

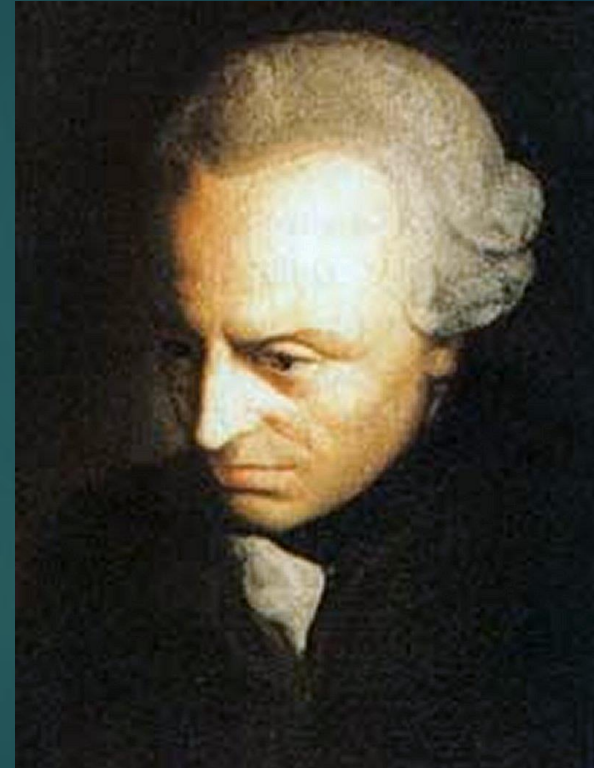
Liberalism and Social Theories

POL3: INTRO TO IR

I. Liberalism/Neoliberal Institutionalism

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- ▶ Liberalism: explains IR in terms of cooperation
 - ▶ Cooperation: *mutual* adjustment by actors toward objective
- ▶ Liberal tradition
 - ▶ Individuals are cooperative and states move toward cooperation
- ▶ Kantian peace:
 - ▶ 1) Organizations facilitate cooperation (reciprocity)
 - ▶ 2) Democracies facilitate peace (identity)
 - ▶ 3) Trade promotes peace (interdependence)



Immanuel Kant, 1724-1804

(neo)Liberalism: Assumptions

- 1) Optimistic view of human nature (classical liberalism)
- 2) Anarchy
 - ▶ Accepted from neorealism
- 3) Rationality
 - ▶ Accepted from neorealism
- 4) Interdependence and interactions
 - ▶ At multiple levels among states
 - ▶ e.g. foreign trade → interdependence; summits → interaction
- 5) Using force is costly
 - ▶ Interdependence increases costs of war
 - ▶ Technology often disfavors aggression (i.e. nuclear weapons)

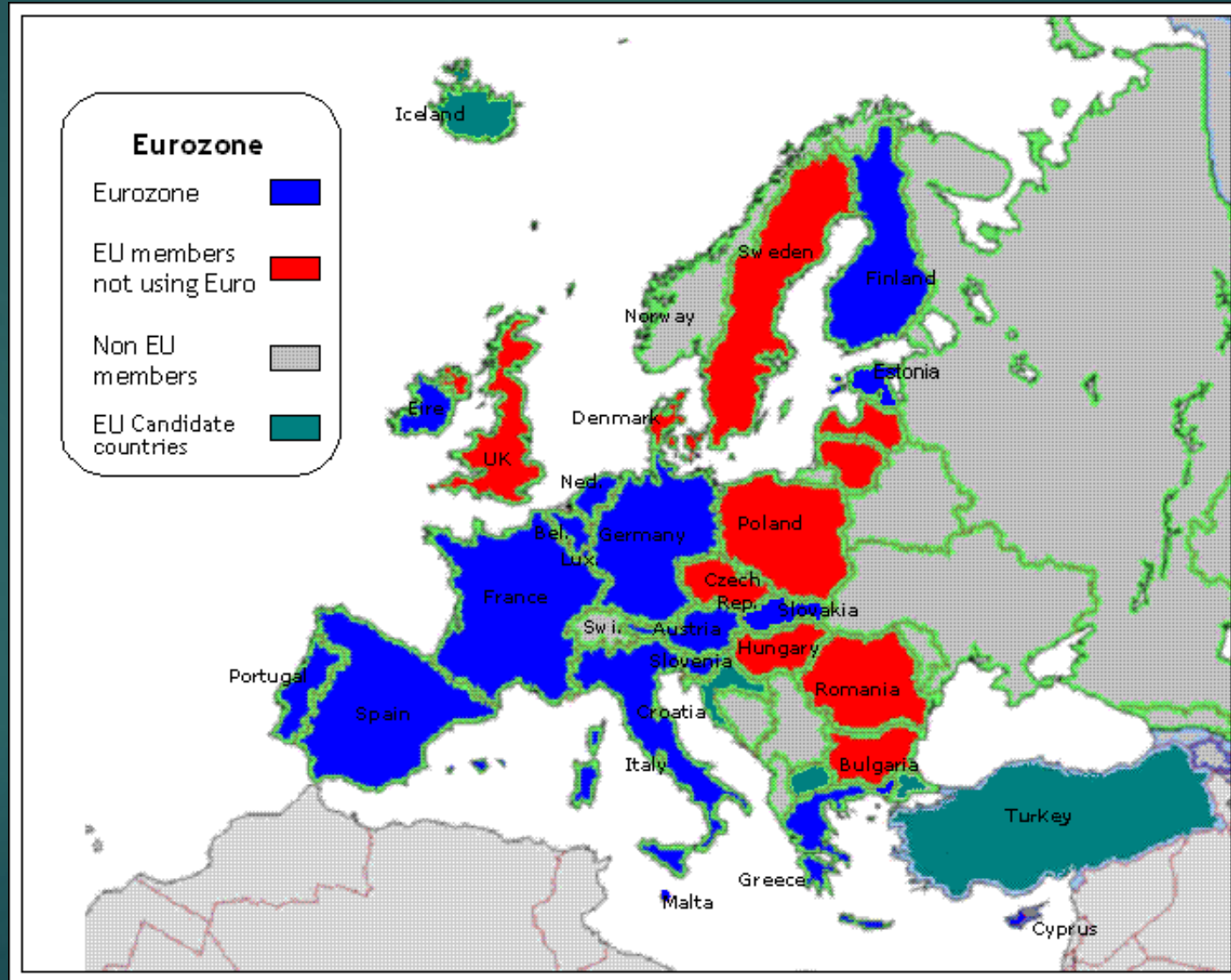
2009 – US demands China to revalue the CNY



(neo)Liberalism: Implications

- 1) Some order in international system
 - ▶ While still anarchic, *regimes* have stabilizing effect
 - ▶ e.g. WTO and trade disputes
- 2) States are not the only dominant actors
 - ▶ States, IGOs, MNCs, domestic politics, etc.
- 3) States can focus on absolute gains
 - ▶ States want to benefit *regardless* of other actors
- 4) States do not always worry about state security
 - ▶ Can focus on common interests
 - ▶ e.g. trade, environment

Development of EU: A Story of cooperation?



(neo)Liberalism: Results

- ▶ Propensity for international *cooperation*
- ▶ When costs $>$ benefits, war becomes irrational choice
- ▶ Cooperation allows for greater gains
 - ▶ Cooperation in one area, may lead to cooperation in another
- ▶ To achieve goals:
 - ▶ Negotiate disputes
 - ▶ Create institutions



Robert Keohane, 1941-

Neorealist critiques

- ▶ Imagine you are a neorealist try to advise the President against adopting policies that are founded upon a neoliberal perspective of the world.
 - ▶ i.e. President is pursuing cooperative policies because s/he believes in neoliberal assumptions that encourage mutual cooperation.
- ▶ In small groups, provide criticisms to neoliberal perspectives.
 - ▶ i.e. why might the world *not* be as conducive toward cooperation as a neoliberal would believe?
- ▶ Write down the critiques to share

II. Constructivism

- ▶ Constructivism: explains IR in terms of social identity
 - ▶ The identity of adversary matters, not just its capabilities and interests
- ▶ Logic of consequence vs. Logic of appropriateness
 - ▶ Consequence: “What will happen to me if I behave this way”?
 - ▶ Appropriateness: “How *should* I behave in this situation?”

Constructivism: Assumptions

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- 1) Anarchy defines international system
 - ▶ *Implication of anarchy, depends*
 - ▶ “Anarchy is what states make of it” (Wendt 1992)
- 2) Normative structures
 - ▶ Distribution of identities shapes international system
 - ▶ Structure is not material
- 3) Interactions *construct* state identities
 - ▶ States learn
- 4) Meanings are constructed
 - ▶ Power of ideas, culture, language
 - ▶ Power in discursive terms: how we talk about things

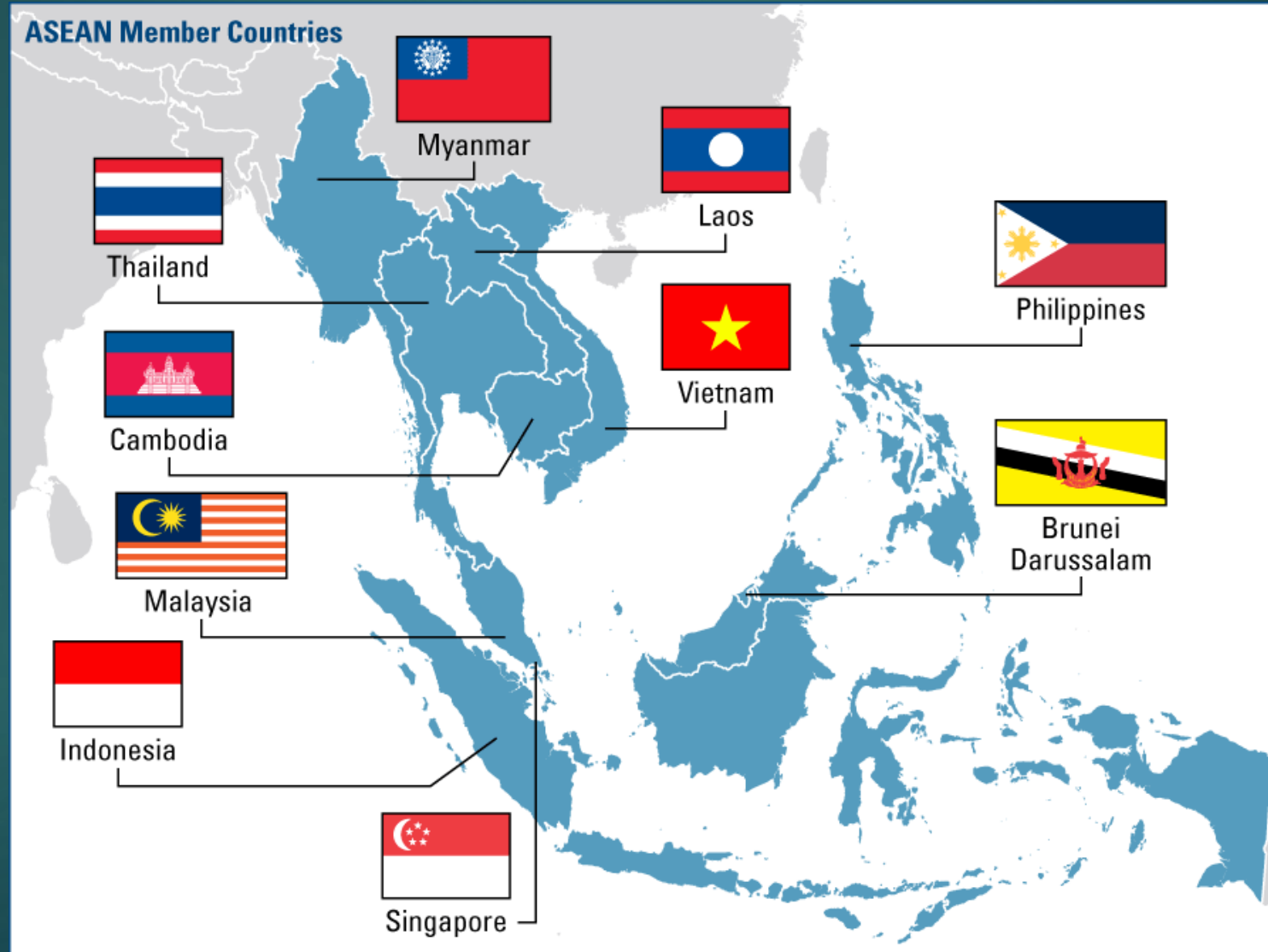


Alexander Wendt, 1958-

Constructivism: Implications

- 1) States focus on *norms, ideas, and identities*
 - ▶ Similarities and differences between one's identity and that of other states
 - ▶ But similarities and differences can *change*
- 2) Change comes from
 - 1) Diffusion of ideas
 - 2) Internalization of norms
 - 3) Socialization: spread of identities

Development of ASEAN: A Story of identity?



Constructivism: Results

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- 1) Propensity for *interdependence* and *cooperation* between states with similar identities
 - 2) Propensity for *non-interdependence* and *conflict* between states with dissimilar identities
- ▶ “*Anarchy is what states make of it*” – A. Wendt

 - ▶ IR perspectives among academics
 - “Who Inhabits the Ivory Tower?”

A clash of civilizations?

- ▶ Huntington (1993) argues that civilizations will clash in 21st Century
 - ▶ Old nation-state divisions will give way to civilization divisions
 - ▶ Three civilizations: (1) Arab, (2) Chinese, (3) Western
- ▶ Do you believe that differences in civilizations will lead to conflict?

III. Other social theories

- ▶ Marxism: explains IR in terms of *class division* and *exploitation*
 - ▶ Industrialized states exploit less developed states (e.g. colonization)
 - ▶ Lenin: after colonization complete, capitalist states would inevitably conflict with one another
- ▶ Gender perspectives: explains IR in terms of *gender identity*
 - ▶ e.g. anarchy and sovereignty may reflect how males interact with world
 - ▶ Difference in how genders approach social relations
 - ▶ Gender gap
 - ▶ e.g. polls find women ~10% lower to support military actions

Critical Thinking

- ▶ What makes a country?
- ▶ i.e. What makes a territory considered a sovereign state?



Small Group Breakout

- ▶ Small group (3-4) are assigned perspective
 - ▶ Neorealism, Neoliberalism, Constructivism
- ▶ Explain current event from your theoretical perspective
- ▶ How would you advice policymakers
 - ▶ (based upon your group's theory)
- ▶ Current Event:
 - ▶ Western involvement (lack of) in Syrian conflict