

(1) Constructivists prefer to look at the underlying factors that shape a nation-state's interests. Realism and liberalism both focus on how states can best achieve peace, prosperity, and power, while constructivists look at history from an open-minded viewpoint: no "rule" is just there - it is there for a reason.

A constructivist would approach North Korea by looking at how it became the way it is - Mao's propaganda and public suspicion of pro-capitalist dictator Syngman Rhee (wrong spelling). They would also look at how the Korean War further alienate North Koreans.

(2) Non-state actors are important because, though they have little legal power, they can have as many resources (money, weapons, employees) as governments. For example, the Sinaloa Mexican Drug Cartel, Al Qaeda, Microsoft, the International Red Cross, and the Catholic church would be considered non-state actors. The Sinaloa Cartel is a major threat to Mexican sovereignty and is important to consider because it makes dealing with illegal immigration difficult (most of the US-Mexico border is controlled by the Sinaloa, Tijuana, or Gulf Cartels). Al Qaeda should be considered when dealing w/ the Middle East because it makes countries fearful of helping the US and becoming a target. Microsoft is important because it has the ability to invest in companies that could become influential in the future. The Red Cross provides services to injured citizens and soldiers, so governments must avoid upsetting it by committing human rights violations. The Catholic church is important to consider because it has religious and political power over a large and diverse group of people around the world.

1.1% great!