

The image is a conceptual representation of international relations. It features a globe as the central element, with a checkered pattern overlaid on its surface. The squares of the checkered pattern are filled with various national flags, including the United States, China, and India. Several chess pieces, including a knight, a king, a queen, and several pawns, are positioned on the globe, suggesting a game of strategy and power. The background is a dark blue gradient with a subtle glow around the globe.

# International Relations

- Ali G interview with James Baker on international relations:
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f6\\_BU9EI33k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f6_BU9EI33k)

## 1280 BCE: one of the first international treaties in history

Treaty between Egyptian Pharaoh Ramses II and King of the Hittites Hattushilish III (“witnessed by the thousand gods, by the male gods and the female gods”):

“ **There shall be no hostilities between them forever.** The great chief of the Hittites shall not pass over into the land of Egypt, forever, to take anything therefrom; Ramses, the great chief of Egypt, shall not pass over into the land of the Hittites to take anything therefrom, forever...

...If another people, (or state) shall come as an enemy against the land of Ramses, the great chief of Egypt, and he shall send to the great chief of the Hittites, saying "Come with me with your army against him," the great chief of the Hittites shall come, and the great King of the Hittites shall slay his enemy. But if it should not be the desire of the Great Chief of the Hittites to come, he shall send his infantry and his chariotry, and shall slay his enemy...

...Or, if Ramses, the great chief of Egypt, be **provoked against delinquent subjects**, when they have committed some other fault against him, and he shall come to slay them, then the great chief of the Hittites shall act with the lord of Egypt.

If any of the **great men of the land of Egypt shall flee** and shall come to the great chief of the Hittites, from either town or... of the land of Ramses, the great chief of Egypt, and they shall come to the great chief of the Hittites, then the great chief of the Hittites shall not receive them, but the great chief of the Hittites shall cause them to be brought to Ramses, the great chief of Egypt, their lord.”

Frederick L. Schuman. International Politics, New York:  
McGraw-Hill, 1933



## Studying international relations

What is the **subject matter**?

Relations **between whom**?

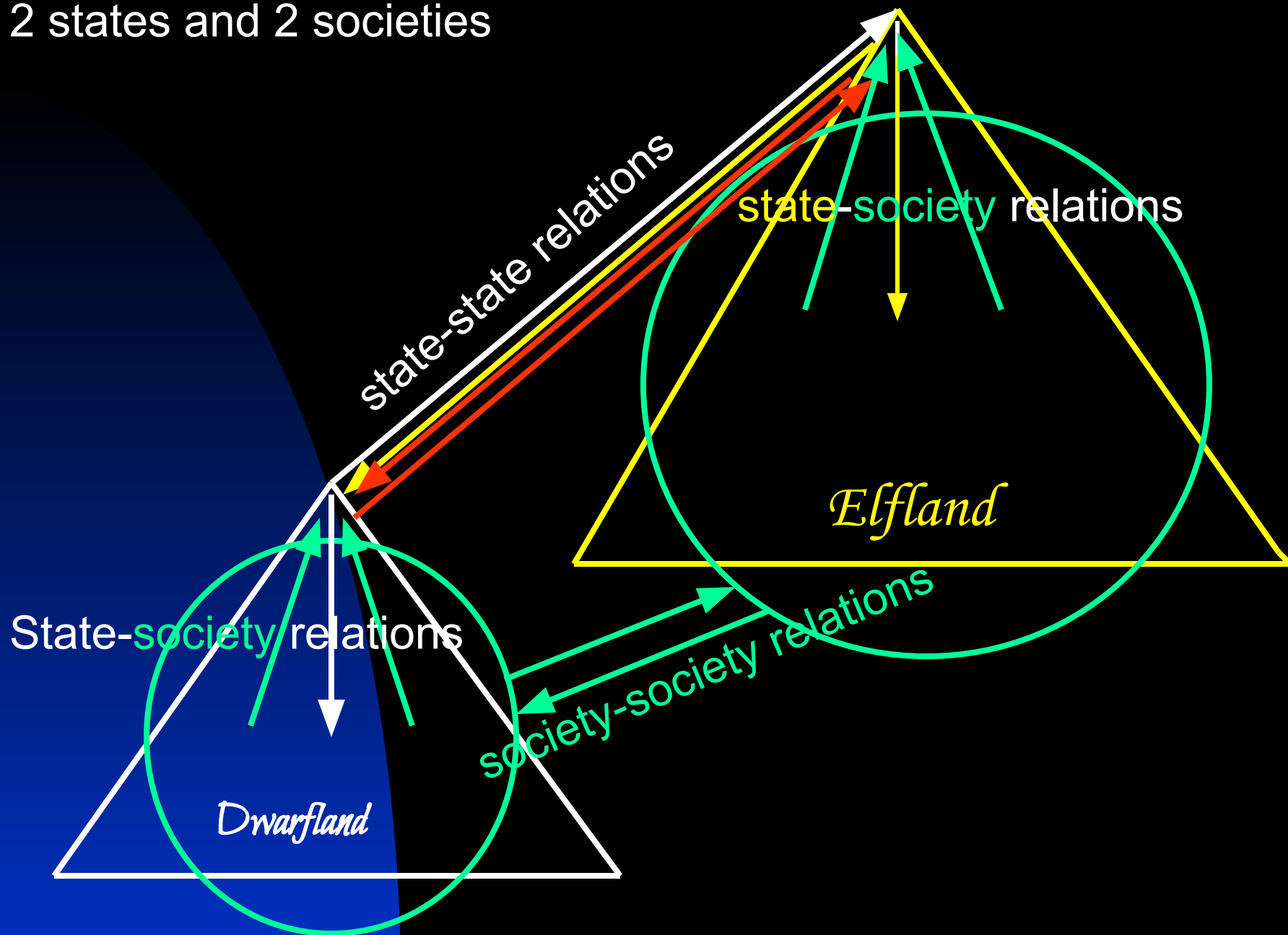
Relations **concerning what**?

Imagine 2 tribes - trading and/or fighting with each other





# 2 states and 2 societies



The sphere of international relations includes **4 sets of relations:**

1. Relations between states:

**treaties**, **wars**, alliances, diplomacy, etc.

2. Relations between societies:

**movement** of people, goods, information, technology, money; ethnic, cultural (including religious), political **ties**

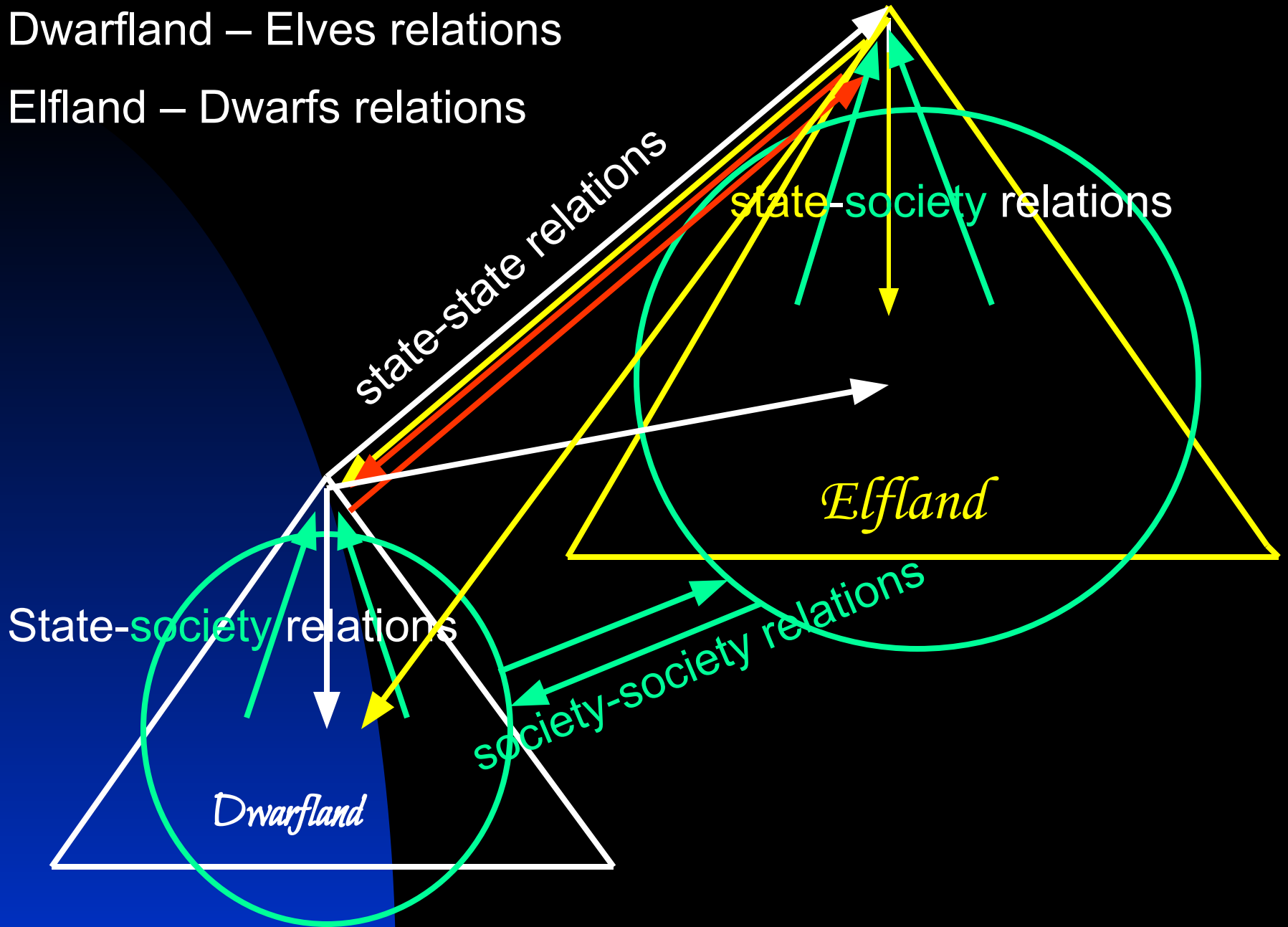
3. State-society relations **within each country:**

**political systems** and **political processes** as they affect the country's relations with others

4. State-society relations **across borders:**

Dwarfland – Elves relations

Elfland – Dwarfs relations



Can **a state** exercise power over citizens of **another state**?

YES

It is yet another set of **state-society** relations:

- If you **visit** another country
- If you do **business** in another country
- If you seek another government's **protection** from your own government
- If your country is subjected to **international sanctions**
- If your country is **occupied** by foreign forces
- etc.

Such relations can be problematic, because they **challenge state sovereignty** – one of the most important political principles of the modern world

Some challenges are **benign** and easily regulated by international treaties

Some, such as aggression, are **banned by international law**

Others are highly controversial and lead to **conflicts**

## Internationalization

Growth of issues, concerns, and relations which **transcend** state borders

--Economic **globalization**

--The **information** revolution

--The **ecological** crisis

--The spread of liberal **democracy**

--Growing international **migration**

--**Civilizational** ties

--**International security** (nuclear proliferation, terrorism, organized crime)

**3 major perspectives** in the study of  
international relations:

conservative

liberal

radical

## CONSERVATIVE (“realist”, power politics)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnKEFSVAiNQ&feature=related>

- **Sovereign states** are the **main actors** in international relations. They must be **strong**.
- The world is an **anarchic** place, where constant **struggle for power** goes on between states, each of which pursues its own **national interests**
- Revolutions are dangerous
- Order** in the world can only be based on **balance of power** between states
- War** is a natural phenomenon, a sometimes necessary evil, “continuation of politics by other means” (von Clausewitz)
- International trade should **serve national power**

## LIBERAL (“idealist”, internationalist, globalist)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZbDMUaqwE8&feature=related>

- Conflicts between nations can be resolved peacefully; **mutual interests** between them make **cooperation** possible
- A **prosperous society** is more important than a **powerful state**
- Human rights** and freedoms must be respected everywhere
- The spread of **liberal democracy** leads to world peace
- The global market economy** binds nations together, making wars less likely
- International law** must be obeyed by all states
- International institutions**, such as the UN and International Monetary Fund, can be effective instruments of **peace and cooperation**
- Disarmament** is necessary and possible



## CONSTRUCTIVIST

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kYU9UfkV\\_XI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kYU9UfkV_XI)

International relations are not shaped by some immutable laws of nature

They can be changed

International relations are determined:

- by social practices

- by ideas

- by interactions between countries

Critique:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMkKT\\_0IKUw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMkKT_0IKUw)

## RADICAL (anticapitalist)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mxMptEJybd0&feature=related>

- The most important factors of international relations are **class interests**
- Struggle for power between states is rooted in the class interests **dominant** in each state
- The existing international order is defined by global capitalism
- Capitalism fosters **inequality, exploitation, conflicts**
- International conflicts and wars will be less likely if societies are **radically transformed** on the basis of **democracy, equality** and **social justice** (some or other form of socialism)

Each of the three worldviews reflects **a part** of the complex reality of IR

No state can base its policies on **just one** ideological perspective

What works both in analysis and in practical policy-making is a **combined approach**, which uses a range of different perspectives

The influence of each worldview **grows** and **declines** with the tide of history

## THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

--STATES

--TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS (TNCs)

--INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (IGOs)

--CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOs)

--INTERNATIONAL LAW (BILATERAL AND  
MULTILATERAL TREATIES, CONVENTIONS,  
CHARTERS, ETC.)

## Some of the 197 states...

	TERRITORY	POPULATION	ECONOMY (GDP- Gross Domestic Product)	ARMED FORCES
BIGGEST	<b>RUSSIA</b> 17 mln. square km	<b>CHINA</b> 1.34 billion	<b>UNITED STATES</b> \$14.25 trillion	<b>CHINA</b> 2.5 million men
SMALLEST	<b>VATICAN</b> 0.3 square km	<b>VATICAN</b> 826	<b>NAURU</b> \$60 million	<b>VATICAN</b> 107 Swiss guards

## TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS (TNCs)

The first in history was established in 1600 – British East India Company

There are 63,000 transnational corporations worldwide, with 690,000 foreign affiliates

51 of the world's top 100 economies are corporations

Three quarters of all transnational corporations are based in North America, Western Europe and Japan

Ninety-nine of the 100 largest transnational corporations are from the industrialized countries

Royal Dutch Shell's revenues are greater than Venezuela's Gross Domestic Product. Using this measurement, WalMart is bigger than Indonesia. General Motors is roughly the same size as Ireland, New Zealand and Hungary combined

Source: Corpwatch, Inc.

# INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

The **United Nations** system

The International Monetary Fund (**IMF**)

The **World Bank**

The World Trade Organization (**WTO**)

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (**NATO**)

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (**SCO**)



# CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

“Global Civil Society”

2<sup>ND</sup> World Social Forum, January 2002, Porto Allegri, Brazil:

68,000 participants from 131 countries, representing

5,000 organizations

3,000 journalists

800 MPs

Registered CSOs

Brussels – 1,392

London – 807

Paris – 729

Washington – 487

etc.

# MAIN SPHERES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- International **security** (war, peace, terrorism, organized crime)
- International **economy** (trade, investment, production and finance)
- Social and economic **development**
- Protection of **human rights**
- Protection of the natural **environment**

- Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade:
- <http://www.international.gc.ca/international/index.aspx>