

WWW

SECURITY COMPLEX

Theme 2: The Divided Koreas and the East Asian Security Complex

Recapitulation

The Realist Assumptions of I/R



- Morgenthau, H. (1948). *Politics Among Nations*.
- The State
- Power (Military)
- Sovereignty
- Realism explains the centrality of national security
- International order through Balance of Power
- War breaks out when power balance breaks down
- Security Dilemma and the Arms Race (WWI)
- Major limitation: does not explain the inter-dependence of National Security.

Aims and Objectives

This lesson aims to investigate **ONE** security problem in East Asia arising from the divided Koreas.

At the end of this lesson, you must:

1

Be able to provide a conceptual definition of the term Security Complex.

2

Evaluate the security concerns in East Asia by applying the concept.

3

Evaluating the security complex in East Asia by interpreting sources.

The Security Complex

Conceptual Definition



- Coined by Professor Barry Buzan, a Security Complex is defined as
- “a set of states whose major security perceptions and concerns are so interlinked that their national security problems cannot reasonably be analyzed or resolved apart from one another.”

The Security Complex

Assumptions



- Central to the concept of a security complex is geographic proximity. Security issues become more salient among states within one region and distance becomes a crucial predictor for regional security dynamics.
- Equally critical is the distribution of military power in the region which is responsible for shaping interstate security relations.
- They also argue that historical conflict affect the pattern of security relations in the region

Political Map of East Asia

Source: Central Intelligence Agency



Lesson Development

Understanding the East Asian Security Complex

The Divided Koreas in the news Nov 2010

1

How many countries are involved in this conflict?

Collaborative Learning- 15 mins

2

Group Activity

Share your findings- 20

3

Students take the lead

Conclusion

Security Complex- National Security is inter-twined

Diplomacy is crucial...

- 1 War is always the final option, but diplomacy must be complemented with military deterrence (S'pore)

East Asian Security

- 2 Is an extension of superpower interests