internationalism is also used by leftist ideologies that try to offer an alternative to globalization and oppose nationalism.

CONCLUSION

Theoretical approaches are important in balancing the world political system because they provide a basis for understanding the complex dynamics of international relations.

By studying the predictions and perspectives of different theoretical approaches, policymakers and scholars can develop effective strategies for peace, stability, and prosperity, and contribute to the development of a more balanced and just global system.

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