ANALYTICAL LIBERALISM VS CONSTRUCTIVISM IN THE
NONPROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS TREATY

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Introduction

American foreign policies are the basis to which the country has achieved diplomacy and great relations with many countries. My research is based on US foreign policies and in particular the analysis of the treaty on the nonproliferation on nuclear weapons. This was a treaty that was initially signed among three countries which are the United States, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union in July 1st of 1968. The three countries signed the treaty with the purpose of preventing the use of weapons technology and nuclear weapons, to further the goal of disarmament and also foster peaceful use of nuclear energy. It is through which a safeguarded system was established under the IAEA responsibilities. I will analyze this foreign policy using the constructivism and analytical liberalism theories of foreign policy. The aim of this paper is investigate the varying opinions of the applicability of the analytical liberalism and constructivism of the NPT treaty of nuclear weapons.

Analytical liberalism in foreign policies

Analytical liberalism is the school of thought within foreign policies and international relations in which opinions revolves on principles of democracy. It through which protected civil liberties and the rule of law ensure freedom and fairness. Most notably, analytical liberalism offers a positive and optimistic world view. The moral argument of analytical liberalism is that property and liberty of individuals should be ensured and should the highest goal of governments. Consequently, analytical liberals emphasize on the wellbeing of normal individuals as the essential building bloc of any political system. For instance, a political system that is characterized by dictatorship, monarchy and unchecked power cannot protect the liberty and life of its citizens. Therefore, the concern of analytical liberalist is to construct a world where

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institutions are created with the sole purpose of checking political power and protecting limitations to individual freedom. The realm of analytical libels is essential in domestic politics. The realm of NPT are essential in countries abroad since state activities abroad have a strong influence on liberty at home. A major concern for analytical liberalist is militaristic foreign policies. Their primary concern is that military power is achieved to build up war. War can then be used to fighting or defending against foreign states. However, this power can also intern oppress that states own citizens. Therefore, analytical liberalist believes that military control should be the basis of ensuring civilian safety.

Analytical liberalists are especially disturbed by imperialism or wars of territorial expansion in which states seek to take territories overseas. Such wars strengthen the states though at the expense of the safety of its people. This is also because they require long-term commitment to political control and military occupation of foreign peoples and foreign territory. In analytical liberalist states, the primary institutional use power is free and fair. As limitation of political power, analytical liberalist believes in division of power among direct levels and branches of government. The democratic peace theory is perhaps the most essential in analytical liberalism. They assert that democratic people and democratic states have the least likelihood of waging war with one another. This is because they tend to see each other as non-threatening and legitimate and therefore have an upper hand and capacity for cooperation. It is also because analytical liberalist believes that democratic states have internal contains that limited and prevents misuse of power.

Given that the current international system are structures build on the general liberal world order after the second world war, norms, international institutions and essential organizations of the world, build on the basis of analysis liberalism. It is the desire and goal to
restrain the power and conduct of states. The great event of analytical liberalism in foreign policies is international norms. Analytical liberal norms, favor the rule of law, democracy, human rights and favors international cooperation. As viewed by analytical liberalist, high international norms might be contested by varying belief and attitudes around the globe, they should be maintains as means of maintaining liberal norms. The costs non adherence to such might have very significant effect on a country. A core argument of anti-liberalism opinion is that the fundamental threats to individual liberty are unaccountable violent powers. It is through international and domestic levels of restrain can individual liberty be met. By providing mean of imposing costs and fostering cooperation individual liberty at an international level can be achieved. This is deeply rooted in deep theoretical tradition, evidence and consistent rejoinder to liberalism.

Constructivism in foreign policies

Constructivism is view of the world as being socially constructed. It is view that is based on the nature of knowledge and the nature of reality called epistemology and ontology in research language. A major argument of constructivists is that the structure and agency are mutually contracted. As such, structures influence agencies. Agency can be explained in the sense that the ability of citing while structure implies on existence of an international system that consist of idea elements and material elements. Reinforcement and changes according to constructivists depend on the ideas and beliefs that are held by enemy states. It is based on the opinions that anarchy is solely based on what states make of it. This means that various states can have varying interpretations of anarchy depending in their intended meaning.

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Major central issues of constructivism are the ideas of interests and identities. According to constructivists, states can have socially contacted multiple identities by interacting with others. To turn signals and interests, identities can be representation of the actors understanding of whom the other states are. Constructivists argue that identities constitute actions and interpretations which form very essential factors. For instance, constructivist can argue that small states major focus are on survival while major states concern themselves with military affairs, economic affairs and global political domination. It is essential however that states act according to their identity since action opposite of their identity calls to questioning the issues of identity and validity.

Central to constructivist view are social norms. These can be described as the standard of expected appropriate behavior that is assigned according to different identities. It is the belief of constructivists that states should comply to conform within their assigned identity and that they should conform to their identity. It is an ideal that comes with analysis of why some behavior is accepted while other are rejected. The logic of preparedness is an essential factor in social constructivism where certain behaviors are practiced based on the belief that such behaviors are appropriate.

Norms of constructivism are dividing to prescriptive norms, constitutive norms and regulative norms. Prescriptive norms are those that are based on the belief that there exist no bad norms in perceptions of those that promote them. Constitutive norms are norms that create categories of action, create interest and views of actors. Regulative norms are norms that construct and order behavior. Generally constructivism is stating obvious perceptions, interactions and actions that shape the reality. It is the belief of constructivists that international relations should only be created through actions of our own thoughts. Constructivism raises
concepts and issues that are neglected by mainstream theories\(^2\). As such, it offers alternative insights and explanations to occurrences of the social world.

The nonproliferation of nuclear weapons treaty

Opened for signature in 1968, the NPT treaty was landmark for international treaty. Its main objective was to prevent the spread of weapons technology more so, nuclear technology. The ultimate goal of the policy was promoting union and cooperation in useful utilization of nuclear energy and causing general nuclear disarmament. The treaty is representation of a multi treaty and a binding commitment to the states that have nuclear weapons. It worked from 1968 but was enforced in 1970\(^3\). As of May 1995, the treaty as indefinitely extended. The five nuclear states are in the treaty including a total of 191 states. The NPT is regarded as the cornerstone and basis for important efforts of nuclear disbarment and ensuring of global nuclear non profanation regime. To farther the goal of the treaty, it established a safeguard system contracted under the laws if international atomic energy agency. These were done to also father confidence building among member states\(^3\). Safeguards are conducted by the IAEA and are used to conduct inspections in compliance with the treaty. Cooperation has been promoted through equal access to atomic technology and peaceful use of nuclear technology for all state parties.

The treaty structure consists of eleven articles and preamble. Such are based on the three pillar system of the rights to use nuclear technology. Some include disarmament and nonproliferation. The structure is revised in conferences meetings where the treaty is reviewed every five years. Though the initial plan was conceiving the treaty within duration of 25 years, majority of the involved parties decided to extend the treaty\(^3\). The US ambassador Thomas Graham JR led this process in New York City in 1995. Parties agreed to the recommendations

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\(^3\) The United nations, (2020), Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt/

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and conclusions that included a follow up of regulations made in 1995. In 2015 during the Review of conferences meetings, there was no conclusive outcome of the adoption of the non profiltreaton of nuclear weapons. A major challenge for the treaty in 2015 was the resolution on the Middle East with whose review failed to institute accountability as instigated by the three pillars of the treaty. In 2020, the review of the preparatory conference on the Middle East outcome is still underway.

Analytical liberalism vs constructivism in the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons treaty

The non-profanation treaty was negotiated by world leading countries as a way of stopping nuclear weapon profanation. These were mainly inflicted by the catastrophes of the Nagasaki and Hiroshima nuclear wars race. Evident in the review of the NPT is the disagreement between nuclear weapon states and nuclear weapon sates. Though it has been in effect for over 40 years. The threat of nuclear weapons still exists. The applicability, necessity and effectiveness of the NPT are under criticism and under review with varying analytical liberals and constructivists opinions.

Generally, analytical liberalist view NPT as a shield for humanity from possible dangers and for the benefit of the greater good. For them, it is a policy that is morally upright. The NPT is viewed as a great way of shaping perceptions of decision making in states regarding nuclear weapons and states security. Contrary to analytical review of analytical liberalist, constructivists view this policy as a social construct that was created by states to impose relation to be in a particular order. Instead of imposing uses to other smaller states, constructivists believe that every nation should be allowed to acquire identity which it will shape their non-material and material interests.

4 Petersen, Bradley Craig (2012) http://etd.uwc.ac.za/xmlui/handle/11394/4644

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In general regard, analytical liberalist emphasizes the significance of cooperation and joint cooperation. Thus, analytical liberalist does not perceive that states will have achieved significance benefits of this treaty. Analytical liberalist stress that on the international stage, international norms of nuclear nonproliferation are essential and will grapple the difficulties of dealing with regimes that are rogues. It is an understanding that though human beings might act in self-interest, they place importance to cooperation through reasoning. Analytical liberalist opinion explains that human reason has the ability of overcoming conflict and war through policies like NPT in the international and domestic structures of governance. Thus, Idealist primary concern for the NPT is that it reveals how the world ought to be and ways in which cooperation can be utilized in achieving such world. Unlike analytic liberalist who argues that economic power and military power are the driving forces of the world, constructivists argue that ideas a very essential role in international relations. In this context, constructivism contends NPT treaty and its ideas of power rather that ideas to influencing how states define their interests to other actors. In constructivist terminology, the NPT constitutes social factors of maintaining prestige, power and dominance over others.

According to analytical liberalism, the NPT treaty was the basis through which social movements were created and the basis through which they operate. As such, the treaty controls irreversibility, transparency and verification effort. Though liberalist realizes the harsh realities of anarchic worlds; they place emphasis on the treaty since they believe it contends states to have to cooperate for the purpose of mutual gains. Through obedience of institutions and norms that prompted collective security, the NPT has ensured that stability between non-nuclear states and

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nuclear states is maintained. Constructivists argue that under anarchy, state security can be achieved in a collective process. The security dilemmas that exist due to the NPT are not a natural process, rather such occur due to conducting perceptions and internalizing activities of the others and acting upon them. The applications of constructivist’s norms perception of NPT are in support of the idea that structural power and legitimacy is not dependent on contestation.

Conclusion

It is essential to understand the purpose of the NPT and the role it plays in the international system. For liberalist, it is source through which morality of actions is emphasized in international relations while constructivism is of the opinion that such treaties are the basis to which some counties have imposed control over others. For constructivists, world peace can be achieved through ideas rather than foreign policies.
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