



MEMORY WARS IN EASTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE



WHAT ARE THE GOALS?

- Memory Wars: What are they? (The relation between memory and identity)
- Why are they important?
 - Political Significance, both nationally and internationally
 - Insight into different societies of the region and why they clash
- What do they say about the theory and practice of international politics?
 - Start with constructivist theory of international politics
 - Examine also the idea of ontological security
 - Discussions about the politics of memory



INTRODUCTIONS

A. James Richter

1. Education
2. Employment
3. Research Interests

Memory is new, and I am interested in your ideas

4. Other Interests

B. Who are you?



COURSE INFORMATION

- Four Answers to Daily Question: Homework Vaults
- Choose Topic for 5-page paper by Friday, May 23.
- If you send rough drafts, I will look at them



GENERAL INTRODUCTIONS

- Questions for me?
 - Perhaps about US politics?



BACKGROUND

Theories of International Politics: Realism vrs. Constructivism

Theories of Identity, Memory and Narrative

The Politics of Memory



REALISM VRS. CONSTRUCTIVISM

- Key Actors: Sovereign States
- Structure of System: Anarchic
- Security is Scarce: Zero-sum
- Key Motivation of States: Self-Help
- States are Rational Actors
- Distribution of power is key variable



ISSUES WITH REALISM?

- How do you decide what the national interest is?
- How can you tell between competing notions of national interest?
- What makes the EU possible?
- Why does Putin make a mistake?



CONSTRUCTIVIST NOTIONS OF IDENTITY AND INTERESTS

- The social world is constructed: Many things we take for granted have no physical reality, but are “real” because of persistent patterns of social relations
- Individuals confront, understand constructions as “real”, identity shaped by interaction with that structure
 - Nationality
 - If individual challenges that social reality, often considered weird, insane, criminal—Soviet dissidents
- The structure and agent are mutually constitutive
 - The social structure reproduced by the actions of agents
 - The social structure appears as fact as individual that shapes identity

IDE

- Personal Identity: (from Wikipedia). This refers to your individual perception of the qualities, personality, values, aspirations and codes of conduct that define who you are in relation to the outside world.
- Social Identity: This refers to the social categories you belong to—including memberships in groups and social roles you perform—along with the social expectations generally assigned to this identity. This includes things like nationality, race, ethnicity, gender, class, occupation, and others. Such identities can be chosen, such as occupation, or imposed, such as often occurs with ethnic identity. Individuals can feel different ways about what each category means, and respond to expectations in different ways. The latter can be tricky, however.

IDE

Cognitively: It reduces uncertainty:

- Helps sift through barrage of incoming perceptions

- Gives you a range of possible behaviors

- Gives you range of expectations of how others will respond

Emotionally: Provides permanence, stability, a sense of self

WHAT ARE IDENTITY CRISES? When old rules don't work. Some students feel an identity crisis when they first arrive, because no one knows you, you don't know how to act, etc.

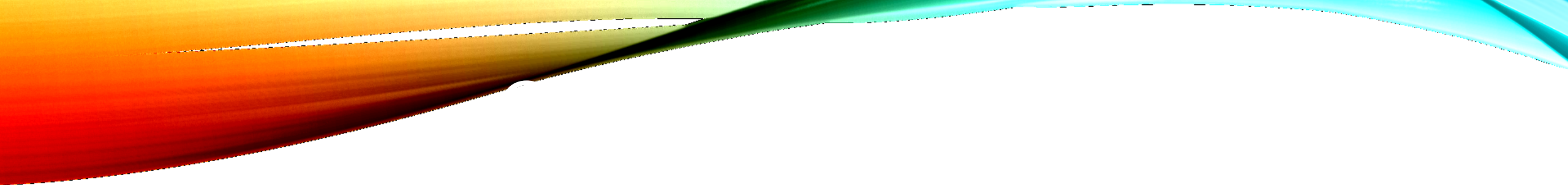
- Could also occur if your earlier ideas about self disproved

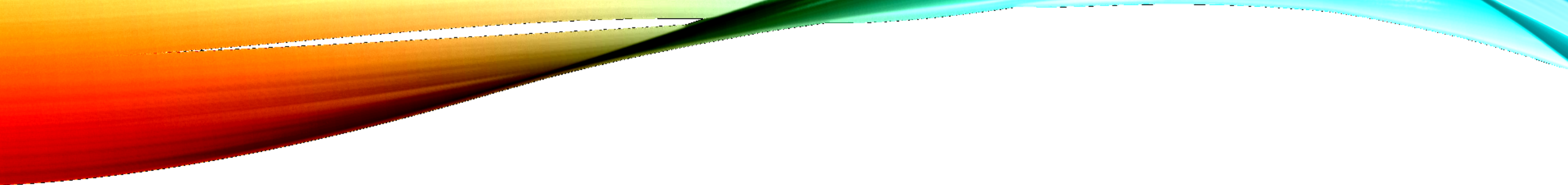
IDENTITY

- One's identity emerges from accumulated interpretations of one's interactions with others.
- Human beings are social animals and depend on others to survive, beginning in infancy with parents and other caregivers.
- You take up cues from others' responses, esp. others who are important to you.
- But the definition emphasizes interpretation. Identity is not merely passive, but also active.
- EX. If you say thank you as a young child and your parents praise you for being polite, you will probably want to do that more, and you may expect others to be pleased when you do so as well.
- Over time, get an instinct about how to respond in different situations and different people. You don't act around me as you would each other or your parents, because you understand it's not the same sort of relation

IDENTITY: MORE ABOUT WHAT IT IS?

- Identity is Multifaceted, Situational and Dynamic
- Multifaceted: People have many sides, and play many different roles in life. You may be an American, a woman, a college student, an activist and a rugby player all at the same time.
- Situational: Different identities become more salient in different contexts. If you go to a foreign country, your nationality often becomes more salient. Similarly, you focus more on different aspects of others' identity in different circumstances.
- Dynamic: Identity never complete, never static. The roles you play and your conception of these roles change over time. And there is more or less room for choice.

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- DEFINITION: A collective identity occurs when a group—a nation, an ethnic group, a religious group—self-consciously defines itself as a community with a common past and a common future.
 - COLLECTIVE IDENTITIES ARE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTIONS:
 - They exist and have meaning only insofar as society grants them that meaning.
 - The “nation” as an imagined community

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- What is the state? How does it gain sense of reality sufficient for people to risk their lives to defend it? Why is not amorphous collection of offices, bureaus, building, etc. What makes it cohere? What makes it legitimate?
 - Is it simply the source of military protection? Is it simply collection of interests? Is it locus of identity?
 - Identity helps to coordinate to actions
 - Creates basis to decide what is appropriate policy
 - In modern world, state legitimated as representative of people
 - Sovereignty resides in the people
 - If persuade others to accept national identity, national interest
 - Key aspect of legitimacy
 - But many identities in any individual, many individuals in any state



EMBEDDED IN INSTITUTIONS?

- State as an organization
 - Identity as domestic legitimation
- Organizations created to perform particular tasks
 - These organizations, tasks, must be justified in terms of identity and interests
 - These institutions have staying power
 - Individual actors invested in the tasks of these institutions
 - New recruits, those who are promoted should accept tasks of those institutions
 - Those who populate institutions will defend ideas that justify them
 - But may define identity in different ways:
 - Educators may define US identity different from military



1. Realism does not problematize sovereign state system

Constructivism argues sovereign state system a construction,
which can be deconstructed

2. Realism believes competition and conflict a natural result of anarchic s
structure

Constructivism believes that competition aspect is constructed, can
be changed

3. Realism argues "national interest" logical result of state's power
capability and its geography relative to other states

Constructivism believe "national interest" product of norms, national
identity and history, as well as power relations within countries



ONTOLOGICAL SECURITY

"Ontological security first and foremost entails having a consistent sense of self and having that sense affirmed by others." (Zarakol)

Individuals, states and other groups act not only in interests of physical and economic interests, but also willing to accept significant harm to these interests in order to protect that sense of self (Mitzen, Steele, Kinnvall)

Mnemonic Security: "the idea that distinct understandings of the past should be fixed in public remembrance and consciousness in order to buttress an actor's stable sense of self" (Malksoo)

Challenge to fixed narrative represents a challenge to sense of self that requires a remedy

The question: does identity come primarily from within or from without?



INDIVIDUAL TO THE STATE



HOW DOES POWER FIT INTO THIS?



BREAK

MEMORY FORMS IDENTITY, AND VICE VERSA

Memory as such not very coherent, accurate

Active Recollection, reflection and integration

Constructing the narrative, self-biography

- Select what is important, what is not

- Influenced by identity

- May try to justify, explain things that were uncomfortable, or contradictory

Provides a sense of continuity: you are a being with past, present, future

Narrative helps explain the present

Provides framework for decision-making

As identity changes, interpretation of past can also change



THE ROLE OF MEMORY

- MEMORY FORMS IDENTITY, AND VICE-VERSA
 - Recollection, reflection and integration
 - Constructing the narrative, self-biography
 - Select what is important, what is not
 - Influenced by identity (can make up things)
 - May try to justify, explain things that were uncomfortable, or contradictory
 - Narrative helps explain the present
 - Provides framework for decision-making

COLLECTIVE MEMORIES

- COLLECTIVE MEMORIES
- They are a shared sense of a past event with a group
- Memories are shared even though not everyone actually experienced that event, such as 9/11.
- These memories then are shaped into a collective narrative.
- Creates the boundaries of the group
- They offer also an explanation of where the group comes from, why it is where it is, and it's future may be.





EXAMPLES FROM THE CLASS

DIFFERENT

COMMUNICATIVE MEMORY: Passed down through stories. How long does it last?

PUBLIC MEMORY: “the official memory strategies propagated by holders and competitors of state power, as well as the cultural memory propagated within the public sphere, such as media, movies, memorials.” (Bernhard and Kubik).
Institutionalized. Exists independent of stories

OFFICIAL MEMORY: Narrative propagated by state agents.
How different can it be?

MEMORY CULTURE : “frames of historical reference” within communities “who share a critical mass of content, patterns of interpretation and rituals of collective memory.”

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MEMORY AND HISTORY



EXAMPLES.

- A movie
- A facebook page
- A speech by the foreign minister
- Your great-grandfather's birth certificate
- A newspaper in Germany
- A letter written by your father's grandfather
- A "memory law"
- A monument
- The disjunction between communicative memory and public memory culture



"IMAGINED COMMUNITY"

- The nation as the principle legitimate political unit in world politics
- But it also has no physical existence.
- We cannot see the nation.
- The boundaries of nations are fuzzy (and your definition of who is an "American" and mine may differ, and may not differ).
- It is "imagined" in that it exists only in the collective imagination of its members and people who are not its members, and therefore act as if it exists in reality.
- We help to make it seem real with symbols like the flag, like the national anthem, like the Jan Hus monument, etc.
- The nation is "imagined" but not "imaginary." It has huge consequences in world politics. It can mobilize enormous human and material resources, sometimes to improve life, sometime to destroy it.
- "Banal" or "Everyday Nationalism"



COLLECTIVE NARRATIVE

- A founding myth
Shared source
- A sense of boundaries: who belongs to the state identity: who does the state serve?
- Glorious Victories, Collective Traumas
- Heroes and Villains
- Friends and Enemies
- What future is looking for?

Recent Changes in
Prague Monuments





THE POLITICAL WORK OF NARRATIVE

Hammack: The meaning individuals make through narrative is not simply personal or idiosyncratic but rather political in nature, for it always possesses implications for a particular configuration of social categories and, hence, social competition.

EX. A society of x's and y's

Identifies and reinforces collective identity as something lasting, natural: Founding myth

Defines and defends the the "symbolic boundaries" of the community

Removes or explains contradictions in history that could divide community

Explains and legitimates political structures and actions

Explains and legitimates position within international environment

Removes, Explains or Justifies negative events

Creates framework to explain, justify current actions

Discourages dissent

Creates Scapegoats

WHAT ABOUT US?

- Denial—but perhaps not forever
- Foot-dragging—but perhaps not forever
- Victim and Perpetrator?
- Reconciliation
- Reparations





THE POLITICS OF MEMORY

National Identity Informs National interest

Collective memory informs national identity

Collective consists of many different identities, memory

The Memory that gains prominence has power

Which memory is prominent? Depends in part on power and politics

Politics of memory comprises public activity of various social institutions and actors aimed at the promotion of specific interpretations of a collective past and establishment of an appropriate sociocultural infrastructure of remembrance, school curricula, and, sometimes, special legislation.

MEMORIC REGIMES

The Definition of a "Memory Regime"

The concept of "memory regime" in this study refers to a set of cultural and institutional practices that are designed to publicly commemorate and/or remember a single event, a relatively clearly delineated and interrelated set of events, or a distinguishable past process. We are particularly interested in official memory regimes, that is, memory regimes whose formulation and propagation involve the intensive participation of state institutions and/or political society (the authorities and major political actors such as parties, who are organized to hold and contest state power).... The whole set of official regimes existing in a given country in a given period can be called the official field of (collective or historical) memory.

TYPES OF MEMORY REGIMES

FRACTURED

UNIFIED

PILLARIZED