

Domestic Politics and War

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The menu

- ▶ Housekeeping
- ▶ Homework 1. Due next Thursday in lecture! ☹️
- ▶ Domestic politics and war

HOMEWORK 1

Homework 1

Lake outlines how the bargaining model of war would apply to the Iraq war. In the end, he concludes that the bargaining model is useful, but only to a certain degree. Using the details and arguments that Lake presents, pick one of our three explanations for war (incomplete information + incentives to misrepresent, commitment problems, or indivisibility). **Argue why that explanation best explains the outbreak of the Iraq war. Argue why the other explanation does not.**

How to cite in your essay (and life)

- ▶ Bargaining theory assumes that states are unitary actors (Lake, 2010).
- ▶ As Lake (2010) claims, bargaining theory assumes that states are unitary actors.
- ▶ “Bargaining theory assumes that states are unitary actors” (Lake, 2010: 8)

DOMESTIC POLITICS AND WAR

Gov 40, so far



The Anthropomorphic Fallacy – Escudé (1994)

This paper deals with the often unnoticed practical and theoretical consequences of the anthropomorphic language that we all use when referring to states in terms of (for example) “weak” and “strong” actors who “suffer”, are “honored”, are “humiliated”, have “pride” and aspire to “glory”. Among other consequences, **this language obscures the fact that, oftentimes, when a weak state challenges a strong one at a great cost to itself, we are not witnessing an epic of courage [...], but rather the sacrifice of the interests, the welfare and sometimes even the lives of multitudes of poor people**, to the vanity of their elite. The very fact that this is being obscured biases the value structure of international relations theory, which is not only not value-free, but often has totalitarian values unintendedly built into it.

Leaders and War



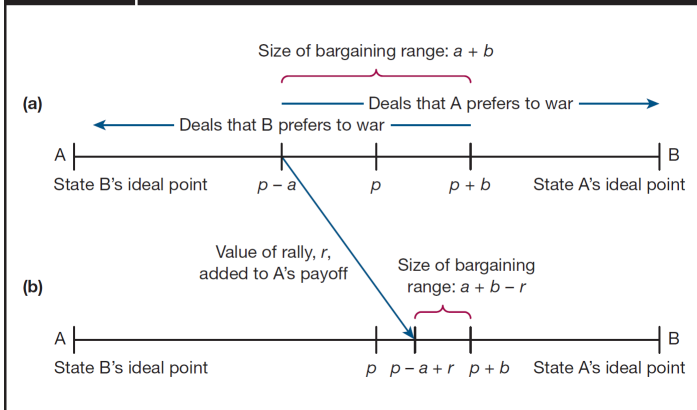
Wag the Dog



Rally 'round the Flag and the BR

FIGURE 4.3

RALLY EFFECTS AND THE BARGAINING RANGE



ICA 1: Leaders and War

Question: What type of leaders are more likely to go to war for domestic reasons?

- ▶ A. Those who are more secure in office
- ▶ B. Those who are less secure in office

Diversionsary war

“When Mao Tse-Tung seized control of China, he actually was the head of an organization in which there were in essence 5 armies all of which had been built up by one leader from practically nothing and which were to a considerable extent loyal to that leader. Mao may have been able to deal with this by ordinary methods, but **the Korean War gave him a wonderful opportunity. He in essence drafted from each of these armies specific units to send to the Korean War.** These units were then rotated back to China on a regular basis, but were not returned to their original army. **As a result at the end of the Korean War the 5 major armies had melded into one. Mao was then able to remove the four most important generals from their positions of personal power.**” (Tullock, 1971)

War outcome and leaders' fate

TABLE A | WAR AND THE FATE OF LEADERS

War Outcome	Fate of Leader	
	Stayed in Power	Lost Power
Victory	68%	32%
Small loss	47%	43%
Big loss	16%	84%

TABLE B | DEMOCRACY AND THE FATE OF WARTIME LEADERS

War Outcome	Democratic Leaders		Nondemocratic Leaders	
	Lost Power	Punished If Lost Power	Lost Power	Punished If Lost Power
Victory	31%	11%	19%	38%
Loss	88%	43%	48%	88%

- ▶ Big victory boosts your chances of staying in power
- ▶ Big losses decreases your chances of statying in power
- ▶ For dictators, winning or losing matters less for staying in power
- ▶ For dictators, whether they win or lose has a large effect on the probability of being punished
- ▶ The risk of forcible (violent) removal from office increases the probability of war
- ▶ The risk of regular removal from office decreases the probability of a leader going to war

ICA 2: Yesterday





Donald Trump's Presidential Job Approval Ratings

Based on weekly averages of Gallup tracking

■ % Approve



GALLUP

DEMOCRATIC PEACE

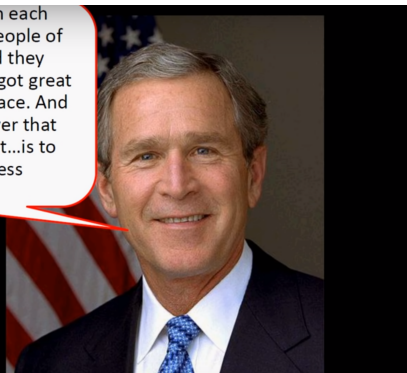
Democratic Peace

Ultimately, the best strategy to ensure our security and to build a durable peace is to support the advance of democracy elsewhere. Democracies don't attack each other.
(1994 State of the Union)



Democratic Peace

Democracies don't go to war with each other. And the reason why is the people of most societies don't like war, and they understand what war means.... I've got great faith in democracies to promote peace. And that's why I'm such a strong believer that the way forward in the Middle East...is to promote democracy. (2004 Press Conference)



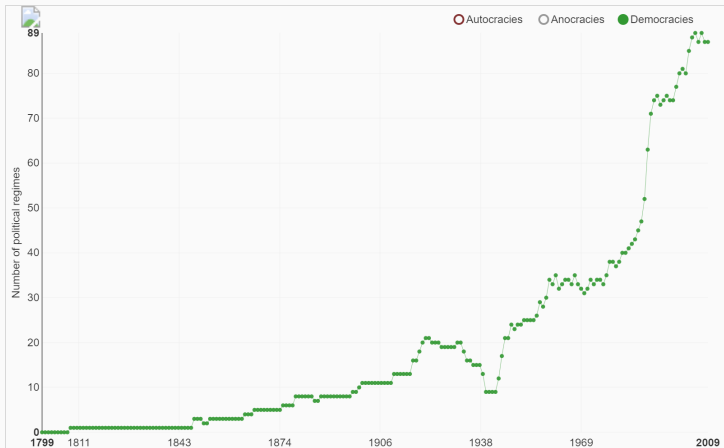
Immanuel Kant
Zum ewigen Frieden
Ein philosophischer Entwurf



HOFENBERG SONDERAUSGABE

Democratic Peace

Number of democracies between 1800-2010¹



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Data sources: Polity IV

What have we learned?

- ▶ Tips for HW1
- ▶ Domestic politics and war
- ▶ Democratic peace