|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Key People:** Mearsheimer, Waltz, Morgenthau | **Key Terms:** Structural realist, offensive realist, defensive realist, parsimonious theory, anarchic system |
| ***INTRODUCTION TO THE MAIN THEORIES OF POWER*** (notes from the presentation)  What are the main theories of Power? Level of analysis? Why are these theories important? Why do these theories not say the same thing? | |

One of the great western political thinkers of this generation is the academic John Mearsheimer. He advocates a theory of power that is known as ‘Structural Realism’. Take a moment to remind yourself that these are not theories whose purpose is to provide intellectual entertainment for Ivy League professors, foreign policy makers and advisers use them to try and predict the behaviour of other states and subsequently to inform their own decision making and goals.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **STRUCTURAL REALISM: INTERVIEW WITH JOHN MEARSHEIMER** | | | |
| **A: Defining Structural Realism...** | | | |
| Mearsheimer believes the behaviour of states towards each other is determined by...  He does not believe that...  States live in an ‘anarchic’ system, which means:  This + fact that you never know...  Equals...  A good example is...  Therefore the pursuit of power by all states is... | | | |
| **B: The two types of ‘Political Realism’...** | | | |
| ‘**Human Realists’ – Morgenthau**  Main belief about power and conflict:  Explanation: | ‘**Structural Realists’ - Mearsheimer, Waltz**  Main belief about power and conflict:  Explanation: | | |
| ‘**Offensive Realism’**  *(not from video)* | | **‘Defensive Realism’**  *(not from video)* |
| **C. Advantages of ‘Structural Realism’ as a theory of power...** | | | |
| i) Big Questions:  ii) ‘Parsimonious’:  iii) ‘Little theories’: | | | |
| **D. Applying the Theory: Will the rise of China be peaceful?** | | | |
| **‘Offensive Realism’**  YES / NO  Reasoning:  China’s likely goals:  US’s likely response:  Other Asian players’ likely response: | | **‘Defensive Realism’** *(not from video)* | |

**Step 2: From your own knowledge of the news, can you find any evidence to support the idea of either offensive realism or defensive realism? Add it into the table above.**

What