

Chapter 16: Global political economy

- IPE is an extremely rich and diverse field, which builds on theoretical perspectives drawn from IR, political economy, and political science, as well as insights from other disciplines.
- The conventional description of IPE theory as organized around liberalism, nationalism/realism, and Marxism no longer captures the breadth and complexity of approaches to IPE.
- Approaches to IPE are all concerned with the interplay of material capabilities, institutions, and ideas in the global political economy.
- However, they understand the nature of these three elements in diverse ways, and theorize their relationships differently.
- Globalization is not new, but rather is a process that has proceeded through many phases since the sixteenth century.
- The post-war period was characterized by an increase in international cooperation to restore stability in the international economic order, and re-establish economic openness following an extended period of war and crisis.
- The latest phase of globalization is associated with neoliberalism, emerging as a response to the economic crisis of the 1970s and the ascendance of neoliberal ideas about how the global political economy should be organized.
- IPE scholars place emphasis on a range of drivers behind contemporary globalization, which include the role of ideology and ideas, the power of private economic interests, the technological revolution, and the evolution of state power.
- IPE is concerned with the distribution of power and material resources in the global political economy, and lively debates centre on who wins and who loses from globalization.
- Globalization has been associated with a dramatic widening of inequality, between and within countries, and between and within social groups.
- Labour exploitation underpins the generation of wealth and profits in the global political economy.
- Migration has become truly 'global' in its scope, associated with the movement of highly paid professionals at one end of the spectrum, and low-paid, low-skill workers at the other.
- Migration is itself a driver of globalization, in both economic and cultural terms.