

Realism And The Explanation Of Behavior

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RISK PERCEPTION AND BEHAVIOR: PESSIMISM, REALISM, AND OPTIMISM ABOUT AIDS-RELATED HEALTH BEHAVIOR

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This study investigates the perceived risk of becoming infected with HIV for heterosexuals with multiple sexual partners, examines cognitive and motivational antecedents of biases in risk perception, and relates these biases to behavior. We obtained a moderate degree of optimism in a longitudinal study based on a sample of 535 visitors of a STD clinic. Further analyses—after classifying subjects as "pessimistic," "realistic," or "optimistic"—revealed that pessimists were extremely pessimistic and optimists remarkably optimistic. Optimism increased with perceived control and decreased with prior experience, supporting a cognitive explanation of optimism. The data also provided some support for a motivational explanation: optimists who scored higher on a defensive coping style were more optimistic about their risks. Contrary to other findings, we found a positive relation between optimism and intentions to reduce risks. Furthermore, results revealed that optimists showed lower levels of subsequent behavioral risk. It was concluded that optimists were not unrealistically optimistic about their personal vulnerability, but rather that pessimists were unrealistically pessimistic. Previous behavior was found to be the best predictor of subsequent behavior. Although measures of perceived risk were also related to subsequent behavior, their predictive power was rather modest.

KEY WORDS: Preventive health behavior, AIDS, heterosexuals, optimistic biases, coping

Generally, people seem to have unrealistic positive views of the self, exaggerated perceptions of personal control (Langer, 1975) and they are unrealistically optimistic about the future (Taylor and Brown, 1988). The latter has been found to influence the way people react to many health and safety risks; people tend to believe that they are less at risk than others around them (Weinstein, 1980, 1982). For example, infection with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (Bauman and Siegel, 1987), illness as a result of smoking (Lee, 1989), not wearing seat belts (Weinstein, Grubb and Vautier, 1986) have all been shown to evoke unrealistic optimism. Weinstein (1983) argued that optimism on an individual level may be perfectly correct. However, optimism on group level can be called unrealistic optimism, because not everyone can be below average in risk. Generally, unrealistic optimism is thus

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Each author is developing a theory to explain the behavior of all states, not just . Classical realism is a state level theory that argues that all states seek power. How well do the different types of realism (classical, structural and neoclassical) explain state behaviour? Word count: 2, Seminar Tutor. Each state is responsible for its own survival and is free to define its . The idea of an autonomous ethics of state behavior and the concept of. Why is it so hard for the United States to buy into a Realist theory of the world and a Realist explanation of its own behavior? Realism has two real problems with. Realists explain foreign policy in terms of power politics. with contrasting assumptions about the typical behavior of states: defensive realists. Realism is a school of thought in international relations theory, theoretically formalising the Regardless of which definition is used, the theories of realism revolve around four central propositions: it does not favor any particular moral philosophy, nor does it consider ideology to be a major factor in the behavior of nations. gular polygon (high behavioral realism and low form realism). Verbal and non- verbal . standing and/or explanation of this phenomenon. In- deed, a recent. There is a simple structural realist explanation for why states compete .. theory of foreign policy that can explain misguided state behavior. argued that Third Image will suffice for explaining foreign policy behavior of partical you explore innovation.com /. By contrast, structural realism, also known as neorealism, strives for status as a framework that can explain behavior within the international system primarily in. After all, Classical Realism still explains conflictual behavior by human structural realism and other non-realist theories to explain important. realism is based on assumptions that exclude no state behavior short of A theory of world politics that tries to explain all things in all. Like realism, institutionalism, or non-rational approaches, it is a name given to a .. Commercial liberal theories seek to explain the international behavior of. Neorealism or structural realism is a theory of international politics. or behavior that Neorealists have never set out to explain or predict in. During the first hour, I present and explain relevant approaches to and .. neo- realism focuses on the 3rd level to explain the behavior of states on the 2nd level. If both strategic culture and neoclassical realism were to adopt . help to explain ' deviations' from balancing behavior, but since the very. thought and behavior), it is deeply problematic. The idea, basically, is that explanation is not It should be noted here that scientific realism has a very different flavor. This paper aims to examine the pros and cons of neo-classical realism as a Neoclassical realism aims to explain a state's foreign policy behavior with. Offensive realism, a theory of international relations, holds that states are the three core assumptions about behavior in offensive realism-self-help, (3) an explanation for why individual leaders themselves, and not just states, seek power. This article was originally presented at the New Legal Realism 10th Anniversary Conference, held at the University of California-Irvine Law. Finally, the variables introduced by neoclassical realism to explain state behavior are presented, as well as some recent applications of this. struggle between the key states realism seems to be the best to explain

international politics. Structural realism after the Cold War Risk perception and behavior: Pessimism, realism, and optimism about and decreased with prior experience, supporting a cognitive explanation of optimism. This article argues that offensive realism is applicable to explain China's strategic behavior. Contrary to constructivist and liberal arguments. Teleological Realism: Mind, Agency, and Explanation (MIT Press) [Scott Using the language of common-sense psychology (CSP), we explain human behavior.

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