

Foreign policy decisions

Different theories on how decisions are made in foreign policy:

- **Rational decision-making.**
 - Goes like this:
 - Decision-makers go through various options.
 - Examines the consequences.
 - Select the most effective method for achieving the objective.
 - Thus, states will not let things just happen but are always an objective to be achieved. If you want to study the causes of something or want to understand foreign policy, so you should therefore uncover these goals and decisions.
 - For example Cuban Missile Crisis resolved by a blockade because it was the most cost-effective.
- **Organizational process model.**
 - Organizations create their own routines, patterns of behavior.
 - These habitual patterns complicate improvisations and make foreign policy follow familiar patterns.
 - Similar situations have comparable behavior. Not always the best way, but the ingrained way.
 - First World War, mobilization can be recognized, reaction as they always have done.
 - Tsunami? State Department (UD) knows best, doesn't listen to the Defense or the SRSA with experience of similar events but carry on as usual.
- **Bureaucratic policy.**
 - Decisions are determined by special interests, the strongest voice wins. "Vested Interests".
 - The Air Force wants a lot of money in their budget, they exaggerate the danger of enemy air forces, and this affects foreign policy.
- **Psychological Factors Perception Model:**
 - How policy makers perceive the world?.
 - Iraq war, Saddam is the problem.
 - The enemy always comes with bad proposals, friends are always with me.
 - So the Bush idea about anti-United Nations and Saddam made him not trust nuclear inspections when they unilaterally said that there are no nuclear weapons in Iraq.
 - Once you've decided on policies are only evidence that it is right will be look in to, it will be a yes-say-cult surrounding the leadership.
 - Unwanted news is pushes away.

These factors give us how foreign policy decisions.

Foreign policy decisions often follow a set pattern, based on how a state sees its enemy / other states:

- **A state usually thinks that other states' and other countries' conduct are more carefully planned than they really are.** States thus has a tendency to see other states as more rational than they are themselves.
 - Russian Ambassador died, what did he mean by that?
 - "The superpowers often develop as two heavily armed blind, who fumbles his way into a room, both convinced that they respond in mortal danger from the other, which is presumed to have full vision. Each side should know that frequently uncertainty, compromise and incoherence essential elements in decision making. Yet both tend to attribute the other hand, a degree of consistency, foresight and cohesion of their own experiences contradict. "Henry Kissinger,
- **States believe that other states are trying to trick them, because they try to exactly that.** So they are very suspicious of conspiracies or traps.
 - Kindness is treated as a trap, although it was perhaps just kindly meant.
 - This makes it very difficult to get out of a deadlock in negotiations.
 - For example, Israel, Palestine.
 - Reagan and Gorbachev at Reykjavik.
- **States tend to overemphasize the importance of traits and characteristics when they can explain other countries' behavior but emphasizes the factors and circumstances when they can explain their own behavior.**
 - "I'm essentially a good and peaceful, but sometimes I am forced by circumstances to do bad things, but you are basically malicious but sometimes forced by circumstances to be peaceful and friendly."
- **Cultural differences and norms create more misery than you think.** We in the West believe that our world is paradise on earth.
- **Group mentality often influence foreign policy.**
 - Groups tend to overestimate their own ability to solve problems and their own analysis of the situation.
 - Bay of Pigs
 - Cuban Missile Crisis, evidence in how it was solved.

Foreign policy decisions differ from the national, which also affects how they are made.

- **Information factor.**
 - It requires knowledge of the strength and intentions of the enemy.
 - Iraq and UN 9/11
 - Usually confidential.
 - Often Undisclosed information.
 - Most often misleading information.
 - Intelligence services are also Vested Interests.
- **Time factor.**
- **Impact of international environment.**
 - Chaos and anarchy.
 - Cultural patterns and norms.
 - Lessons of the past. "Munich Syndrome"