

# THE CONCEPT AND THE MEANING

Of I(i)nternational R(r)elations

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No. 1

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## **FOREWORD: *third edition***

**1.** Never say never.

**2.** In this edition I have expanded the following chapters: *How to Read and Understand the Research, Introduction, What is 'Concept'?, What is 'Meaning'?*, and *The Concept and the Meaning of I(i)nternational R(r)elations*<sup>1</sup>. The bibliography at the end of the book has been removed to follow the same line as *The Concept, the Meaning and the Phenomenon New World Order* (2024), and *Concept, Meaning and Phenomenon: I(i)nternational R(r)elations and New World Order* (2024): it includes both research papers, and an additional chapter describing the relation between *I(i)nternational R(r)elations* versus *New World Order*.

**3.** Maybe, Maybe ... it is the last update.

*Casian Anton*  
September 1, 2024

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<sup>1</sup> The chapters *How to Read and Understand the Research Paper, What is 'Concept'?* and *What is 'Meaning'?* were also used in full in the research paper of Casian Anton, *The Concept, the Meaning and the Phenomenon New World Order*, 2024.

# INTRODUCTION

1. After the end of the Cold War and the worldwide Internet revolution, the phrase ‘international relations’ began to be used intensively and abundantly in the public space. It became so popular that it crossed the boundaries of academic debates or the foreign policy news section. For example, on social media platforms, the international relations of the great powers are frequently discussed, such as the relations between the United States of America (USA) and China, or the conflict in Ukraine with Russia. In addition, in the mainstream press, articles on international relations are no longer limited to the foreign policy pages, but also appear in the economy, environment or even culture sections. If we type ‘international relations’ into Google, more than a million results appear, including political analysis, blogs, opinion pieces and discussions on online forums, all reflecting the increased public interest in this complex field<sup>2</sup>.

2. Today, ‘I(i)nternational R(r)elations’ has two meanings which are given by the following examples:

(i) ‘International Relations is the study of the relations among states and other political and economic units in the international system’<sup>3</sup>;

(ii) ‘The political relationships that exist between different countries (MacMillan Dictionary)’<sup>4</sup>.

2.1 Another form of writing this concept exists when in some books and articles ‘I(i)nternational R(r)elations’ is written with lowercase and in others with uppercase:

(i) ‘After the 1970s the international relations between the US and China began to improve. Following a meeting between the two presidents, both parties agreed to sign an economic cooperation treaty’.

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<sup>2</sup> ‘relații internaționale’, *Google*, last accessed: 12 October 2020, [https://www.google.ro/?gws\\_rd=ssl#q=relatii+internationale](https://www.google.ro/?gws_rd=ssl#q=relatii+internationale).

<sup>3</sup> ‘international relations’, *Infoplease*, last accessed: 20 June 2015, <http://www.infoplease.com/encyclopedia/history/international-relations.html>.

<sup>4</sup> ‘international relations’, *MacMillan Dictionary*, last accessed: 20 June 2015, <http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/international-relations>.

- (ii) 'International Relations (IR) is uneasy about its status as a 'science''<sup>5</sup>;
- (iii) '[...] or the implications of human security paradigm for the study and practice of international relations'<sup>6</sup>;
- (iv) 'International Relations (RI) has always had anti-theorists'<sup>7</sup>;
- (v) 'This fact has radically changed the regulatory principle of international relations, from the power politics of the European system to a politics of cooperation'<sup>8</sup>.

**3.** Researchers agree that 'international relations' does not have a universally accepted concept, and that the existing definitions are often general, which gives them little analytical utility. For example, some theorists define international relations in terms of interactions between nation states, such as military alliances or trade agreements. Other critics, however, include non-state actors such as international organisations (e.g. United Nations, UN) or multinational corporations (Google). Moreover, approaches can vary considerably: realism focuses on power and security, liberalism on cooperation and institutions, and constructivism on ideas and identities<sup>9</sup>. This conceptual diversity can complicate efforts to make accurate and comparable analyses of international phenomena.

**4.** In this research paper I have explored the concept of *I(i)nternational R(r)elations* with the aim of (i) exploring two methods of writing and their representation, (ii) highlighting the meaning that is attached to each method and (iii) describing and exposing the process of creating a concept based on two terms.

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<sup>5</sup> Nuno P. Monterio, Keven G. Ruby, *IR and the False Promise of Philosophical Foundations*, 'International Theory', Vol. 1, 2009, p.16, available at: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/international-theory/article/abs/ir-and-the-false-promise-of-philosophical-foundations/543FA2BAB3368DD0868F8F14312D6F3F>, last accessed: 9 September 2024.

<sup>6</sup> Leucea Ioana, *Constructivism și Securitate Umană*, (Iași: Editura Institutul European, 2012): 13.

<sup>7</sup> Christian Reus Smith, *International Relations, Irrelevant? Don't Blame Theory*, 'Millennium - Journal of International Studies', Vol. 40, 2012, p. 525, available at: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0305829812442046>, last accessed: 9 September 2024.

<sup>8</sup> Andrei Miroiu, 'Evoluția sistemului internațional după 1914', in ed. Andrei Miroiu, Radu-Sebastian Ungureanu, *Manual de Relații Internaționale*, Editura Polirom, Iași, 2006, p.31.

<sup>9</sup> Georg Sørensen, *What Kind of World Order? The International System in the New Millennium*, 'Cooperation and Conflict', Vol. 41, No. 4, December 2006, p.343, available at: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/45084468>, last accessed: 23 July 2024.

**4.1** The two writing methods are: (i) the ad litteram or literal concept and (ii) the scientific concept. The two meanings are: (i) when it is written with lowercase letters 'international relations' and (ii) when it is written with uppercase letters 'International Relations', abbreviated shortly *IR*. The final form of the concept is the result of a process of definition and delimitation, which reflects both the diversity of international interactions and the complexity of theoretical analysis; finally, these processes have the capacity to create a useful tool for understanding and explaining international phenomena.

**4.1.1** The scientific concept is built from the ad litteram/literally concept + the scope of science + the operating process of the interdiscipline.

**4.1.1.1** The scientific concept, however, does not remove the general view of the concept, but it is good because it can show the differences between the two techniques of writing and their meaning.

**4.1.1.2** Furthermore, by using the ad litteram/literally concept + the scope of science + the operating process of the interdiscipline, I build three scientific concepts based on the research interests of the IR interdiscipline. These three concepts eliminate the general view of the concept, but only from the point of view of the three concepts and research interests.

**4.1.1.2.1** The concepts were constructed to expose the creation of a concept in the scientific literature of the IR interdiscipline.

**4.1.2** The ad litteram or literal concept is constructed from the union of the two terms 'relation' and 'international'.

**5.** In this research paper I aim to achieve the following objectives:

(i) *to resume the discussion about theorising the concept of 'international relations' from the etymological base: to succeed, I explore the origins of the terms 'relation' and 'international' through a description of the historical and linguistic context from which both terms derived;*

(ii) *'international relations' is based on a wide range of concepts that help to create the final version, and I want to show the sources of the creation of a concept, respectively the meanings attached to each term, then the definition of the concept formed as a result of the reunion of the meanings of the two terms (relations + international);*

(iii) *to supplement and contribute to the existing literature that discusses this concept: through Ludwig Wittgenstein's method, I use a new perspective and interpretation for the existing literature by*

generating two types of concepts: ad litteram/literal and scientific; I trust that this method can contribute to the identification of gaps in research, and offers the possibility of new directions of investigation about theorising concepts in the social and political sciences;

(iv) *to contribute to the historical development of the International Relations interdisciplinary;*

(v) *to offer an answer to the crisis of ideas that haunts the science of IR: by using Ludwig Wittgenstein's method I propose an innovative solution and a new analytical framework as an attempt to revitalize research in 'International Relations'.*

By achieving these objectives, I consider that this research paper contributes significantly to the understanding of the theoretical and practical development of the concept of 'I(i)nternational R(r)elations'; the results provide both a solid foundation for future research and solutions to current conceptual theoretical difficulties.

**5.1** In approaching these objectives, in this paper I used the writing methods of two philosophers: Ludwig Wittgenstein, whose *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*<sup>10</sup> provides a logical framework for understanding how concepts are formed and communicated, and Thomas Hobbes, with *Elements of Natural and Political Law*<sup>11</sup> which provides insights into the fundamental principles of political theory.

**6.** The research paper is organised as follows:

(i) *Defining the concept:* I begin by establishing the definition of the concept and general approaches about theorising the concept;

(ii) *Definition of meaning:* in the first part I provided a basic definition of the concept of *meaning* according to the dictionaries available online; in the second part I described how Ludwig Wittgenstein's method has several levels of a concept from the point of view of the authors Algirdas Julien Greimas, Eleanor Rosch and Charles S. Pierce;

(iii) *Exploring the concept and meaning of 'I(i)nternational R(r)elations';* this section has three parts:

(iii.i) *etymology:* I briefly described the appearance of the term 'relation' and 'international' and their historical evolution;

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<sup>10</sup> Ludwig Wittgenstein, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, First Edition (London: Routledge, 2013), Kindle.

<sup>11</sup> Thomas Hobbes, *Elementele Dreptului Natural și Politic*.

(iii.ii) *the process and creation of the concept of I(i)nternational R(r)elations*: I have identified and presented the meanings attached to each term and the reunion of the terms in a single concept; I have exposed the sources of the formation of this concept; I used the existing meanings for each term to create the ad litteram/literal concept; I integrated the ad litteram/literal concept with the purpose of science + the functioning process of interdiscipline to build a general scientific concept, and three more scientific concepts from the point of view of three (out of eight) traditional research interests in International Relations; I detailed the multiple meanings of the concept I(i)nternational R(r)elations by describing the differences between writing with lowercase letters (international relations) and writing with uppercase letters (International Relations, or IR); I explored the context in which each form is used and the meanings associated with each variant, both in everyday speech and in scientific approaches; also in this section, I described in a few paragraphs the evolution and topics of interest of the academic interdiscipline International Relations, the great theories and personalities that helped to develop this field of study, the origins of the interdiscipline, and the first research journals on I(i)nternational R(r)elations;

(iii.iii) *the existent theorisation of the concept of 'I(i)nternational R(r)elations'*: in this section I answered to some key points existing in the theorisation of concepts, but from the point of view of the concept of *I(i)nternational R(r)elations*; I have started with the normative and descriptive approach, then I responded to a part of the key concepts and thinking lines advanced by Giovanni Sartori, W.B. Gallie, David Collier, Gary Goertz, Lisa Harrison, Ariel I. Arham, Ian Shapiro, and Norman S. Care;

(iv) *Conclusions*: in the end, I returned to the aim of the research paper and addressed the process of creating the concept of *I(i)nternational R(r)elations*. I have synthesised the main ideas and conclusions for each method of writing, representation, and meaning, and highlighted the contributions to each objective of the research paper. Finally, I addressed the misleading, general, contested, normative and descriptive aspect of the concept of *I(i)nternational R(r)elations*.

7. If you have started reading this research paper, it means that the time has come to look more clearly and objectively at all the elements, and how a concept looks. *It's time to explore and understand the concept of I(i)nternational R(r)elations as it is.*

The research is available on [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), [Google Books](#), [Apple Books](#), [Kobo](#).

## Author Note:

***Thank you for taking the time to read this research.***

The Concept, the  
Meaning and the  
Phenomenon  
New World Order  
CASIAN ANTON



***The Concept, the Meaning and the Phenomenon New World Order (2024):*** In this research paper I have explored and deepened the concept, meaning and phenomenon of *New World Order* (NWO) through a structured approach. My aim is to achieve five key objectives: **(i)** to present an innovative method to build a concept starting from etymological base; **(ii)** to explore the meanings attached to each individual term, followed by their reunification in a single concept; **(iii)** to examine the process of forming a concept based on three specific terms, and to analyse how they combine to create a central idea; **(iv)** to explore the NWO phenomenon by exposing its stages, to discover key concepts, theories and other theoretical main lines of research that contribute to

its development and understanding; **(v)** to review the existent literature and to extract key points and lines from existing theoretical debates and identifying real examples from world politics that reflect the concept and phenomenon of NWO. It is time to discover the concept, meaning and phenomenon of *New World Order* in its truest form.

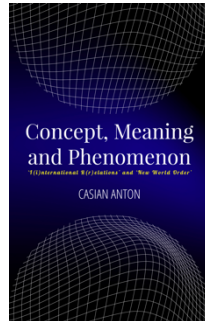
its development and understanding; **(v)** to review the existent literature and to extract key points and lines from existing theoretical debates and identifying real examples from world politics that reflect the concept and phenomenon of NWO. It is time to discover the concept, meaning and phenomenon of *New World Order* in its truest form.

### ***Concept, Meaning and Phenomenon:***

***I(i)nternational R(r)elations and New World Order (2024):*** this volume brings together two pivotal research papers that delve into distinct, yet interconnected themes: ***The Concept and the Meaning of I(i)nternational R(r)elations*** and ***The Concept, the Meaning, and the Phenomenon New World Order***.

These books, unified in one volume, share a common method of inquiry, drawing more inspiration from Ludwig Wittgenstein's *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*. The rigorous clarity, precision, and structured thought processes employed in both works offer the ideal lens for examining complex and multidimensional concepts. I trust that this volume

will be valuable to both those embarking on their research in International Relations.



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# THE CONCEPT AND THE MEANING OF I(I)NTERNATIONAL R(R)ELATIONS

**In this research paper I have explored the concept of I(i)nternational R(r)elations with a focus on three key goals: (i) presenting two distinct methods of writing and their representations, (ii) examining the meaning associated with each method, and (iii) uncovering the process of concept creation based on the interaction between two terms.**

**This research sets out to achieve the following objectives:**

- (i) to resume the attempt to theorise the concept of ‘international relations’ from the etymological bases;**
- (ii) ‘international relations’ is based on a wide range of concepts, and I want to show the sources of the creation of a concept;**
- (iii) to supplement and contribute to the existing literature that discusses this concept;**
- (iv) to contribute to the historical development of the International Relations interdiscipline;**
- (v) to offer an answer to the crisis of ideas that haunts the science of IR.**

**By achieving these objectives, this research paper makes a significant contribution to both the theoretical and practical understanding of I(i)nternational R(r)elations. The insights generated here provide a strong foundation for future research while addressing ongoing theoretical challenges. It is time to explore and understand the concept of I(i)nternational R(r)elations in its most authentic form.**



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