

Hubungan Antarabangsa: Teori dan Praktis (International Relations: Theory and Practice; A review

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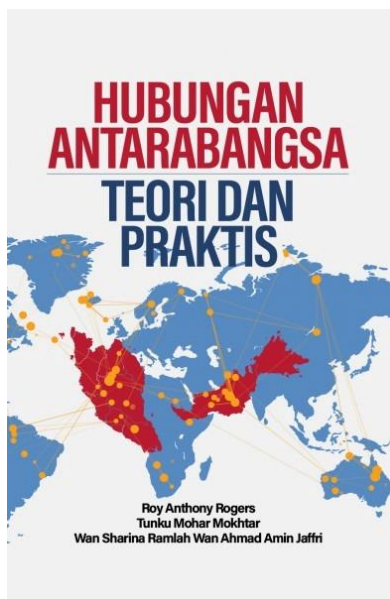
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Abstract : Roy Anthony Rogers, Tunku Mohar Mokhtar and Wan Sharina Ramlah Wan Ahmad Amin Jaffri's book "Hubungan Antarabangsa: Teori dan Praktis (International Relations: Theory and Practice" (2022) is an important contribution to understanding the dynamics of war and peace, targeting Malay readers, university students, diplomats, military and police personnel, and interested members of the public. The book provides an overview of international relations, exploring both theoretical concepts and practical applications. It cover topics such as international law, global governance, diplomacy, conflict resolution, and international security. The book may also examine the roles of different actors in the international system, including nation-states, intergovernmental organizations, non-state actors, and individuals. Overall, "Hubungan Antarabangsa: Teori dan Praktis" likely provides a comprehensive exploration of international relations, combining both theoretical frameworks and practical examples to enhance readers' understanding of the subject.

Keywords: Hubungan Antarabangsa, review book, Chapter

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INTRODUCTION



Endless wars demand an explanation (Bayoumi, 2008; Kohn, 2009). Republicanism and capitalism are expected to promise peace as it replaces monarchy and feudalism, yet war continues. Even when there was euphoria that war would disappear as trade appeared, the world continued to bear witness to a series of wars, notoriously the First and Second World Wars. The first Chair in the discipline of International Relations—the Woodrow Wilson Chair of International Politics at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth—was established in 1919 to understand the dynamics of war and peace, and many works have been published as a result, particularly after World War II. Roy Anthony Rogers, Tunku Mohar Mokhtar and Wan Sharina Ramlah Wan Ahmad Amin Jaffri followed the tradition of international relations' discipline with their

current book “Hubungan Antarabangsa: Teori dan Praktis (International Relations: Theory and Practice)” (2022), targeting the Malay medium, readers who are university students, diplomats, military and police personnel, and interested members of the public. The usefulness of this book is worthy of appreciation. The ideas were presented in 15 chapters, which for the purpose of this review, will be subgrouped into three parts.

The first subgroup includes Chapters 1 to 5. The authors began the book by discussing the standard definition of International Relations, with important ideas on the evolution of the discipline, mentioning the important role of Woodrow Wilson together with the importance of the establishment of the Woodrow Wilson Chair of International Politics at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. International Relations (IR) is a field of study that explores the relationships between nation-states and other actors in the international system, such as intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and individuals. It examines the interactions between these actors, including issues related to diplomacy, international law, global governance, security, conflict resolution, and development. The field of International Relations encompasses a range of theoretical approaches, including realism, liberalism, constructivism, and feminism, among others. These theoretical frameworks provide different lenses through which to view and understand international relations, and they are used to analyze and interpret the behavior of different actors in the international system. International Relations is a multidisciplinary field that draws upon a range of social science disciplines, including political science, economics, history, sociology, and anthropology, among others, to explore and explain the complex relationships that exist in the global community.

This was followed by Chapter 2 which focuses on the evolution of the international system, from classical Greek to the present. The international system has undergone significant evolution from classical Greek times to the present day. The following is a brief overview of some of the key developments in the evolution of the international system (Alcouffe & Coulomb, 2019; Gallagher, 1989):

Classical Greek period (8th century BCE-4th century BCE):

The classical Greek period saw the emergence of city-states, such as Athens and Sparta, which engaged in trade, diplomacy, and conflict with one another. Greek philosophers, such as Thucydides, explored the causes and effects of interstate conflicts.

Medieval period (5th century CE-15th century CE):

The medieval period was characterized by feudalism, where the social order was based on land ownership and the allegiance of vassals to their lords. The Papacy played a significant role in shaping European politics, and the Crusades saw European powers engage in conflict with the Muslim world.

Early modern period (16th century CE-18th century CE):

The early modern period saw the rise of nation-states, such as England, France, and Spain. The Peace of Westphalia (1648) marked the emergence of the modern international system, based on the principle of state sovereignty.

19th century:

The 19th century was marked by the emergence of imperialism and colonialism, as European powers expanded their empires and established colonies around the world. The Concert of Europe, established in the aftermath of the Napoleonic Wars, sought to maintain the balance of power on the continent.

20th century:

The 20th century saw the emergence of two world wars, the Cold War, and the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The United Nations was established in 1945 to promote peace and security, and the international system became more complex and interconnected, with the rise of globalization and the increasing importance of non-state actors.

Present day:

Today, the international system is characterized by increasing globalization, interdependence, and complexity. States and non-state actors engage in diplomacy, trade, and conflict, and international institutions, such as the World Trade Organization and the International Criminal Court, play an important role in regulating international affairs. The system is also characterized by the rise of emerging powers, such as China, and the challenges posed by issues such as climate change, terrorism, and cyber warfare

The discussion on the theory of international relations such as realism, liberalism, Marxism and social constructivism as well as the Islamic perspective on international relations are provided in Chapter 3. While the first three are standard theories, the theory of social constructivism focuses on the importance of identity, particularly the leaders. More importantly, the Islamic perspective on international relations may catch the reader's attention. The Islamic International Relations' theory of traditionalism and passivism are the important highlights of the chapter, in which serious readers in the archipelago would expect a more in-depth discussion as they peruse the book. The theory of international relations such as realism, liberalism, Marxism and social constructivism as well as the Islamic perspective on international relations International Relations (IR) is a field of study that encompasses various theoretical approaches, including (Godinho, 2016; Olivier et al., 2015; Snidal, 1985):

Realism

Realism is a dominant theoretical approach in International Relations. It assumes that nation-states are the primary actors in the international system and that their behavior is motivated by self-interest and the pursuit of power. Realists believe that international conflict is inevitable and that states must be prepared to use force to protect their interests.

Liberalism

Liberalism emphasizes the importance of individual freedom and human rights in the international system. It argues that international cooperation, through institutions such

as the United Nations and the World Trade Organization, can help to promote peace, prosperity, and security.

Marxism

Marxism sees international relations as a struggle between classes, with capitalist states seeking to maintain their dominance over the global economy. Marxists argue that international conflict is caused by economic exploitation and that the solution lies in creating a more equitable global economic system.

Social Constructivism

Social Constructivism emphasizes the role of ideas, norms, and identities in shaping international relations. It argues that international norms and institutions are socially constructed and that they can be changed through dialogue and cooperation.

Islamic perspective on International Relations:

Islamic perspective on International Relations emphasizes the importance of justice, equality, and compassion in international affairs. It argues that international relations should be based on mutual respect, cooperation, and the promotion of common interests. Islamic scholars have also contributed to the development of international law, and Islamic countries have played an active role in international organizations such as the United Nations. Islamic perspective on International Relations is influenced by Islamic ethics, principles, and values, including the concept of ummah (the global community of Muslims) and the importance of maintaining good relations with non-Muslims.

Meanwhile, Chapter 4 and Chapter 5 are also vital as they present the important concepts of power and the state, followed by an explanation of the actors in international relations. There is no doubt that beginners of international relations would benefit a lot from reading these chapters and the backbone of this book lies in such chapters. Power and the state are two important concepts in International Relations that are closely linked. The state is often seen as the primary actor in international relations, while power is a key factor that shapes the behavior of states and other actors in the international system.

State

The state is a political unit that exercises authority and control over a defined territory and population. It has the power to make and enforce laws, raise taxes, and provide basic services such as education and healthcare. In international relations, the state is often seen as the primary actor, and its behavior is shaped by factors such as national interest, ideology, and domestic politics.

Power

Power is the ability to influence the behavior of other actors in the international system. It can be derived from various sources, such as military strength, economic resources, cultural influence, or diplomatic skills. The distribution of power among states is a key factor that shapes the dynamics of international relations. The concept of power is closely related to the concept of security, as states seek to maintain their security by acquiring and using power resources.

Actors in International Relations

Actors in International Relations are the units that participate in the international system and interact with one another. The following are the primary actors in International Relations:

States

As noted above, states are the primary actors in international relations. They are the basic units of the international system and have the power to make decisions and take action on behalf of their citizens.

Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs)

IGOs are organizations composed of states that are created to address specific issues or challenges in the international system. Examples of IGOs include the United Nations, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

NGOs are private organizations that operate independently of governments and are often focused on specific issues such as human rights, the environment, or development. Examples of NGOs include Amnesty International, Greenpeace, and Oxfam.

Multinational Corporations (MNCs)

MNCs are companies that operate in multiple countries and have significant economic and political power. They often have global reach and can influence the policies and practices of states and other actors in the international system.

Individuals

Individuals, such as diplomats, politicians, and activists, can also play a significant role in shaping international relations. They can influence the policies and actions of states and other actors through their ideas, values, and actions.

The next subgroup is from Chapter 6 to 10. The first three chapters of this part deal with the role and types of international organizations such as multinational corporations and international non-governmental organizations, including criminal activities. This is then followed by a discussion on foreign policy. It is in these chapters that the authors describe foreign instruments or mechanisms such as diplomacy, national economic management, and propaganda. International organizations play an important role in shaping and regulating international relations. They are created to address specific issues or challenges in the international system, and can range from intergovernmental organizations to multinational corporations.

Intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) are organizations composed of member states that work together to achieve common goals. They can be regional or global in scope and cover a wide range of issues such as security, human rights, development, and the environment. Examples of IGOs include the United Nations, the European Union, the African Union, and the Organization of American States.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are private organizations that operate independently of governments and are often focused on specific issues such as human rights, the environment, or development. They can play a significant role in shaping international relations by providing information, advocating for policy change, and mobilizing public opinion. Examples of NGOs include Amnesty International, Greenpeace, and Doctors Without Borders.

Multinational corporations (MNCs) are companies that operate in multiple countries and have significant economic and political power. They can play a key role in shaping international relations by influencing the policies and practices of states and other actors in the international system. MNCs can have a positive impact on development by creating jobs, investing in local communities, and transferring technology and knowledge. However, they can also have negative impacts on human rights, the environment, and labor standards if their activities are not properly regulated.

In addition to IGOs, NGOs, and MNCs, other types of international organizations include international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, trade organizations such as the World Trade Organization, and regional organizations such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Each of these organizations plays a different role in shaping and regulating international relations, and their effectiveness depends on their mandate, membership, and resources.

Chapter 9 is unique because the authors are focusing on Malaysia's foreign policy since 1957. Readers may benefit a lot in understanding how Malaysia began aligning the support of the liberal capitalist block and later changed its position firmly among the non-alliance movement, beginning from the 1970s up until the last administration under Ismail Sabri Yaakob (The 9th Prime Minister of Malaysia).

Malaysia's foreign policy has evolved since its independence in 1957, reflecting changes in the global political landscape and domestic priorities. Below is a brief overview of Malaysia's foreign policy since independence:

1957-1969

During this period, Malaysia's foreign policy was focused on promoting regional stability and economic development. Malaysia played an active role in the formation of ASEAN in 1967, which was aimed at promoting economic cooperation and political stability among Southeast Asian countries.

1970s-1980s

In the 1970s and 1980s, Malaysia's foreign policy was marked by a more assertive and independent stance. Malaysia pursued a policy of non-alignment and sought to promote the interests of developing countries in international forums. Malaysia also played a leading role in the formation of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Group of 77 (G77), which were aimed at promoting the interests of developing countries.

1990s-2000s

During the 1990s and 2000s, Malaysia's foreign policy was focused on promoting economic growth and regional integration. Malaysia played an active role in the

formation of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), which were aimed at promoting trade liberalization and economic integration.

2000s-present

In recent years, Malaysia's foreign policy has been focused on promoting regional stability and security, as well as enhancing economic ties with key partners. Malaysia has been an active participant in regional security forums such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the East Asia Summit (EAS). Malaysia has also sought to deepen economic ties with key partners such as China, Japan, and the United States.

Malaysia's foreign policy has been characterized by a commitment to regional stability, economic development, and non-alignment. Malaysia has played an active role in regional and global forums, and has sought to promote the interests of developing countries in international relations.

Chapter 10 explains the international security as well as a standard explanation on the causes of war which purportedly conform with the idea that trade is the surrogate of war, espoused by many early thinkers of international relations. As hinted earlier on the Islamic international relations theory, perhaps in this chapter a detailed account on the application of such theory should be employed either through traditional/pacifism or legalistic and virtuous, whichever relevant.

International security refers to the measures taken by states and international organizations to maintain peace and prevent conflict in the international system. This can include efforts to address traditional security threats such as military aggression, as well as non-traditional security threats such as terrorism, cyber attacks, and climate change. One of the key debates in international relations is the causes of war. While there are many different theories about the causes of war, one idea that has been espoused by some early thinkers of international relations is that trade is the surrogate of war. This idea suggests that economic competition and conflict can serve as a substitute for military conflict between states.

According to this view, states that are heavily dependent on trade are less likely to engage in military conflict with each other, as the costs of disrupting trade would be too high. Instead, economic competition can manifest itself in other forms, such as economic sanctions, trade disputes, or competition for access to markets and resources.

However, this view has been challenged by other theorists who argue that economic interdependence is not always a guarantee of peace, and that economic competition can sometimes contribute to the risk of conflict. For example, competition over access to resources such as oil or minerals can create tensions between states, and economic interdependence can also create vulnerabilities that can be exploited by other actors such as terrorists or cyber attackers.

The causes of war are complex and multifaceted, and are influenced by a wide range of factors including domestic politics, international power dynamics, and economic and environmental factors. While trade can certainly play a role in shaping international relations, it is just one of many factors that must be considered in efforts to promote peace and security in the international system.

The last subgroup of the 15 chapters begins with a discussion on the impact of globalization on international relations as well as global political economy. In chapters 11 and 12 respectively, readers would probably gain more insight on the perspective of the Washington Consensus versus the Beijing Consensus rather than the concepts of the North and South acknowledging the importance of the new forces, the rise of China's economic power. One may wonder why social constructivism as well as the Islamic perspective of global political economy are not discussed in Chapter 12, since those topics are explained in international relations theories.

Globalization has had a profound impact on international relations and the global political economy. Globalization refers to the increasing interconnectedness of the world through economic, social, cultural, and technological networks. Below are some of the ways in which globalization has affected international relations and the global political economy:

Increased trade and economic interdependence

Globalization has led to an increase in cross-border trade and investment, as well as the growth of global supply chains. This has created new economic opportunities and increased prosperity in many parts of the world, but has also created challenges such as increased competition, job displacement, and environmental degradation.

Transnational actors: Globalization has also led to the rise of new transnational actors such as multinational corporations, non-governmental organizations, and international institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. These actors play an increasingly important role in shaping international relations and the global political economy.

Cultural exchange and migration

Globalization has also led to increased cultural exchange and migration, as people move more freely across borders and share ideas and values. This has led to greater cultural diversity and the spread of new ideas and technologies, but has also created challenges such as cultural clashes and the marginalization of certain groups.

New security challenges

Globalization has created new security challenges such as cybercrime, terrorism, and the spread of infectious diseases. These challenges require new forms of international cooperation and coordination.

Growing inequality

Finally, globalization has led to growing inequality both within and between countries. While some have benefited from the opportunities created by globalization, many others have been left behind. This has created social and political tensions that have challenged the stability of the global political economy.

Globalization has had a profound impact on international relations and the global political economy, creating new opportunities and challenges that require new forms of international cooperation and governance.

Before the authors conclude the book, they described painstakingly the settlement of international disputes through various methods—both peaceful and violent. Finally, explanation on international laws, including the functions and sources of international law in resolving international disputes—all in Chapters 13, 14 and 15 respectively. No doubt that the richness of discussion on the existence of many international laws in dealing with this matter is carefully presented in this chapter, and this is among the apparent strengths of the book. However, the authors admit that the latest available laws are commonly recognised and praised, despite the previous laws having been established for many decades. Perhaps the Islamic perspective, social constructivism or even the feminist and environmentalist perspective should also be utilised in explaining the dynamics of the phenomena discussed in these three chapters so that readers would appreciate the available tools in understanding international relations besides the standard theories of realism, liberalism, and Marxism.

This is a very useful book that does not suffer from the problem of lacking exhaustiveness. Writing it in Malay has made the currency among the Malay audience ever better. Nevertheless, the reviewer has several comments to make of this book as well as other books on International Relations.

Firstly, this book requires a bigger section on the discussion of current issues such as the rise of China and how it has changed the gravity and dynamics of international relations (both in theory and practice). For example, beginning 2013, Xi Jinping had announced the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), leading to many new corridors of economic cooperation being developed. Many Africans and Latin American countries gained financial support and foreign direct investments from China, and this certainly has changed the dynamics of power at the international level, from the one dominated by the capitalist world into one that is controlled by new forces or economic game.

Secondly, the book also requires a more in-depth discussion on how war and peace are masterminded by the game of economic war. This means that huge weapons firms which are in the Western world such as the US are expecting profits through more war. Given the fact that the main producing countries are also the permanent members of the United Nations, how are war and peace discussed by experts on the subject? Trade is no longer the surrogate of war as the 18th and 19th century philosophers (including Adam Smith) once envisaged, but rather to propagate war. Hence, events such as the September 11 terrorist attack on the Twin Towers, and many other wars that continue until this day are just utopias of peace that began through trade and ended with dystopia.

Thirdly, understanding international relations since its inception in 1919 is a study of power, both at the national level and more importantly at the international level as a way to explain war and peace. Other theories are in fresh demand. Besides Islamic, feminist and environmentalist perspectives, Chinese and Russian international theories are equally developing (Kapitonenko, 2022). Although many newly published books on International Relations do cover these new theories, how the evolving theories were employed in the subsequent chapters of the book remains only a hope, suggesting the existing dominant International Relations theories such as liberalism, realism and Marxism are still gaining currency. Perhaps the book, "Non-Western Global Theories of International Relations" (Cook (ed.), 2022) is one good example on the efforts of bringing scholars from different perspectives to put their ideas on the table for discussions on international political or International Relation theories. Undoubtedly, such accounts are

beyond the scope of this book. However, future books on International Relations, including those meant for Malay medium readers should consider this as a part of their new publication.

All in all, this is a must-read book. It achieves more than the authors' objective of providing a comprehensive manual for readers such as university students, diplomats, military and police personnels, and the interested members of the public. The contents are very useful for the academic community.

CONCLUSION

Roy Anthony Rogers, Tunku Mohar Mokhtar and Wan Sharina Ramlah Wan Ahmad Amin Jaffri's book "Hubungan Antarabangsa: Teori dan Praktis (International Relations: Theory and Practice)" (2022) is a Malay-language book aimed at university students, diplomats, military and police personnel, and interested members of the public. It discusses the standard definition of International Relations, the evolution of the discipline, the role of Woodrow Wilson, and the importance of the Woodrow Wilson Chair of International Politics at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. It also discusses the theory of international relations such as realism, liberalism, Marxism and social constructivism, as well as the Islamic perspective on international relations. Chapter 4 and Chapter 5 are important as they present the important concepts of power and the state. This book focuses on the role and types of international organizations, including criminal activities, and foreign policy, such as diplomacy, national economic management, and propaganda. Chapter 9 focuses on Malaysia's foreign policy since 1957, and Chapter 10 explains the causes of war.

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