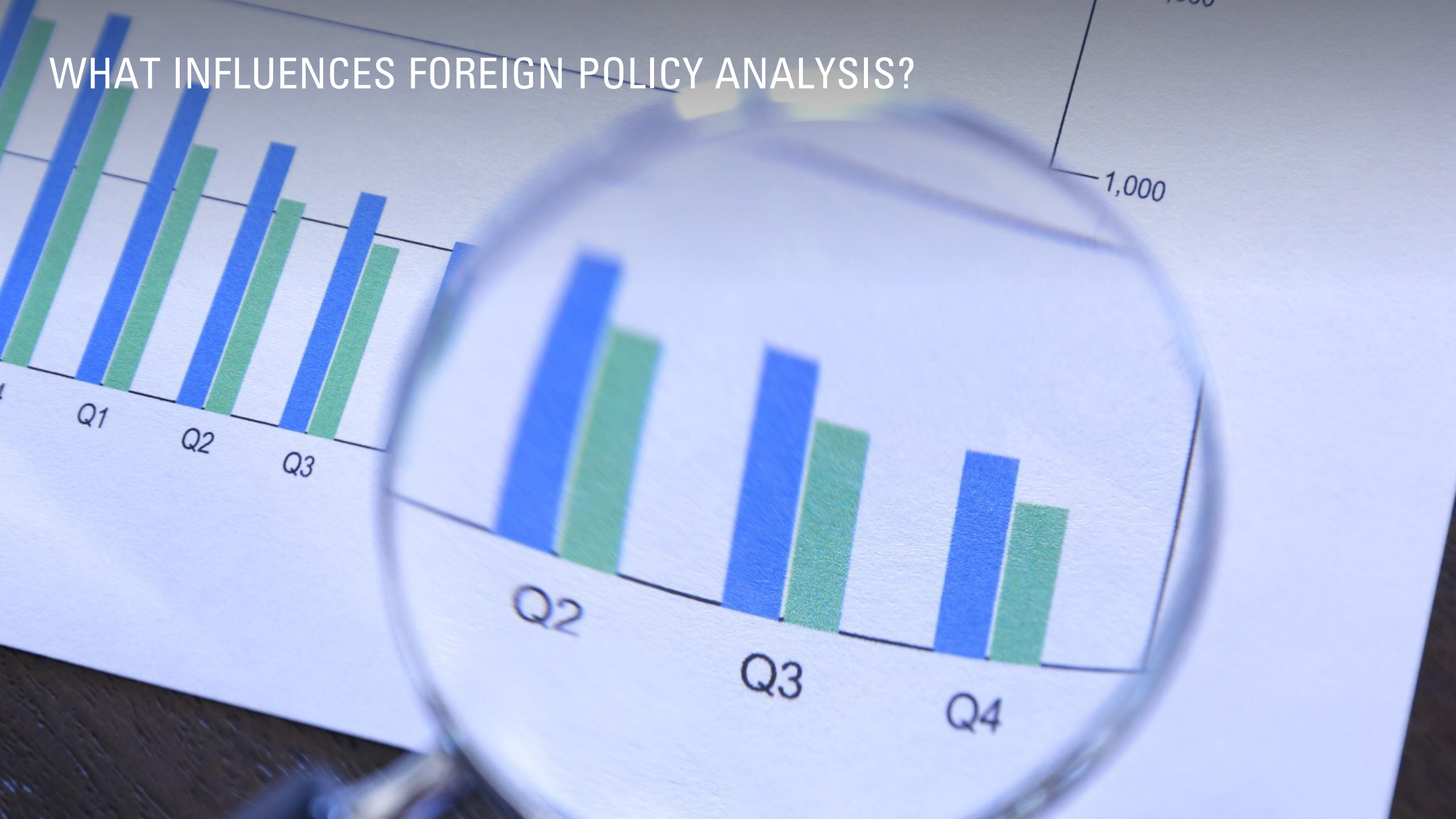


WHAT INFLUENCES FOREIGN POLICY ANALYSIS?



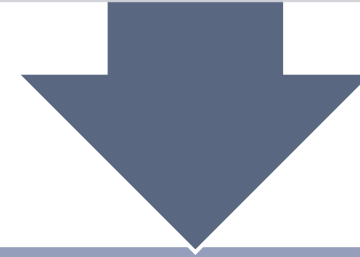
WHAT DOES FPA LOOK AT?

Foreign policy analysis is the study of
the conduct and relations between

Actors

States

International
system



Focus on decision making, the decision
makers, the processes and conditions
affecting decision making and of
course the outcomes of the decisions

SCOPE OF FPA

Originally focused on the individual and state level

The rise of the transnational actors (TNAs) has transformed the international system

Interconnectivity beyond the state-to state relations more likely

FPA now has to also focus on non-state actors such as global environmental activists or multinational corporations (MNCs)

STRUCTURE-AGENCY DEBATE IN FPA

- What matters more in decision making?
 - Structural factors: constraints placed by the international system
 - Human agency: individual choices shaping the international system
 - Scholars are divided on this question. Until the constructivist turn in the 1990s there was a stronger emphasis on the human factors.
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HISTORICAL METHOD IN FPA

Many areas of FPA use the historical method, for example diplomatic studies



Looks at how history shapes foreign policy

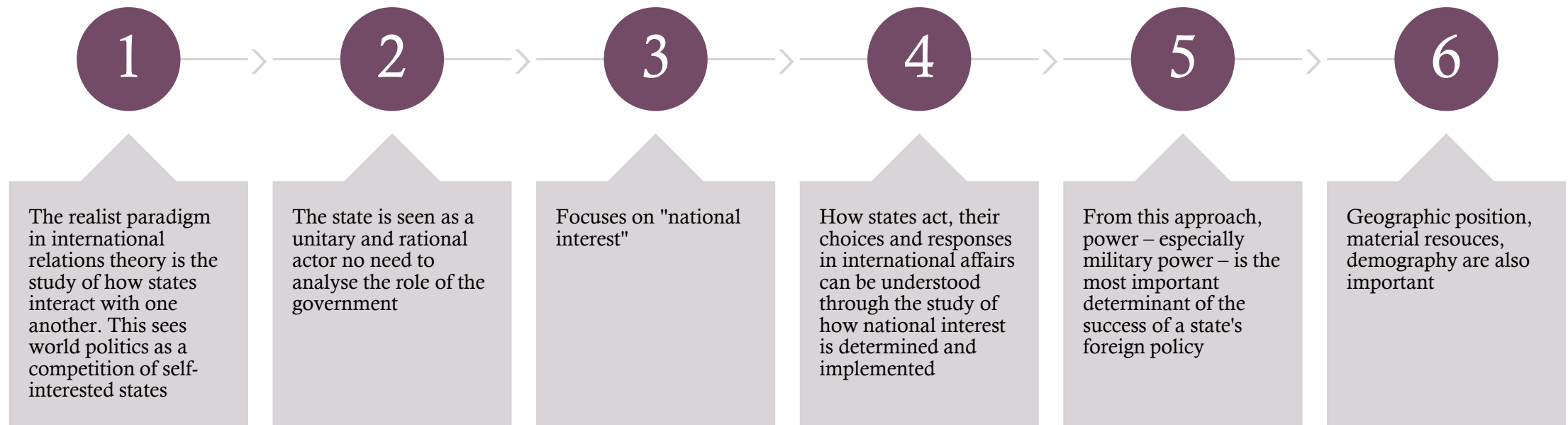


How does history shape the identity of a nations state?



Looks at conflicting definitions of specific foreign policy issues, why are they interpreted differently?

THE EFFECT OF THE REALIST PARADIGM ON FPA



CHALLENGES TO THE REALIST PARADIGM – BEHAVIOURISM

1950s-60s behaviourist
paradigm challenged the
realist paradigm

Instead of examining the
outcomes of foreign
policy, behaviourists
wanted to understand
the process of foreign
policy decision making

Called behaviourist
because it focused on the
role of the individual
decision maker

Paved the way to
cognitive and
psychological studies
connected to FPA

RATIONAL CHOICE THEORY

Somewhat similar in approach to realism,
they have a lot in common



State = unified decision making body



Decision makers guided by the principle of
self interest



The influence of the behaviourist paradigm
on rational choice theory showed that
decision making is far less rational, organized
and consistent as realists thought

BUREAUCRATIC POLITICS APPROACH TO FPA

Response to the
behaviourists focus
just on the decision
makers

Who influences
foreign policy other
than the individuals
making decisions?

Societal factors:
interest groups,
public opinion

DOMESTIC STRUCTURE APPROACH TO FPA

Interested in the domestic, societal sources of foreign policy

a.) focused on how the material attributes of a country impact foreign policy: size, location, agriculture and industry, demography

b.) focuses on the domestic structure: nature of the political institutions (the state), basic features of society, the institutions and organizations linking state and society that convey social demands to the political system

An example of this is the democratic peace theory which says that democracies inherently produce a more peaceful foreign policy, at least in relation to other democracies

PLURALIST INTERPRETATION OF FPA

- This approach believes that states are not the only significant actors in foreign policy
 - Starting from the 70s, state, sub-state and non-state actors have challenged states primacy
 - An important new feature of globalization is that multinational corporations (MNCs) can influence foreign policy based on their financial resources and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) had power through influencing votes
 - These domestic and transnationalist sources of power not tied to the state influence foreign policy
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SOURCE AND FURTHER READING

https://openaccess.city.ac.uk/id/eprint/26175/8/Aran_Foreign%20Policy%20Analysis_New%20Approaches%20chapter.pdf
