

Thematic studies

IB DP Global Politics HL thematic studies full package

1. The three themes at a glance

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IB Global Politics HL thematic studies: rights and justice, development and sustainability, peace and conflict - each studied through contemporary cases with the core's concept-to-case discipline, and each closing on the course's recurring finding: the gap between norm and enforcement.

Must-know: UDHR 1948 and the three generations; R2P 2005 with Libya mandated and Syria blocked; the ICC (Rome 1998); capability and the HDI; MDGs to SDGs (17 goals, 2015-30); Brundtland sustainability; aid, trade and debt debates; Wilsonian versus Westphalian; Chapter VII and Article 2(4); the DPIR cycle; negative versus positive peace.

2. Rights and justice

Rights and justice

Human rights: universal entitlements codified in the Universal Declaration (1948) and two Covenants - three generations: liberty, equality claims, solidarity. Enforcement is state-based and weak by design: treaty bodies report, special procedures name, hard instruments need politics.

The central tension - universality versus cultural relativism - and its modern face, humanitarian intervention: when does R2P (2005) license crossing sovereignty? Cases: the ICC prosecuting where states will not; Libya 2011 (mandated) against Syria (blocked) - the veto deciding who is protected.

3. Development and sustainability

Development and sustainability

Development as capability, measured beyond GDP by the HDI, pursued through the MDGs and now the SDGs (17 goals, 2015-30) - universal and integrated.

Sustainability (Brundtland) meets present needs without compromising the future; who decides, who pays, who is heard.

The debates: aid versus trade (conditional on kind and institutions); debt; the growth-versus-emissions contradiction; and the governance of all three - the World Bank and IMF's conditionality itself a power relation. The SDG judgement: legitimacy and direction redefined, behaviour unbound.

4. Peace and conflict

Peace and conflict

Wilsonian collective security (one for all) versus Westphalian restraint - the Charter runs both: Chapter VII powers beside the 2(4) prohibition. Modern conflict is intra-state; the DPIR cycle runs defusing, prevention, intervention and resolution at every stage.

Peace divides negative (absence of violence) from positive (presence of justice) - Galtung, the reason a ceasefire can be unstable. Cases: Chapter VI versus VII mandates, peace-agreement design, deterrence as stability. Collective security works exactly when the P5 converge: the concert with a charter.

Check yourself

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UDHR and the generations; universality versus relativism; R2P with Libya and Syria; the ICC.

Capability, the HDI, the SDGs; aid, trade and debt; Brundtland.

Wilsonian versus Westphalian; Chapter VII and 2(4); the DPIP cycle; negative versus positive peace.

The norm-versus-enforcement gap as the recurring finding across all three themes.