

Sujet : Les ressources de la réunion pour Political economy class Friday 3 April 9 am to 12 noon sont prêtes !

De : Zoom <no-reply@zoom.us>

Date : 03/04/2026, 12:12

Pour : nicholas.sowels@univ-paris1.fr



Les ressources de la réunion pour Political economy class Friday 3 April 9 am to 12 noon sont prêtes !

Enregistrement



Durée : 02:25:14

Lien partageable : <https://pantheonsorbonne.zoom.us/rec/share/OGP5A1KnyPcssUORiTUXZN5P2p3iCA9g4uiGJSuqhikCcYyIbF87PSAQTzisWTDB.EInDy6iCNLM0Q7ss>

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Synthèse de réunion

Quick recap

The meeting began with a discussion on international political economy, exploring its distinction from international economics and trade, historical evolution, and key concepts including the separation between economics and politics. The conversation then shifted to a presentation about Poland, covering its geography, demographics, economy, and political history, along with its current macroeconomic challenges and integration into the global economy. The final portion focused on a historical overview of international political economy, discussing shifts between realism and liberalism as dominant ideologies, the rise of market economies in Eastern Europe, and current challenges in global power dynamics and international relations.

Next steps

- Adrian: Send the presentation text to Nicholas
- Nicholas: Print Adrian's presentation at home and return it to him next week

- Nicholas: Upload the course recording to the internet in the next couple of days

Summary

International Political Economy Discussion

Nicholas led a discussion on international political economy, distinguishing it from international economics and trade. He explained that while international trade builds on classical economic concepts like comparative advantage, international political economy takes a different approach and is not a unified discipline. The conversation touched on historical examples of American involvement in conflicts like Korea and Vietnam, and Nicholas mentioned his plans to cover topics including the search for order and the concept of Pax Americana in the course.

Economics and Politics Separation History

The discussion focused on the historical separation between economics and politics, particularly how neoclassical economics emerged in the late 19th century by removing political and institutional considerations from economic analysis. The professor explained how this separation led to economics ignoring power relationships, rules, and norms that are essential for markets to function, contrasting this with Adam Smith's more comprehensive approach to political economy. The conversation also touched on how international trade theory traditionally focused on efficiency rather than production location, and how the 1970s marked a breakdown in the separation between economics and politics due to increased capital flows and the end of the Bretton Woods system.

International Political Economy Evolution

Nicholas discussed the evolution of international political economy, highlighting how the global landscape has changed since the 1970s with the end of the Cold War, emergence of new economic powers like China and India, and the rise of multinational corporations. He explained that while the US dollar remains the dominant global currency, there are efforts to develop alternative payment systems, such as Iran's proposal to allow oil tankers through the Straits of Hormuz if paid in Chinese yuan. Nicholas also outlined key aspects of international political economy, including North-South relations, the role of multinational corporations, and the complex interplay between politics and economics across state borders.

Historical Approaches in International Political Economy

The group discussed three historical approaches in international political economy: mercantilism, liberalism, and Marxism. Nicholas explained how mercantilism focused on accumulating wealth through precious metals and protected trade, while liberalism advocated for free domestic and international trade based on Smith and Ricardo's ideas. The discussion highlighted how these traditions reflect different views on state power, international relations, and economic policies. The session concluded with a brief mention of how powerful interest groups, like Silicon Valley, can influence international relations through their connections with national governments.

Presentation Sharing Technical Issues

Adrian and Nicholas discussed technical issues with sharing a presentation. Adrian confirmed they could see the presentation and the connection was established.

Poland Overview Presentation

Adrian presented an overview of Poland, covering its geography, demographics, economy, and political history. Key points included Poland's population decline, low fertility rate, and economic growth since transitioning to a market economy and joining the EU. The presentation highlighted Poland's trade relationships, particularly with Germany, and its political evolution from the Polish-Lithuanian Union to becoming a parliamentary democracy after the fall of communism in 1989.

Poland's Macroeconomic Challenges

The meeting focused on Poland's main macroeconomic challenges, including its significant fiscal deficit, labor shortage due to demographic changes, and competitiveness issues. The discussion highlighted Poland's integration into the global economy, its reliance on foreign direct investment, and the role of EU funds in driving economic growth. Participants also touched on Poland's defense spending as a NATO frontline state and its evolving relationship with Europe, including questions about Eurozone membership and Poland's position between pro-American and pro-European sentiments.

International Political Economy Historical Overview

Nicholas presented a historical overview of the international political economy, discussing the shift between realism and liberalism as dominant ideologies. He explained how the early modern period was dominated by nation-states and protectionist trade policies, while the 19th century saw liberalism rise with free trade, particularly backed by the UK. The presentation covered how World War I and the Great Depression led to a return of nationalism, followed by the creation of a liberal trading order after World War II through institutions like Bretton Woods and the European Economic Community.

Global Economic Transition Theories

Nicholas discussed the end of planned economies in the 1980s and the transition to market economies in Eastern Europe following the fall of the Berlin Wall. He highlighted Poland's relative success in this transition compared to Russia, which received little Western support. Nicholas also explored the rise of global liberalism and international trade, noting the challenges of maintaining international law and order without a central enforcing authority. He referenced Mersheimer's theory on the lack of global agreement on the "good life" and questioned whether a unified global economic theory will emerge in the future.

Global Power Dynamics and Hegemony

Nicholas discussed the challenges of international relations and cultural differences across societies, highlighting the complexities of promoting Western values globally. He explained the concept of hegemony in international political economy, focusing on the United States' historical role as a dominant economic power since 1945. Nicholas also touched on the potential for a shift in global power dynamics, suggesting that the United States might focus more on North and South America while China could become dominant in Asia.

Global Political and Economic Dynamics

Nicholas discussed the Eurozone's creation for currency stability and its limitations compared to the US, noting that Poland's potential Eurozone membership is currently off the table. He explained how international financial crises have eroded state authority and highlighted the growing importance of

North-South relations and non-state actors like multinational corporations in global politics. Nicholas also covered the symbiotic relationship between mafias and finance, the role of private security companies like Blackwater and Wagner, and the challenges to the liberal economic model posed by recent events including Trump's presidency and the Ukraine war. The session concluded with Nicholas announcing next week's topic will focus on analyzing pushback against globalization, including Brexit and Trump's tariff wars.

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Merci d'avoir choisi Zoom,

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55 Almaden Blvd
San Jose, CA 95113

[+1.888.799.9666](#)

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