Logic of International Arms Control, Non-Proliferation and Export Control Regimes and their Link to Global Power Politics

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AC/NP/EC Regimes and Global Power

- Sets of implicit or explicit principles, norms, rules and decision-making procedures around which the expectations of actors converge in a given issue-area of international relations

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- **Principles** → beliefs of fact, causation and rectitude

- **Norms** → standards of behaviour defined in terms of rights and obligations

- **Rules** → specific prescriptions and proscriptions for action

- **Decision-making procedures** → prevailing practices for making and implementing collective choice

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AC/NP/EC Regimes and Global Power

- Security is an important phenomenon in international politics
  - Can regimes explain international security issues?
- Those principles, rules and norms that permit states to be restrained in their behaviour in the belief that others will reciprocate

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○ Facilitating cooperation that goes beyond the pursuit of short-run self-interest

○ For regimes to have a role in international security, the connections between outcomes and national power must be *indirect* and mediated

○ There must be room for a regime to restrain and regulate behaviour

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- **What makes the security realm special?**
  - ○ Unrestrained competition can harm all actors
  1. The primacy of security
     - Security issues involve greater competitiveness
     - Military power is relative, not absolute
  2. Offensive and defensive security motives often lead to the same behaviour
     - Due to the competitive nature of security

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3. The unforgiving nature of the security arena
   - The stakes are higher
   - Security is the most highly valued goal
     - Prerequisite
     - Unforgiving

4. On questions of security, there is uncertainty of measurement
   - What are the others doing?
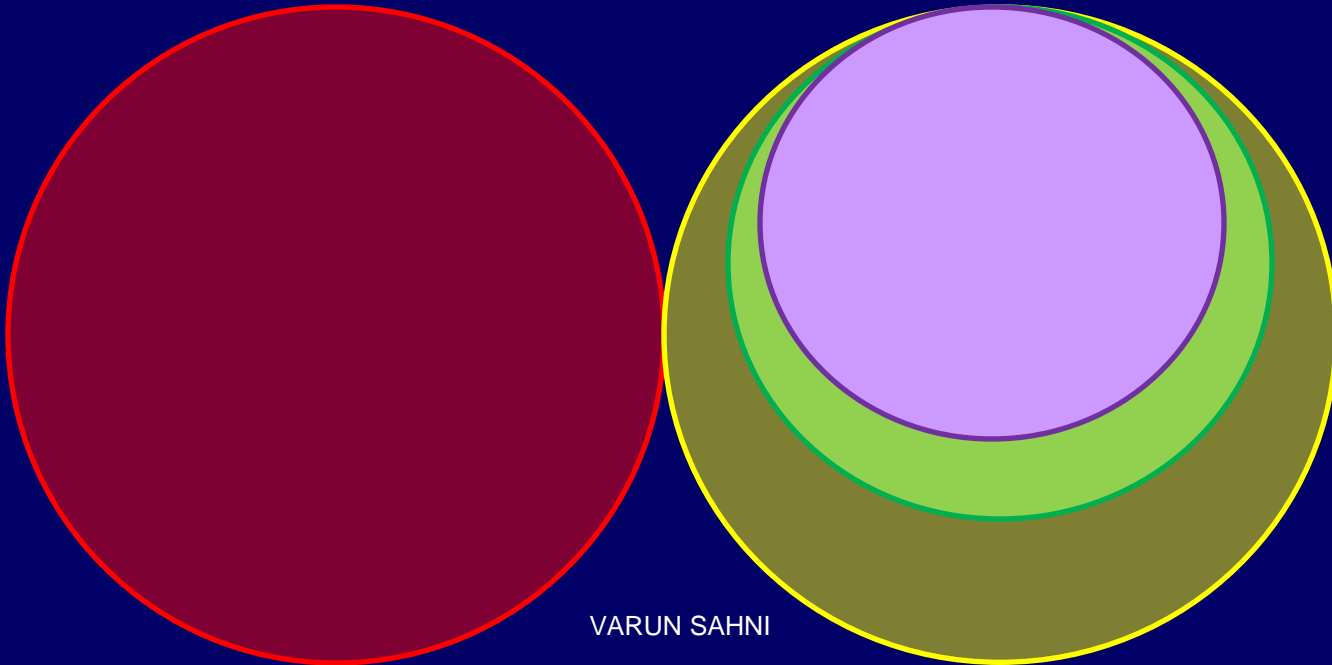   - How much security does one have?

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- Conditions for forming a security regime
  1. The Great Powers must want it
  2. Belief that other states share the value of mutual security and cooperation
  3. No actor must believe that security is best provided by expansion
  4. War and the individualistic pursuit of security must be seen as costly

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AC	Thou shalt not have more than so many of such-and-such
NP	Thou shalt not acquire through any means whatsoever
EC	Thou shalt not give to others (all others/some selected others) that which you have and that which they covet
TC	

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- Dual usage of 'proliferation'
  1. Proliferation as phenomenon
     - Conventional notion promulgated and propagated by the dominant states
     - Conservative and status quoist in nature
       - Conservative because it treats *any* change in the status quo as inherently destabilising and, therefore, dangerous and undesirable
       - *Any* spread of hardware, software, personnel and technology to states that do not already have them must be prevented at all costs

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- This understanding of proliferation views world politics in static terms
  - The power configuration in the international system cannot be frozen in time; shifts in these balances will ultimately find expression in the emergence of new centres of autonomous decision making at the global and regional levels' as phenomenon

2. Proliferation as behaviour

- An alternate perspective on proliferation is to view it not as a phenomenon in international politics but as a type of state behaviour

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- The yardstick is not whether a state is trying to acquire certain technologies and capabilities, but rather *how* it is trying to acquire them

- In this perspective, what is problematised is not the spread of technology *per se* but rather the *transfer* of technology from one state to another

    - A state that is able to acquire capabilities through its own efforts is probably punching at its own weight in international politics; a state whose programme is externally dependent almost certainly is not