

COVENANT UNIVERSITY
NIGERIA

TUTORIAL KIT
OMEGA SEMESTER

PROGRAMME: POLICY AND
STRATEGIC STUDIES

COURSE: STS 322

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STS 322: THEORIES OF WAR AND PEACE

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QUESTIONS

1. There is a lot of controversy as to what war and peace means. As a student of theories of war and peace (STS322), attempt to explain what these concepts mean backing up your argument with examples.
2. Compare and contrast the tenets of the realist and liberal theories of war and peace.
3. A lot of flaws have been noticed in the realist argument on why war occurs. Discuss these lapses with relevant examples.
4. In what ways is the balance of power manifesting in the 21st century?
5. Critically discuss the causes of war and proffer solution to the challenges of inter-state wars in Africa.
6. Is war solely a product of human nature or social institution or a combination of both?
7. Critically explicate how instinct or human nature has caused war and in other cases peace. Use various examples to buttress your stance/view.
8. With the aid of various theoretical approaches, discuss the causes of war. Buttress your answer with various relevant examples.
9. Is the balance of power a cause of war, a condition of peace or both?
10. Using the games theoretic model of balance of power, discuss how the various powers have influenced the Syrian conflict.
11. How did the alliance system in Europe degenerate into WW1?
12. Do alliances deter state-aggression? Illustrate using any example of your choice.
13. In your opinion, have regimes and institutions been able to prevent the outbreak of another World War?
14. Critically examine the theory of collective security.
15. What is peace? Does it necessarily mean the absence of war?
16. Discuss the classical theories of war.
17. Highlight and discuss the shortcomings of the realists' postulations on war.
18. In the light of the increasing threats of religious fundamentalism in the world, what has been the input of security regimes in managing threats?
19. Write short notes on the realist and liberal theories of war.
20. As a student of theories of war and peace, what advice would you give the President in controlling the surge of terrorism in Nigeria?

MODEL ANSWERS IN ALTERNATE SEQUENCE (ODD NUMBERS)

1. **War:** They are expected to explain the types of war and give examples
 - i. Hot war
 - ii. Cold war

Students are also expected to give two definitions of war
There are two major categorizations of peace

- i. Hot peace and the cold peace

Hot peace

Cold peace

They are expected to explain these types of peace and give examples

- ii. Positive peace and negative peace

They are also expected to explain these types of peace and give examples

Positive peace

Negative peace

Students are also expected to give two definitions of peace

3. Definitions of war

Two definitions are expected.

- i. Reasons why war was prevalent in the previous centuries
- ii. Why it has reduced in the 21st century

- Increase in the number of common non-human enemies e.g. natural disasters, epidemic, climate change, poverty, security and collaboration to defeat them.
- Advancement in technology and the invention of weapons of mass destruction
- Interdependence born out of trade, exchanges of expertise, the presence of MNCs.
- The presence of international organizations and international sanctions.
- Interconnectedness of the world

5. Critically discuss the causes of war and proffer solution to the challenges of inter-state wars in Africa.

- Students are expected to define war
- Five causes of war are expected with examples.

Sociological explanation: cultural diversities and ethnic differences.

Psychological causes: thrills, feeling of insecurity and excessive fear. It includes fanatical patriotism and the exploitation of chauvinistic (prejudiced) ideologies by political leaders.

The white man used racism as a basis for conquest

Biological reasons: include the urge for existence, the desire to raise standard of living, removal of acute poverty and the pressure of population on the means of existence.

Political causes of war: among the causes are the failure of diplomacy, the persistence of the idea of independent sovereign states, the nurturing of militant nationalism founded upon hatred and pride and the struggle for dominance and hegemony.

Economic causes: the search for new market, raw materials and areas of capital investment.

7. Critically explicate how instinct or human nature has caused war and in other cases peace. Use various examples to buttress your stance/view.

Meaning of human nature: Human nature refers to the distinguishing characteristics, including ways of thinking feeling and acting that humans tend to have naturally independently of the influence of culture.

Is there something innate, inherent, and festering within man's genetic code waiting for the proper forum to be unleashed in destructive and devastating ways? Are we "hard-wired" with the drive to destroy our fellow man prior to any sort of provocation?

Discuss how human nature can cause war

How human nature can cause peace?

9. Is the balance of power a cause of war, a condition of peace or both?

What is balance of power? At the core of the balance of power theory is the idea that national security is enhanced when military capabilities are distributed so that no one state is strong enough to dominate all others .

Why balancing?

- Their survival at risk if they fail to curb a potential hegemon before it becomes too strong.
- Balancing is a major strategy for preserving the balance of power and preventing a potential hegemon's rise.
- It is shown that the basic motivation for participating in such a system is security in a world where each nation fears the prospect of being on the losing side.
- Alliances play a key role in the BOP. Building one's capacity against arrival is a form of power balancing but forming alliances against a threatening state is often quicker, cheaper and more effective.

How can it be a precondition for war?

- BOP seeks to explain alliance formation.

Due to the neorealist idea of anarchism as a result of the international system, states must ensure their survival through maintaining or increasing their power in a self-help world.

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It could also be a precondition for peace.

- If one state gains inordinate power, the theory predicts that it will take advantage of its strength and attack weaker neighbours thereby providing an incentive for those threatened to unite in a defensive coalition.
- Some realists maintain that this would be more stable as aggression would appear unattractive and would be averted if there was equilibrium of power between the rival coalitions.
- It always results when there is a collective security system in place.
- . Key to this system was the ability of one state or a coalition to balance the power of another so that it could not toss down/ swallow up smaller units and create a universal empire.

11. How did the alliance system in Europe degenerate into WW1?

- Students are expected to describe the situation in Europe before WW1 and the tensed relations between the two alliances prevalent at that time (the Central Powers and the Allied Powers (Triple entente). The Central Powers were Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy, the Ottoman Empire and their territories while the Triple Entente (or Allied Powers) was made up of France, Britain, Russia and Italy (who was an ally of the Central Powers initially but later decamped).

13. In your opinion, have regimes and institutions been able to prevent the outbreak of another World War?

- An assessment of the roles of the UN and specialized agencies in managing state behavior is expected.

15. What is peace? Does it necessarily mean the absence of war?

- Various definitions of peace. Explain negative and positive forms of peace.

17. Highlight and discuss the shortcomings of the realists' postulations on war.

- Realism is the belief that power is the most important component in the international system. Students are required to mention the limitations of the realists' conception of war.

19. Write short notes on the realist and liberal theories of war.

- Students are expected to demonstrate and illustrate their understanding of the two theories. What are the strands of thoughts under liberalism and what causes war according to them?