

# Individual-level Analysis in International Relations

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INTA 6102: IR Theory

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# The Personality Correlates of Belligerence in International Conflict

- Two Kinds of Rational Behaviors in International Confrontation:
  - Cooperation
  - Belligerence

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Can a 'Belligerent' personality type be traced to a certain cause?

# The Personality Correlates of Belligerence in International Conflict

14 leaders consistently *preferred* belligerent policy options:

Joseph Beck	Adolf Hitler
Winston Churchill	Napoleon III
Georges Clemenceau	Lord Palmerston
Francesco Crispi	Raymond Poincaré
Alfred Duff	Theodore Roosevelt
John Foster Dulles	Kurt Schumacher
James Forrestal	Wilhelm II

# The Personality Correlates of Belligerence in International Conflict

- Why do fighters cooperate?
  - Weakness
  - International Law
  - Potential War with Major Power (Wilhelm II)
  - Personal Problems (Napoleon III)

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- Why do fighters cooperate?
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  - Potential War with Major Power (Wilhelm II)
  - Personal Problems (Napoleon III)
- Domestic Belligerence  
=  
International Belligerence

# The Personality Correlates of Belligerence in International Conflict

- Who tend to be belligerents?
  - Rebels
  - Authoritarians
  - Blusterers

# The Personality Correlates of Belligerence in International Conflict

- Who tend to be belligerents?

- Rebels

- Do not play well with authoritarians.

- Authoritarians

- Do not play well with rebels.

- Blusterers

- Just about everyone.

# The Personality Correlates of Belligerence in International Conflict

- Rebellious ≠ Belligerent
- Shy
- Intolerant of disagreement

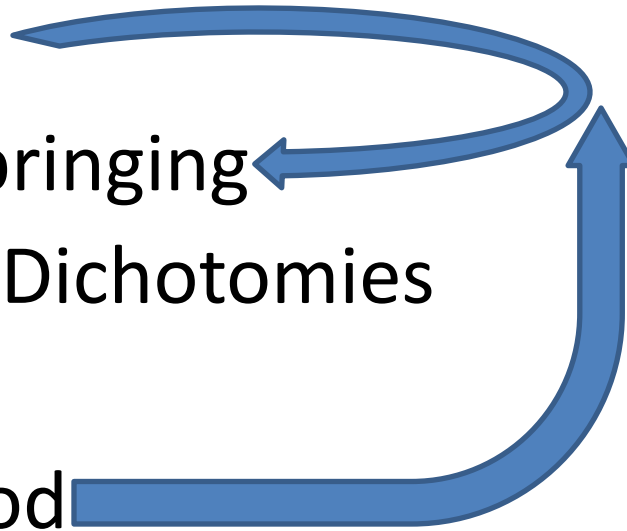
# The Personality Correlates of Belligerence in International Conflict

- Rebellious
- Shy
- Intolerant of disagreement
- Paternal Dynamic:

Mother Dominant	<b>6/12</b>
Mother Non-Dominant	?

# The Personality Correlates of Belligerence in International Conflict

- Rebellious
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- Intolerant of disagreement
- Paternal Dynamic
- Authoritarian Upbringing
- Thinking in moral Dichotomies
- Social Darwinist
- Unhappy Childhood
- Paranoid



# The Personality Correlates of Belligerence in International Conflict

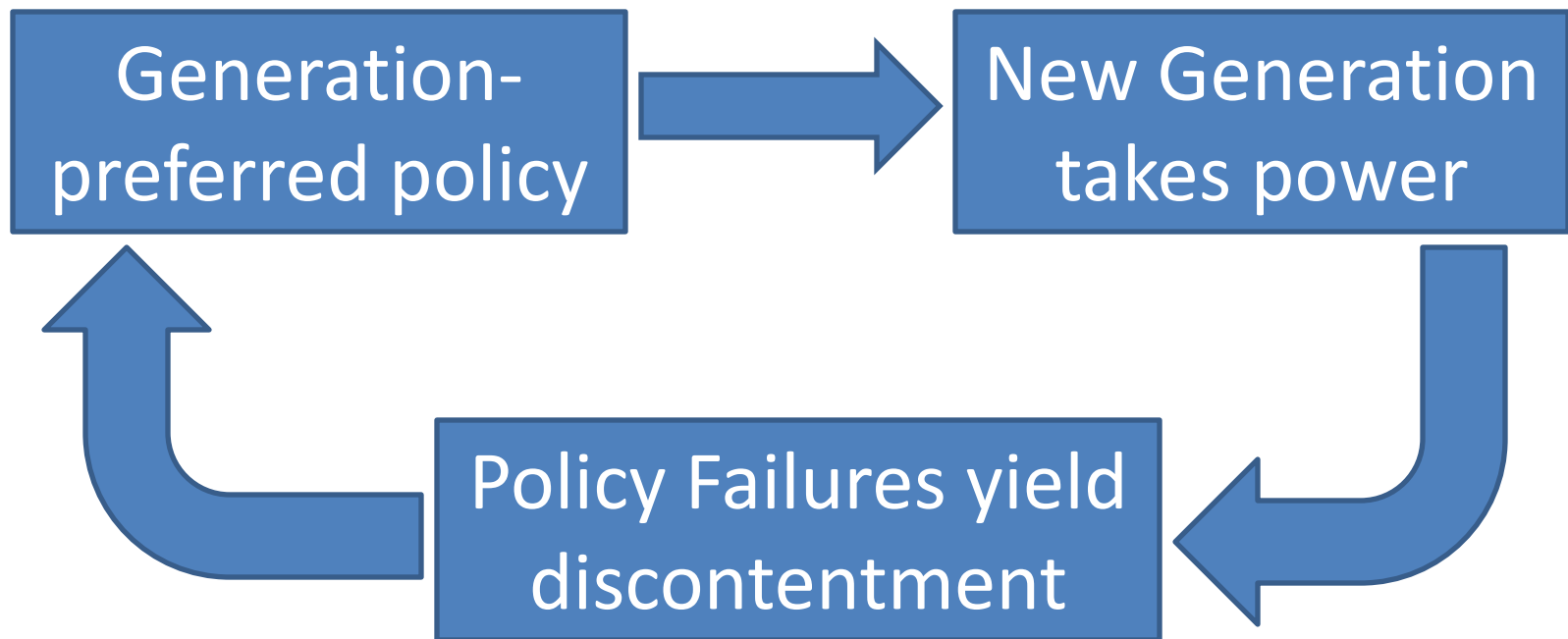
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# The Personality Correlates of Belligerence in International Conflict

**What's the problem here?**

# Shifting Generational Paradigms

U.S. Foreign Policy is a cyclical backlash



# Shifting Generational Paradigms

- U.S. Foreign Policy is a cyclical backlash
- The Pearl Harbor Paradigm
  - Isolationism out, Interventionism in
- The special role of JFK
  - *Why England Slept*

# Shifting Generational Paradigms

- The special role of JFK
  - Peace-loving Democracy is Weak in the face of expansionist Totalitarianism
  - The Democratic Leader's role is to teach the population that isolated events form an overall pattern of aggression
  - Defense Preparedness must be kept up, even if it means increasing defense expenditures
  - Reliance on a single-weapon defense system is dangerous
  - Civil defense must be instituted to protect the civilian population in case of war
  - Bluffing doesn't cut it.

# Shifting Generational Paradigms

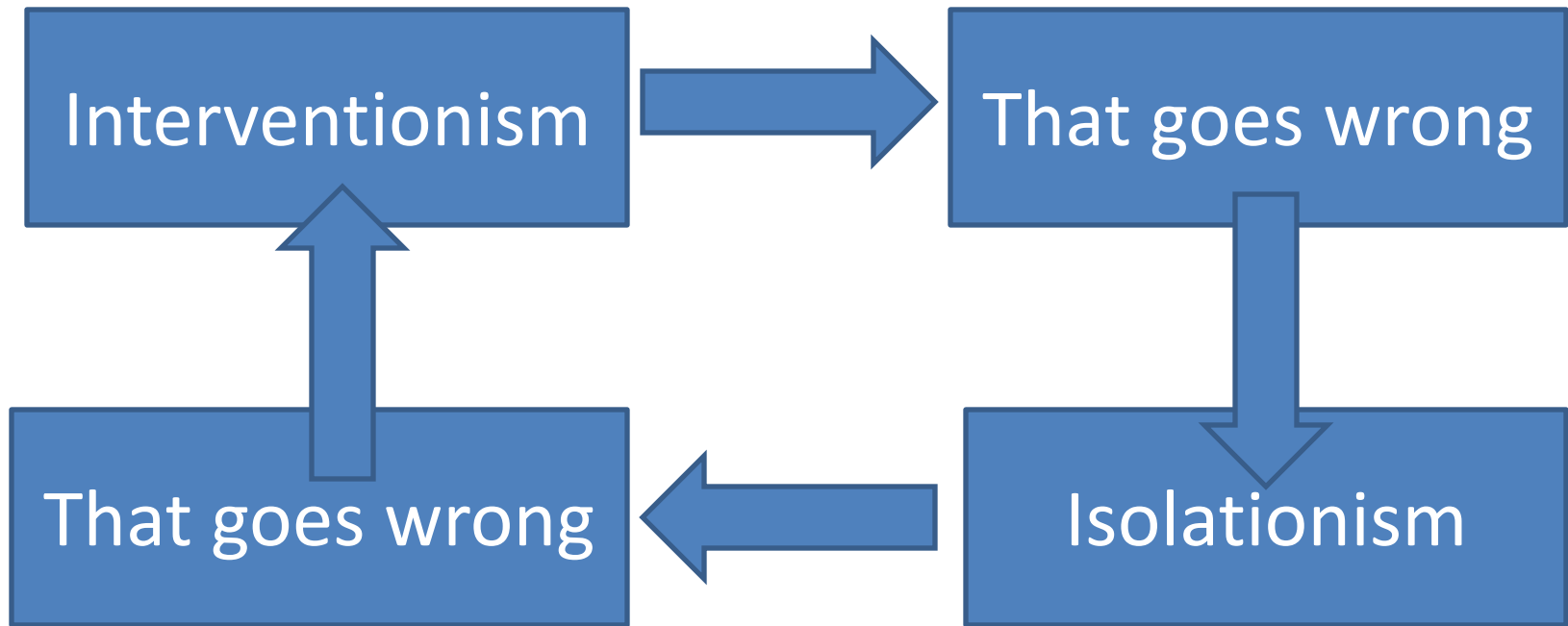
- U.S. Foreign Policy is a cyclical backlash
- The Pearl Harbor Paradigm
  - Isolationism out, Interventionism in
- The special role of JFK
  - *Why England Slept*
- The Vietnam Paradigm
  - Interventionism is a bad idea again

# Shifting Generational Paradigms

Pearl Harbor Paradigm	Vietnam Paradigm
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Communism is a Monolithic threat</li><li>•If we don't intervene, we may get dragged into war</li><li>•We must catch aggression in its infancy</li><li>•We must keep the dominoes standing</li><li>•U.S. aid and technology will develop backward countries</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Communism is divided</li><li>•If we do intervene, we will definitely get dragged into war</li><li>•We are not the world's policeman</li><li>•Let the dominoes fall</li><li>•Backward countries will develop or they won't</li></ul>

# Shifting Generational Paradigms

U.S. Foreign Policy is a cyclical backlash



# Shifting Generational Paradigms

- Continental – Following Civil War
- Imperial – Gilded Age
- Versailles – Between World Wars
- Pearl Harbor – World War II and Cold War
- Vietnam

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- Continental – Following Civil War
- Imperial – Gilded Age
- Versailles – Between World Wars
- Pearl Harbor – World War II and Cold War
- Vietnam – Um, Vietnam?
  
- What comes next?

# Shifting Generational Paradigms

Since 1974

- Vietnam yielded Isolationism, thus the next generation should be interventionist.
  - Is this the case?
- What about our generation?