Contemporary Issues

Top Ten Things You Need to Know



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- There is much debate as to whether the principles of liberalism are the best way to deal with problems
 - Characterized by
 - ofree and fair elections,
 - orule of law,
 - separation of powers
 - Protection of civil liberties such as speech, assembly and religion

Security

 Look at the most stable areas of the world have adopted liberal principles



Security

- o Case Study: Israel
 - Treating Palestinians illib
 - oWall
 - Expanding territory
 - •Repressive police forces





- Supports many liberal ideals
 - Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- o Issue: must respect sovereignty (relates to individual freedoms to govern self)
 - Difficulty of enforcement



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Liberal economics

- Greater international trade believed to encourage global peace
 - Golden Arches andDell Theory

Correlation does not imply causation.



Thomas Friedman:

No two countries with a McDonald's have ever gone to war since opening the McDonald's.

(Golden Arches Theory of Conflict Prevention)

Issues with liberal economics

- International organizations (e.g. IMF, World Bank and EU) promote trade liberalization and demand right wing economic policies from those borrowing funds
 - olgnore plight of workers or environment
 - Encouraging Americanization of global culture

Dealing with Natural Disasters

- Classical liberal view
 - Philanthropists and charity from individuals will help to overcome unexpected disasters
 - oLess bureaucracy/red tape
 - Choice of what you want to support



Dealing with Natural Disasters



- Modern liberal/socialist view
 - Don't want to depend on the charity of others – HOPE to get help
 - Government better organized to act quickly
 - Any major charity also has bureaucracy and red tape

Pandemics

- Cannot respect rights like mobility to keep people safe
 - •Need to quarantine, have curfews, limit interactions (trade)



• "Liberal ideas may be under attack, but they retain a powerful appeal. Liberal democracies won out over fascism and communism for a reason; equality and freedom are too compelling to resist for long. They are likely to survive any current threats from any of today's deeply illiberal forces for the same reason."

(Alan Wolfe)