



# The changing international world order

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EAST CENTRAL EUROPE IN THE  
INTERNATIONAL WORLD ORDER

# What do we mean by international world order?

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In international relations it means patterned and structured relations between actors on the international level

John Mearsheimer: international world order is an organized group of international institutions that recognize each other to be independent

Maintained by rules, institutions, laws and norms

International order has both material and social components

There are many subsystems within the international world order that can change without fundamentally changing the international order itself

The United Nations is sometimes considered a symbol of international world order, but international world order is not necessarily institutionalized, it can be informal

# The post-war international order

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The current world order is the liberal international order

Since the 1940s – after the end of WW2 – largely led by the US

Global, rule-based relationships based on political and economic liberalism, and liberal internationalism

Specifically: international cooperation through multilateral organizations such as the United Nations, World Trade Organization, International Monetary Fund

Basics of the current world order: equality (freedom, rule of law and human rights), open markets, security cooperation, promotion of liberal democracy and monetary cooperation

# How is the current world order changing?

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We don't quite know yet, it is certainly being challenged

The question is is it subsystems or the whole system that is being challenged?

It seems to be a transitional period

The United States seems to be more reluctant to lead the international world order (and finance the costs of leadership), other countries also reluctant to follow it

China and Russia have started to compete for the role of the leader – the risk of war between two or more major powers is increasing

Backlash against globalization and Western values

The international world order is probably not over but it will get more competitive