

# The Contemporary Transformation of the International System

*Professor John Wilton*

## Lecture 1

### The States-system and its emergence

## Timetable

*All lessons start at 13.35 and finish at 15.30. on Tuesdays in Room P22*

30.09.08      Lecture 1

07.10.08      Lecture 2

**14.10.08      READING AND SEMINAR PREPARATION WEEK (no lecture)**

21.10.08      Workshop

28.10.08      **NO LECTURE**

04.11.08      Lecture 3

11.11.08      Lecture 4

18.11.08      Lecture 5 + Seminar 1

25.11.08      Lecture 6 + Seminar 2

02.12.08      Lecture 7 + Seminar 3

09.12.08      Seminar 4 and Seminar 5

***Wednesday 14 January 2009:*      SUBMISSION OF ESSAY - Essays to be submitted by email or the Masaryk University Information System**

# Lecture 1

## How and why the 'modern' states-system of today emerged and developed

- A) Geographical and territorial processes
- B) Capitalist economic development, and the parallel development of capitalist social relations
- C) Ideological and philosophical development

# Lecture 1

## A) Geographical and territorial processes

- the identification and acceptance of national and nation-state boundaries
- based upon power relations and the balance of power between states, alongside ethnic and cultural identities
- *The Peace of Westphalia of 1648* – origin of ‘modern’ states-system in Europe

# Lecture 1

Westphalian states-system based on principles of:

- A) Sovereigns were not subject to any higher political authority + Sovereigns independent and equal to every other Sovereign;
- B) The Sovereign Ruler decided the religion of his/her state;
- C) There should be a '*Balance of Power*' between states – to prevent any one state dominating (i.e. prevent *hegemonic* power)

# Lecture 1

## B) Capitalist economic development, and the parallel development of capitalist social relations

- (uneven) development of a productive capitalist economy, and capitalist social relations, transformed and expanded the European states-system
- the 'political' states-system assisted the development of the capitalist economic system across Europe
  - *AND*, in turn, the capitalist economic system assisted the development of the 'political' states-system

# Lecture 1

## C) Ideological and philosophical development

- the emergence of liberalism as an 'ideology' and the 'Enlightenment' as a philosophical perspective
- liberalism based upon:
  - a) individual rights and liberties;
  - b) universality and equality;
  - c) the promotion of mutual gain through co-operation, including co-operation among nations.

# Lecture 1

From the middle of 18<sup>th</sup> century '*liberal international order*' based upon 3 assumptions:

- a) that the basic *actors* in the international system are individuals and private groups;
- b) that the actions and preferences of States represent the interests of some of those individuals and groups;
- c) that State behaviour is determined by the interdependence of State preferences across the international system.

# Lecture 1

- Towards end of 18<sup>th</sup> century saw a fundamental re-assessment on the nature of the European state, through *'the Enlightenment'*
- *Jean Jacques Rousseau, Thomas Paine* argued that:
  - society served the individual, and the function of government was to foster, safeguard and promote the rights of the individual;
  - rights were universal, and were not privileges held by individuals because they were granted to them by Sovereigns and Rulers (challenged 'Divine Right of Kings and Queens')