

Lecture No (13).

International Liberalism Theory

Taking an opposing position, the tradition of international liberalism holds that it is the wider political world around the states that matters most. International public opinion, international commerce, and international organization, all together, swamp the sovereigns in interdependencies and agreements. For the tradition of international liberalism, the little fish make a big difference en masse. As such, international organization, with all its functions of E-International Relations ISSN 2053-8626 Page 8/12 Student Feature - A Brief Introduction to the Study of International Relations Written by A.C. McKeil disarmament, international law, international commerce regulation, international intellectual cooperation, etc., is the most pressing international problem for the tradition of international liberalism. It is these things that bring the world together, make war

less desirable and less desired, making a better world possible. Many see Kant's Perpetual Peace that inspired the League of Nations, as an intellectual antecedent to the international liberalism of today, particularly the idea of a democratic peace. In its contemporary expression, much of this theory has pointed towards transnational non-state actors that cross-stitch the states together, suggesting no state can pursue a purely selfinterested foreign policy, because, as interdependent, the interests of other states are in the interests of one's own. An influential iteration of this tradition has developed "regime" theory. Robert O. Keohane has argued that, even if we accept some of the positions of the realist, and the neo-realist in particular, cooperation amongst states is still possible.[20] When the interests of states coincide, they can form regimes of rules, and complexes of multiple regimes, to govern specific realms of international relations, like arms control, trade, and climate change.