

PSC 102: Intro to International Politics

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Burning What You Want to Get More of It

Introduction

- Two goals for this lecture
 - Introduce some more terms and concepts
 - Demonstrate that war is **inefficient**

Terminology

Bargaining

Attempts to reach **undisputed** allocations through **negotiations**, *fait accompli*, or **violence**.

War

Sustained, coordinated **violence** as attempt to **seize control** of good(s), or **coerce** a **change in behavior**.

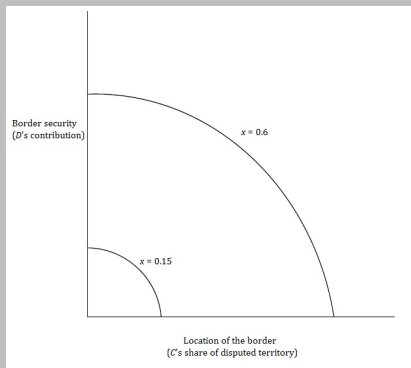
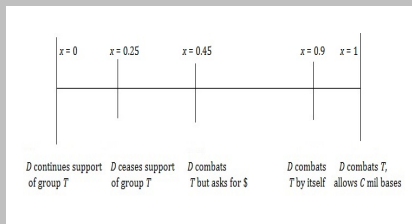
Inefficient

Property of outcomes that are reached through a process that entail **greater costs** than would have been incurred through some **alternative path** to an **equivalent outcome**.

Simple Ultimatum Crisis Bargaining Model

- C sets $x \in [0, 1]$
- D can either accept or reject
 - If D **accepts**, game ends **peacefully**
 - $u_C(\text{peace}) = x$ and $u_D(\text{peace}) = 1 - x$
 - If D **rejects**, game ends in **war**
 - $u_C(\text{war}) = w - c_C$ and $u_D(\text{war}) = 1 - w - c_D$

Divisibility



D 's Acceptance Rule

- D accepts iff $u_D(\text{peace}) \geq u_D(\text{war})$
- $\Rightarrow 1 - x \geq 1 - w - c_D$
- $\Rightarrow x \leq w + c_D$
- Let $w + c_D \equiv \hat{x}$
- We can now say D accepts iff $x \leq \hat{x}$

C's Choice of x

- C can infer the following
 - Setting $x \leq \hat{x}$ allows crisis to end peacefully
 - Setting $x > \hat{x}$ provokes war
- Since $u_C(\text{peace}) = x$, she must prefer $x = \hat{x}$ to $x < \hat{x}$
- Note $u_C(x_1) = u_C(x_2)$ for all $x_1, x_2 \in (\hat{x}, 1]$
- So the big question is: does C set $x = \hat{x}$?

Key Result

- C sets $x = \hat{x}$ iff $u_C(\text{peace}|x = \hat{x}) \geq u_C(\text{war})$
- $\Rightarrow \hat{x} \geq w - c_C$
- $\Rightarrow w + c_D \geq w - c_C$
- $\Rightarrow c_C + c_D \geq 0$
- This **must be true**

Implications

- Identifying the issue in dispute \neq an explanation for war
 - Slavery was a source of tension in US at time of founding
 - If question is what Civil War was fought over, fine
 - But if it is **why** war was fought (in 1861), must do better
 - 99% of MIDs before WWI were settled short of war
 - And since 1945, peace has been even more prevalent

To explain war, we must explain why the parties failed to resolve their disagreement through a more efficient means.