



POWER AND INTERDEPENDENCE IN US FOREIGN POLICY

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Navigating the World of Power, Interdependence, and Complex Interdependence

Introduction:

- Welcome to our exploration of the intricate dynamics of power, interdependence, and complex interdependence in the realm of international relations within the US.
- In an interconnected world, comprehending the role of power and interdependence is paramount.
- These factors significantly influence the foreign policy decisions of the United States and the broader landscape of international relations.
- Throughout this presentation, we will delve into the core concepts of power, interdependence, and complex interdependence.
- We will closely examine how these concepts shape the course of US foreign policy and its interactions on the global stage.



Defining Power

Military Power:

Military power refers to a nation's ability to protect its interests and project influence through armed forces. It includes factors such as the size and capability of the military, defense spending, and technological advancements.

Economic Power:

Economic power involves a country's control over resources, trade, and wealth. Key indicators include Gross Domestic Product (GDP), trade volume, foreign investments, and economic stability.

Political Power:

Political power is the ability to shape international institutions, alliances, and global norms. It depends on a nation's diplomatic influence, alliances, and its role in international organizations.





INTERNATIONAL TRADE



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- ▶ Interdependence, in the context of international relations, refers to the mutual reliance of states on each other.
 - ▶ States establish interdependence through a variety of channels, including..."
 - ▶ Trade:
 - ▶ Economic interdependence, often facilitated by international trade, is a prominent form.
 - ▶ The authors provide case studies, such as the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade), to illustrate how international organizations contribute to managing economic interdependence.
 - ▶ Alliances:
 - ▶ Strategic interdependence emerges through alliances, where states rely on each other for security and defense.
 - ▶ The importance of multiple channels of interaction and cooperation among states, such as diplomacy, military power, and international institutions is extremely important to interdependence and the formation of alliances.
 - ▶ Diplomacy:
 - ▶ Political interdependence develops through diplomacy and collaborative agreements.
 - ▶ The authors argue that states increasingly rely on non-military tools, such as diplomacy and economic cooperation, to address conflicts and challenges.

Understanding Interdependence



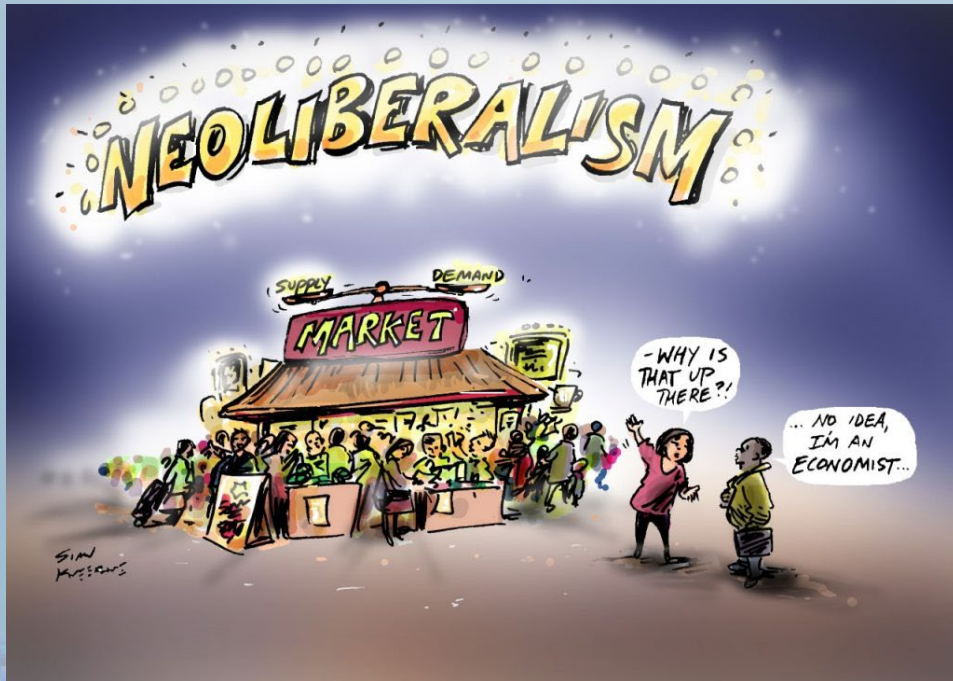
- ▶ Complex interdependence, as conceptualized by scholars like Keohane and Nye, represents a multifaceted approach to international relations.
 - ▶ The authors highlight the ability of international organizations to promote cooperation among states and manage complex interdependence effectively.
- ▶ Complex interdependence extends beyond the traditional realist view of international relations. It was pioneered by Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye in their work.
 - ▶ The authors introduce the concept of complex interdependence as a key characteristic of the modern international system.
- ▶ Unlike simple power-based relationships, complex interdependence encompasses a wide range of channels, including economics, politics, and social interactions.
 - ▶ The book contrasts complex interdependence with traditional realist views of international relations that emphasize power politics and military force.
 - ▶ The concept of "soft power" is introduced, emphasizing the ability of states to achieve their objectives through attraction and persuasion rather than coercion.

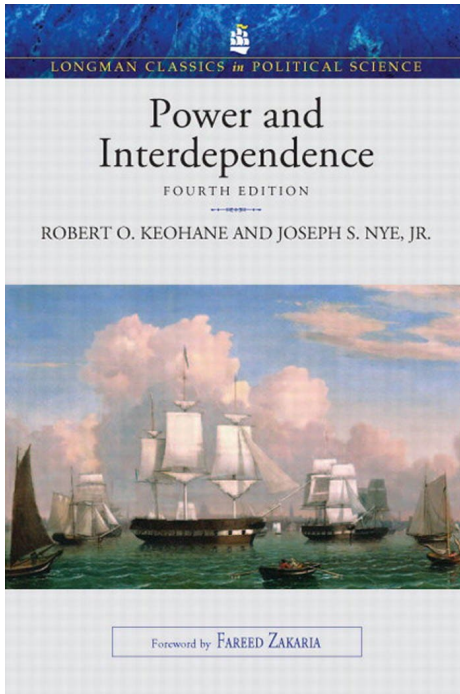
EXPLORING COMPLEX INTERDEPENDENCE

NEOREALISM VS. NEOLIBERALISM



- In the realm of international relations, two prominent theories stand in contrast: neorealism and neoliberalism.
- These two theories offer distinct perspectives on the role of power and cooperation in global affairs.
- Neorealism:
 - Neorealism emphasizes power-based explanations like states' demands for power and security and the dangers to states' survival
 - Neorealism, often associated with scholars like Kenneth Waltz, places a strong emphasis on power as the central driver of international relations.
 - Military force is for both versions of realism, the most important power resource in world politics. States must rely ultimately on their own resources and must strive to maintain their relative positions in the system, even at high economic cost.
- Neoliberalism:
 - Neoliberalism emphasizes cooperation and institutions.
 - On the other hand, neoliberalism, as advocated by scholars like Keohane and Nye, emphasizes the potential for cooperation among states through international institutions.
 - Liberalism also examines state action but directs its attention to other groups as well. For liberal thinkers, economic incentives are as important as concerns for security. Among republics, at any rate, military threats may be insignificant, expanding the potential area for cooperation and reducing both the role of force and the emphasis states place on their relative power positions in the international system.





- ▶ To delve deeper into the dynamics of power and interdependence, let's explore some key readings and concepts from our course materials and more.
 - ▶ 'Power and Interdependence' by Robert O. Keohane and Joseph S. Nye Jr.
 - ▶ CHAPTER 1: INTERDEPENDENCE IN WORLD POLITICS
 - ▶ The New Rhetoric of Interdependence; Interdependence as an Analytic Concept
 - ▶ Power and Interdependence; International Regime Change
 - ▶ CHAPTER 2: REALISM AND COMPLEX INTERDEPENDENCE
 - ▶ The Characteristics of Complex Interdependence; The Political Processes of Complex Interdependence
 - ▶ CHAPTER 3: EXPLAINING INTERNATIONAL REGIME CHANGE
 - ▶ An Economic Process Explanation; Overall Power Structure Explanation
 - ▶ Issue Structure; An International Organization Model; Combining Explanations
 - ▶ 'Power and Interdependence in the Trump Era' by Joseph S. Nye Jr.
 - ▶ President Trump employed economic tools like sanctions and tariffs as foreign policy instruments, potentially eroding America's global legitimacy.
 - ▶ Historical examples illustrate that manipulating economic interdependence can have both short-term gains and long-term consequences.
 - ▶ The article highlights concerns about Trump's approach, emphasizing the need to balance security with maintaining commercial supply chains and the importance of international institutions for world order and cooperation on global issues.
 - ▶ 'The Geopolitics of Hard and Soft Power: The Geopolitics of an Economically Interdependent World' by ESPAS Global Trends to 2030.

EXPLORING POWER AND INTERDEPENDENCE

The Role Of Power In Us Foreign Policy Part 1

In understanding the dynamics of US foreign policy, it's crucial to explore how power plays a central role in shaping decisions.

Structural Realism and Power: The book introduces structural realism, a prominent theoretical perspective in international relations. According to structural realism, the distribution of power among states is a crucial determinant of their behavior in the international system. In the context of US foreign policy, this means that the United States often acts in ways that enhance or protect its relative power position.

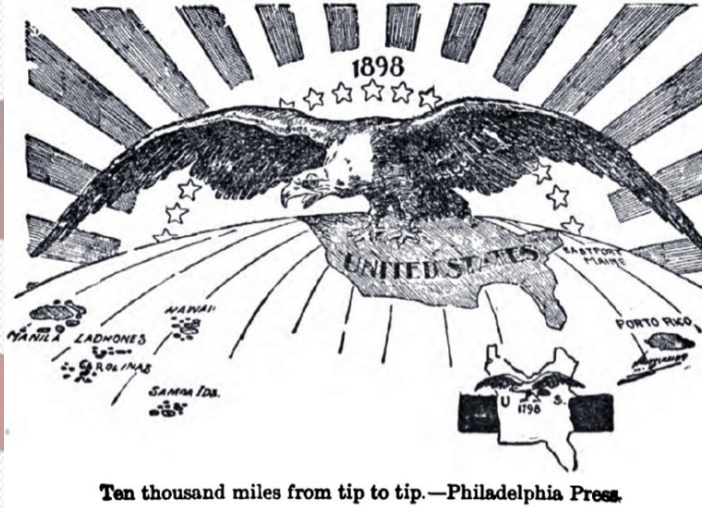
Polarity: Structural realism emphasizes the concept of polarity, which refers to the distribution of power among great powers in the international system. The book discusses how the bipolar world order during the Cold War, with the United States and the Soviet Union as superpowers, influenced US foreign policy decisions and strategies.

Balancing and Bandwagoning: Structural realist theory suggests that states either balance against a rising power to contain its influence or bandwagon with it to gain advantages. In the context of US foreign policy, the book explores instances where the United States sought to balance against potential threats or engaged in alliances and partnerships to further its interests.





The Role Of Power In Us Foreign Policy Part 2



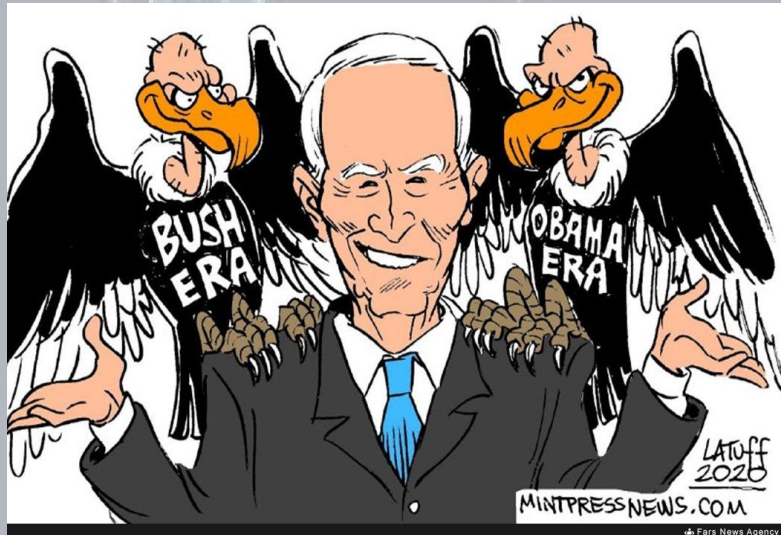
Relative Gains vs. Absolute Gains: Structural realism also highlights the importance of relative gains in international relations. States often prioritize ensuring that their gains are greater than those of their rivals, which can lead to competitive behavior. This concept can be applied to US foreign policy decisions where the focus is on maintaining or enhancing its relative power position.

Realist Assumptions: The book discusses the assumptions of realism, including the idea that states are rational actors primarily concerned with their own survival and power maximization. This rationality drives foreign policy decisions, and the United States is no exception in pursuing its national interests.

Balance of Power: The concept of the balance of power is central to structural realism. It involves states forming alliances and taking actions to prevent any single state from becoming too dominant in the international system. US foreign policy has often been guided by considerations of maintaining a favorable balance of power.

Power Transition Theory: While the book primarily focuses on structural realism, it also touches on power transition theory, which explains how shifts in the distribution of power can lead to conflict. The rise of new powers and changes in the global power structure can have significant implications for US foreign policy and international relations.

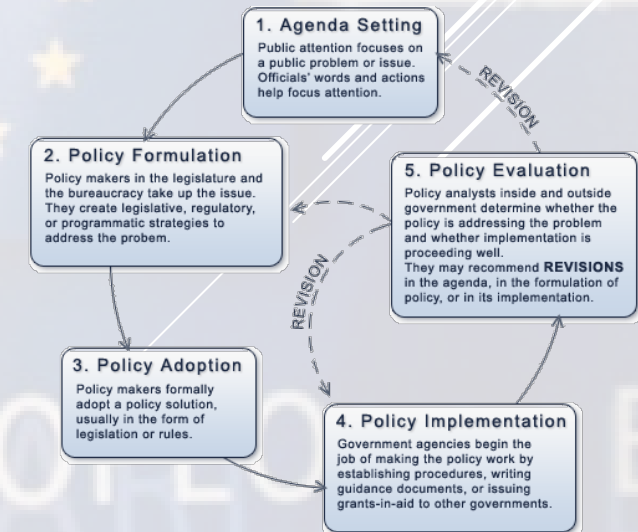
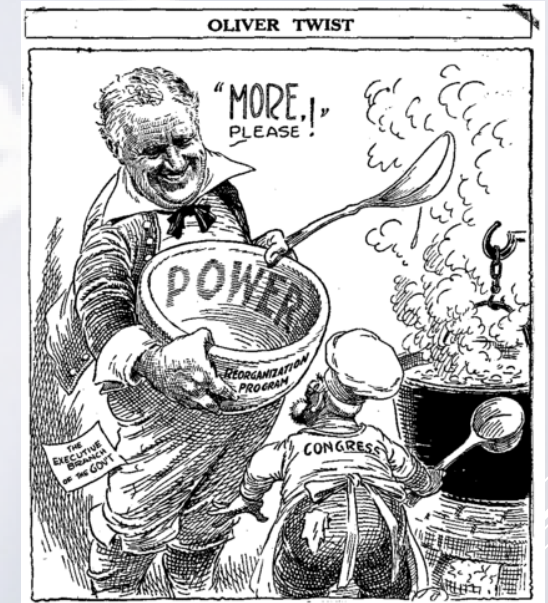
INTERDEPENDENCE AND US FOREIGN POLICY



- Interdependence, the mutual reliance of states on each other, is a defining feature of contemporary international relations.
- Let's discuss some key points related to how interdependence affects US foreign policy:
 - Interdependence extends beyond trade, encompassing diplomatic ties, alliances, and shared global challenges.
 - US foreign policy is influenced by the need to navigate complex interdependence networks.
 - Interdependence can both constrain and enhance US policy options.
 - Foreign policy strategy will have to include a domestic political strategy that will permit the United States to focus on its long-term systemic interests.
 - Changes in goals may also arise from transnational processes that affect the domestic-politics and foreign-policy goals of other states simultaneously.
 - Vulnerability will lead to bargaining weakness and lack of vulnerability to power.
 - Unilateralism may lead to occasional foreign-policy triumphs, but it is an inadequate answer to a host of problems that cannot be addressed except through international cooperation.
 - From the foreign-policy standpoint, the problem facing individual governments is how to benefit from international exchange while maintaining as much autonomy as possible.
 - Because foreign policy by nature involves responding flexibly to unexpected and contradictory events, it benefits little from detailed blueprints for action in the distant future.
 - Finally, international regimes introduce into U.S. foreign policy greater discipline.

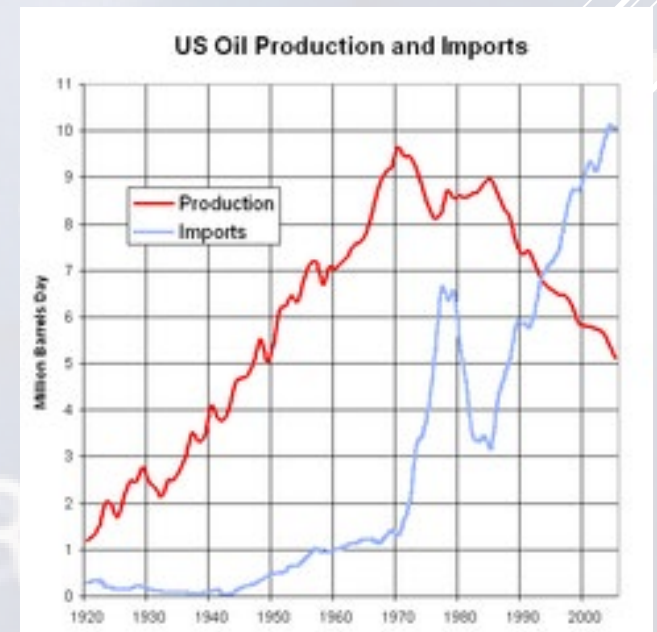
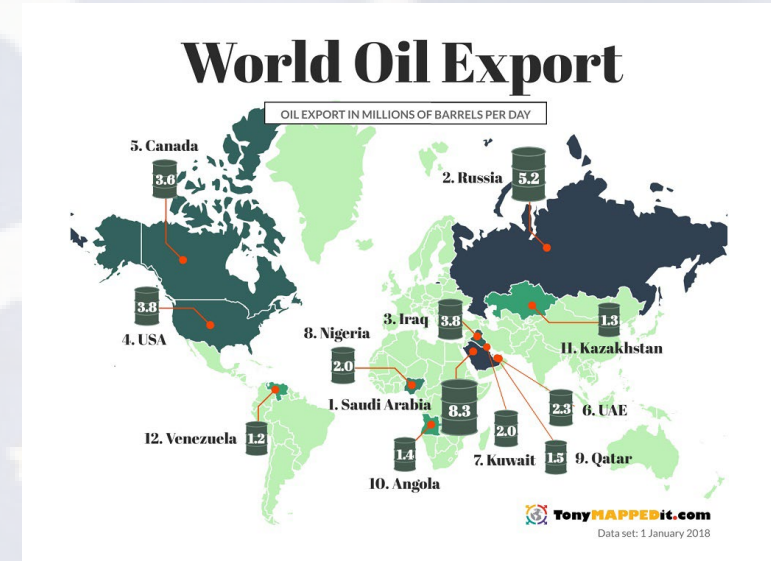
CASES OF COMPLEX INTERDEPENDENCE

- Complex interdependence, characterized by multiple channels and issues in international relations, has shaped US foreign policy in various cases.
- Here are some cases where complex interdependence played a significant role:
 - Case 1: The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT):
 - The GATT as a prime example of complex interdependence.
 - GATT was designed to promote international trade and reduce trade barriers among member states.
 - The authors explore how economic interdependence, negotiations, and the role of international institutions like GATT influenced U.S. foreign economic policy and trade relations with other nations.
 - The evolution of GATT into the World Trade Organization (WTO)
 - Case 2: Environmental Issues and Complex Interdependence:
 - The book delves into environmental issues, such as pollution and resource management, as cases of complex interdependence.
 - The book also highlights how ecological interdependence requires nations to cooperate on transnational problems that have environmental consequences.
 - The authors also discuss the role of international environmental agreements and institutions in shaping U.S. policies related to environmental protection and resource management.

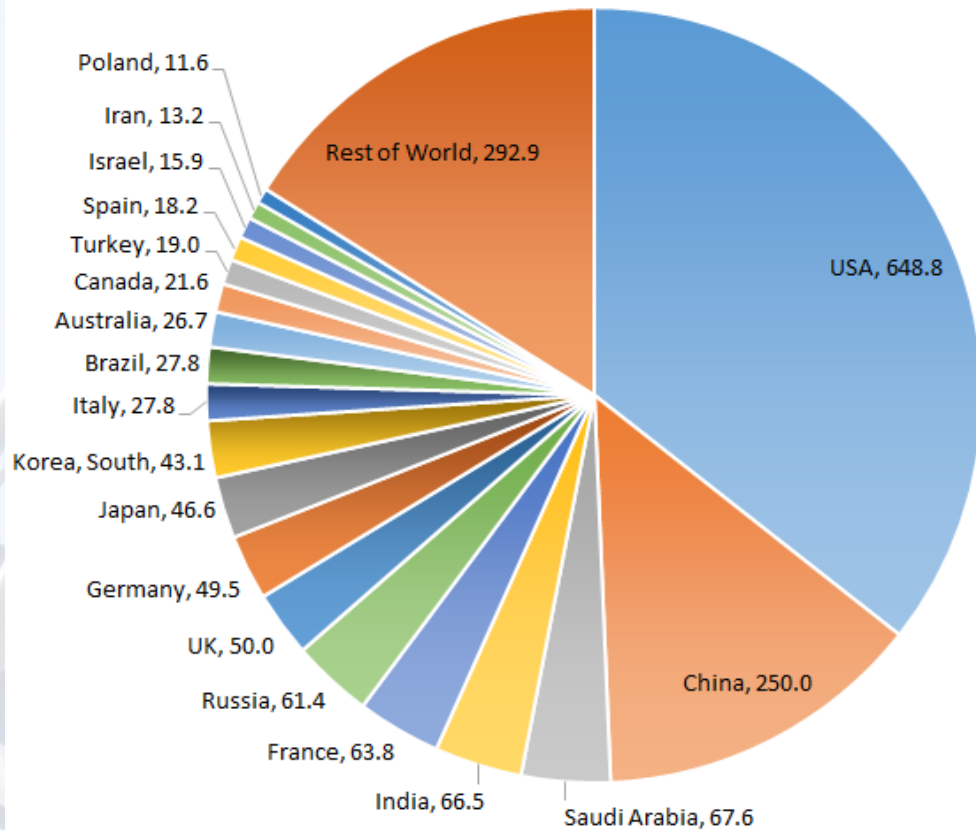


CASES OF COMPLEX INTERDEPENDENCE CONTINUED

- Complex interdependence, characterized by multiple channels and issues in international relations, has shaped US foreign policy in various cases.
- Here are some cases where complex interdependence played a significant role:
 - Case 3: The Oil Crisis and Energy Interdependence:
 - The oil crisis of the 1970s is another case examined in the book.
 - It illustrates how energy interdependence, particularly the United States' dependence on oil imports, had significant implications for U.S. foreign policy.
 - The authors discuss the challenges posed by oil price shocks and the influence of oil-producing states on U.S. foreign policy decisions.
 - This case underscores how energy resources and interdependence can shape diplomatic and economic strategies.



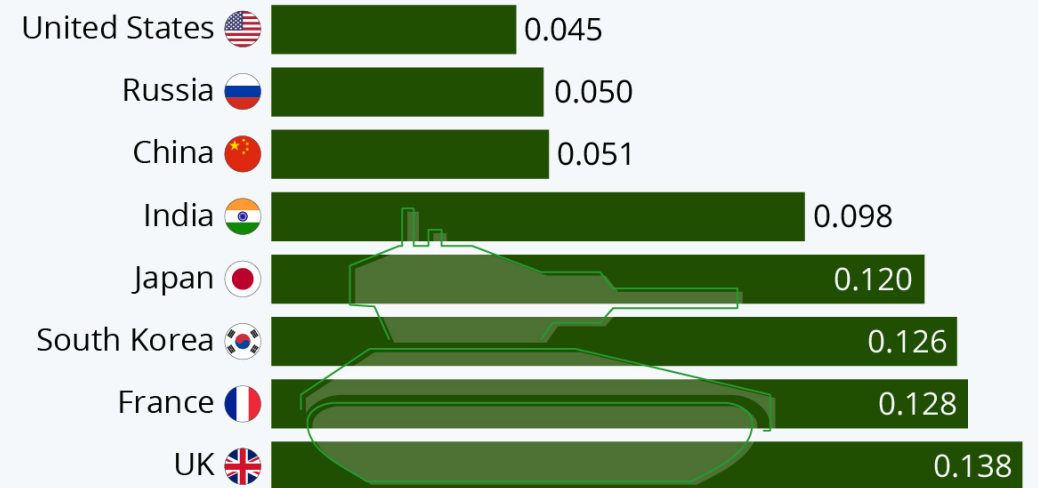
Military Expenditures by Country
(in US\$ billions) 2018



Source: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

The World's Most Powerful Militaries

Countries ranked highest on the Global Firepower PowerIndex (0.000=perfect/most powerful)



As of January 2022. Takes into account (among others): weapon numbers, weapon diversity, natural resources, available industries, manpower, financial stability
Source: Global Firepower

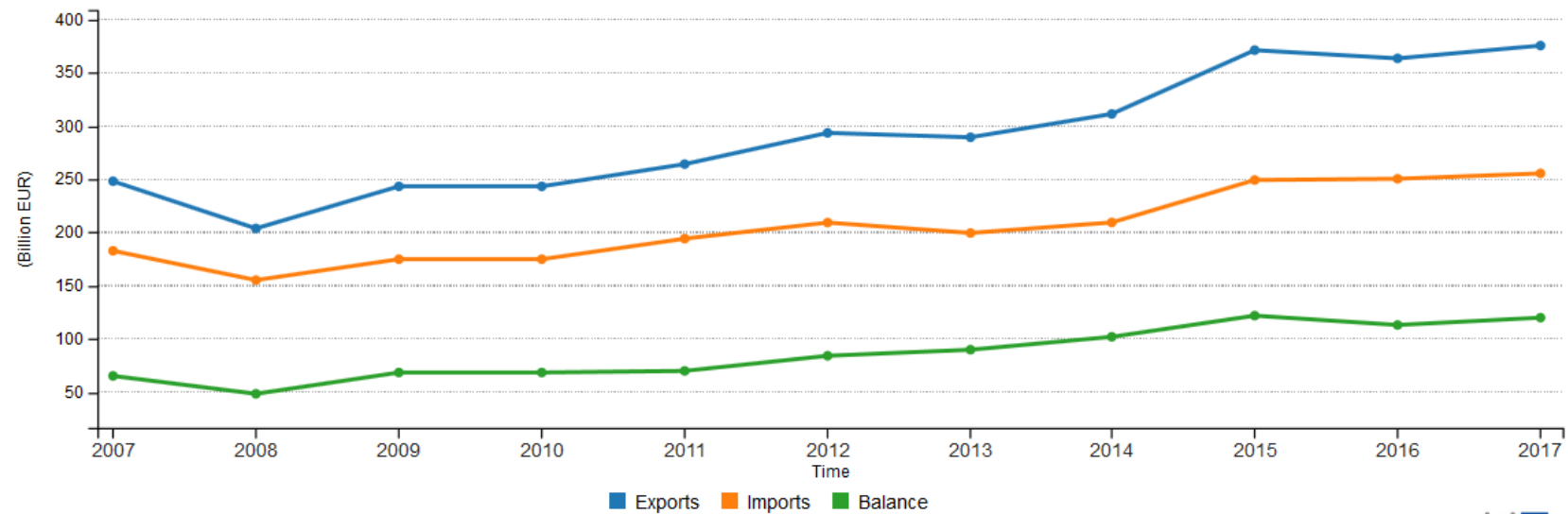


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POWER BALANCE AMONG NATIONS

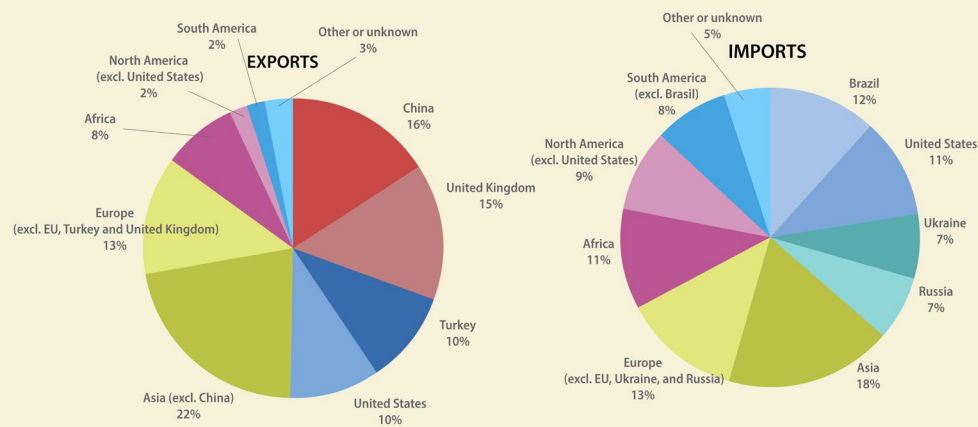
US TRADE RELATIONSHIPS

Imports, exports and trade balance between the EU and the United States, 2007-2017



eurostat

Extra-EU exports and imports of raw materials, 2021



ec.europa.eu/eurostat



CONCLUSION

Key Takeaways:

- We explored the concepts of power, interdependence, and complex interdependence in the context of international relations.
- Neorealism and neoliberalism were introduced as competing theories, emphasizing power-based explanations and cooperation through institutions, respectively.
- We delved into key readings and concepts from the assigned materials, providing a foundation for our discussion.
- Analyzed the influence of power in US foreign policy decisions and how interdependence affects these decisions.
- Explored cases where complex interdependence has played a significant role in shaping US foreign policy.
 - Illustrated complex interdependence in a specific international trade case.
- Emphasized the need to consider both power and interdependence in understanding US foreign policy.

In Conclusion:

Understanding the dynamic interplay of power and interdependence is crucial in comprehending the intricacies of US foreign policy. By examining these factors together, we gain a more comprehensive perspective on how international relations operate in our increasingly interconnected world.

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