



ADVANCED PRE-SESSIONAL

Post-Cold War International Relations

Course Content

On Nov. 11th 1989, the Berlin Wall fell and the Soviet rule in Eastern Europe collapsed ending the Cold War.

Until the 9/11 terrorist attack on the USA in 2001, international relations were dominated by optimistic assumptions.

George Bush announced a New World Order following the first Gulf War in 1991 with democracy appearing to be on the march with the recession of communism, the proclamation of Bill Clinton's peace dividend and the renewal of hope in the United Nations.

However, post-9/11, Jihadist movements grew in both strength and number, authoritarianism halted the spread of democracy, Middle East peace hopes faded and the 2003 Iraq War (and its long violent aftermath) dashed the expectations of the American Neo-Con theorists.

Pessimism replaced optimism as international relations seemed more unpredictable and more likely to produce military conflict.

Week 1: George Bush and the New World Order: fact or fantasy the Gulf War?

Week 2: Yugoslavia meltdown: Was the international community to blame?

Week 3: Age of the Neo-Cons: American response to 9/11 and Iraq War 2003

Week 4: From warmonger to peace envoy: the foreign policies of Tony Blair

Week 5: Defensive or hegemonic? Iranian foreign policy since the Revolution



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Week 6: Obama's "soft power" foreign policy

Week 7: Putin's Foreign Policy: from Soviet Collapse to Russian Revival

Week 8: The rise of ISIL, the Syrian Civil War and Middle East turmoil

Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course you should have:

- an appreciation of international relations in the late 20th century and the early 21st century