



NEOCLASSICAL REALISM IN ANALYSING CRISIS MANAGEMENT: THE CASE OF TURKISH FOREIGN POLICY CRISES

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*Analysis of Decision Making and Crisis Management
Processes During Turkish Foreign Policy Crises*
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ISTANBUL - TURKEY

TÜRK DIŞ POLİTİKASI KRİZ İNCELEMELERİ
Crisis Analysis in Turkish Foreign Policy



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ECPR General Conference
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Panel Number: P418

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Analysis of Decisions

Making and Crisis Management Processes During

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Neoclassical realism?

A theory of foreign policy

First appeared in Gideon Rose article in 1998

Incorporates systemic, domestic and individual factors for foreign policy analysis for any state



Neoclassical realism? (cont'd)

- The main idea; state's relative capabilities are translated into foreign policy by intervening variables
- Both domestic and systemic dynamics could be constraining factors for policy makers

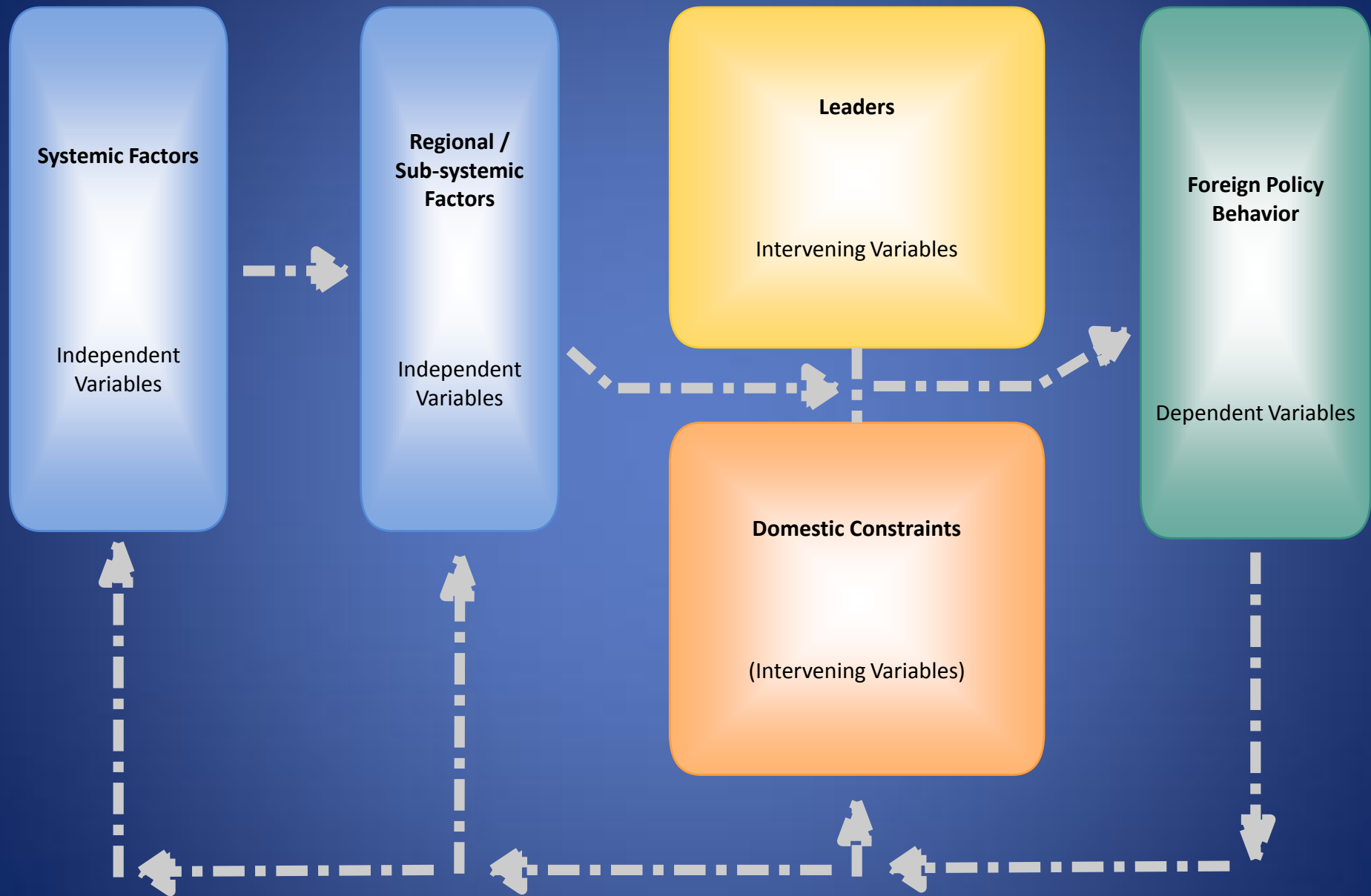
Neoclassical realism? (cont'd)

- states react to some uncertainties of the international anarchy by trying to control and shape their external environment.
- States want to increase their influence by using all means possible.
- extract and mobilize of resources

Why and How Does Neoclassical Realism Explain Foreign Policy Behavior?

The result of this approach leads three steps:

- the independent variable (state's relative power in the international system),
- the intervening variable (domestic level “transmission belt”, through which systemic pressures are filtered) and
- the dependent variable or the foreign policy outcome.



Independent variables

- The characteristic of international system during crisis (Unipolar, bipolar or multipolar international system as long term changes
- Change in major actors' foreign policy, global financial crises, critical situation in the Middle East as short time changes

Independent variables (cont'd)

- regional order/structure, Institutionalization of the region, characteristics of the region
- distinctive/important issues in regional and international politics,
- leading actors in international political system such as states, international or regional organizations, nongovernmental organizations

Intervening variables

- leaders and their perceptions about international system,
- Personal/cognitive characteristics of leaders,
- efficient actors on decision-making process (the president, prime minister, minister of foreign affairs, etc.)

Intervening variables (cont'd)

- political survival, domestic structures,
- ideological perspectives-discourse,
- financial, political and military capacities of a state,

Intervening variables (cont'd)

- societal structures and its features, culture-identity elements, government type, administrative and legal structures.
- opposing parties and their leaders,
- interest or pressure groups, mass media

Research questions

- How the beliefs of leaders affect their behavior? How we can measure them? What can influence the decision-makers opinion on power situation of their states?
- Which domestic factors affect leaders' assessments of foreign policy challenges?
- How do state's institutions, elites involve decision-making process during crises?
- What kind of external/internal stimuli does Turkey pursue its policy during crises period?
- How do ideology and national identity affect crises management? How can Turkey's crises behavior be explained by independent and intervening variables?

Turkish foreign policy crises

- from 1923 the foundation of Turkish Republic to 2014, Turkey has (been) managed 33 foreign policy crises(some are ongoing process)
- Turkey is directly be part of crisis
- independent and intervening variables could be different for any crisis

TFP Crises and International System (1919-2014)

International System		Number of Crisis	Opponent
Multipolarity: 1918-1939	<i>Balance of powers</i>	5	Great Britain, France, Iran, Bulgaria
World War II: 1939-1945		1	MV Struma (<i>no directly opponent state</i>)
Cold War: 1945-1990	<i>Bipolarity: 1945-1962</i>	4	USSR, Greece, Syria, Iraq
	<i>Polycentrism: 1963-1989</i>	12	Cyprus(GCA), US, Greece, Bulgaria
Unipolarity:1990-	<i>Globalization</i>	11	Armenia, US, Greece, Syria, Israel, Cyprus (GCA)