



Liberal Notions of International Relations: Implications for Iran

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Abstract

This paper provides an overview of liberal approaches to international relations and discusses their contemporary variants. Ideas of democratic peace, liberal institutionalism and neoliberalism are discussed with specific attention. The paper examines the changing normative realm of international relations and their implications for countries like Iran. The critique of liberal notions of international relations for its problems in addressing structural inequities is still valid. The Kantian and Wilsonian legacies on the one hand and the gamut of international institutions on the other do not offer satisfactory explanations and solutions to the structural unevenness of the international order. The embrace of Realist assumptions to a large degree in contemporary liberal institutionalism and the attendant normative deficit are significant points worth critical discussion. The neoliberal turn in international relations and the predominant roles assigned to forces of capital and markets in the international arena provided grounds for shifting major political and normative concerns away from the debate. Having provided a critical analysis of contemporary liberal notions of international relations, this paper looks at Iran's engagement with the world and international community's responses towards Iran in the context of recent developments.

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