

National Research University Higher School of Economics

HSE Global Scholarship Competition - 2021

Topics and recommended literature
on International Relations

Moscow, 2020

Topic 1. Basic concepts of the science of International Relations

- Development of the IR theory as a branch of knowledge. Conceptual apparatus.
- Foreign policy and international relations in philosophy of the East and Asia.
- Thucydides and the foundations of their theory.
- The crisis of the international political system in the Middle Ages. "The Prince" N. Machiavelli. Political thought of the New time and the emergence of the modern theory of international relations.
- Sovereignty. Westphalian system. The crisis of monarchical legitimacy and the emergence of a nation-state.
- The main existing theoretical paradigms of international relations. Realism, liberalism, Marxism. New theoretical approaches and trends.

Topic 2. The main stages of the history of International Relations

- The system of interstate relations between the city-states of one civilization in the Ancient Greece.
- Theocratic and secular models of world monarchy in the Middle Ages. Medieval Cross-Border Corporations.
- The question of universalism in the history of the Renaissance and Reformation.
- The Thirty Years War and establishment of the Westphalian order.
- Formation of the new ideology of world politics after the Great Geographical Discoveries and colonial conquests.
- Vienna and post-WWI international order: main features and problems.
- World War II and its implications for international relations. Structural features of the Cold War.

Topic 3. The state as an international actor

- The concept of state and state sovereignty. Criteria of statehood. National interests.
- Typology and classification of states. Power hierarchy of states.
- Transformation of the Westphalian political system. Erosion of state sovereignty.

Topic 4. Foreign policy

- Foreign policy and diplomacy.
- Types of diplomacy. Diplomacy and strategy.
- Foreign policy decision-making.
- New trends in the development of diplomacy - summits, multilateral diplomacy, etc. Opportunities and limitations.

Topic 5. New actors of International Relations

- The concept and main features of international organizations.

- Qualitative and quantitative evolution of international organizations in the XIX and XX centuries.
- Westphalian and Post-Westphalian functions of international organizations.
- The reasons for the decline in the effectiveness of international organizations in the modern world.
- The concept and main types of non-state actors of international relations and world politics. Functions of non-state actors of world politics.

Topic 6. Globalization and global governance perspectives

- Globalization and approaches to its study.
- The nature and content of the globalization of the world economy.
- Basic approaches to understanding globalization. Globalization and state sovereignty.
- The emergence of "global problems of our time", transnational / global challenges and threats.
- Global governance as a mechanism for solving transnational and global problems and challenges.

Topic 7. Security and new security challenges

- The concept of international security. New transnational challenges and security threats.
- Features of the current international security environment.
- The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), international terrorism, political radicalism, religious fundamentalism, organized cross-border crime, etc.
- The concept of "securitization".

Topic 8. Morality and law in world politics

- Law as a regulator of international relations and world politics.
- Values and ideology as mechanisms for regulating the behavior of participants in international relations and world politics.
- The main provisions of international public law (UN Charter). The crisis of international law and attempts to revise its basic provisions.
- The concept of "humanitarian intervention" in world politics.

Topic 9. Russia in the modern world

- The role and place of Russia in the global economy.
- The military potential of Russia, the place of the Russian Federation in the international military force hierarchy.
- Russia in international organizations and institutions.
- Russia's main approaches to reforming the international economic and political order.
- Brief description of Russia's relations with other leading centers of power in the

world.

Literature:

1. Angel, N. *The great illusion: a study of the relation of military power to national advantage*.
2. Edward H. Carr. *The Twenty Years Crisis 1919 – 1939: An Introduction to the Study of International Relations* // Perennial 2001. Pp. 1 – 21.
3. Stephen Walt. *International relations: One world, many theories* // *Foreign Policy*, Spring 1998, iss. 110. P. 29.
4. Kissinger H. *Diplomacy*. Any edition.
5. Griffiths, M., T. O’Callaghan and S.C. Roach *International relations: the key concepts*. (Abingdon: Routledge, 2007) second edition.
6. Hobbes, Thomas, and Edwin Curley *Leviathan: with selected variants from the Latin edition of 1668*. Vol. 8348. (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1994).
7. Xiang, L. ‘China and the “Pivot”’, *Survival* 54(5) October–November 2012, pp.113–28. (OL)
8. Hirst, Paul ‘The eighty years’ crisis, 1919–1999 – power’, *Review of International Studies* 24(5) 1998, pp. 133–48. (OL)
9. Brown, C. and K. Ainley *Understanding international relations*. (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009) fourth edition.
10. Halliday, F. *Rethinking international relations*. (London: MacMillan, 1994)
11. Hobsbawm, E. *Age of extremes: the short twentieth century 1914–1991*. (London: Abacus Books, 1994)
12. Huntington, S. *The clash of civilizations and the remaking of the world order*. (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2002)
13. Ikenberry, G.J. *After victory: institutions, strategic restraint, and the rebuilding of order after major wars*. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000)
14. Waltz, K. *Man, the state and war*. (New York: Columbia University Press, 2001) 2nd edition.
15. Waltzer, M. *Just and unjust wars: a moral argument with historical illustrations*. (London: Basic Books, 2006)