

Why are we talking about realism?

What  
is realism?



Caleb Harris II ► Politics and  
Sociology Confederacy

6 hrs · 🌐

PEARL HARBOR was an inside job, there's no way Japanese planes could've flown THIS distance in 1931. Wake up retards and realise your government has been lying to you, JAPAN is innocent







What is realism?



# Thucydides the OG realist





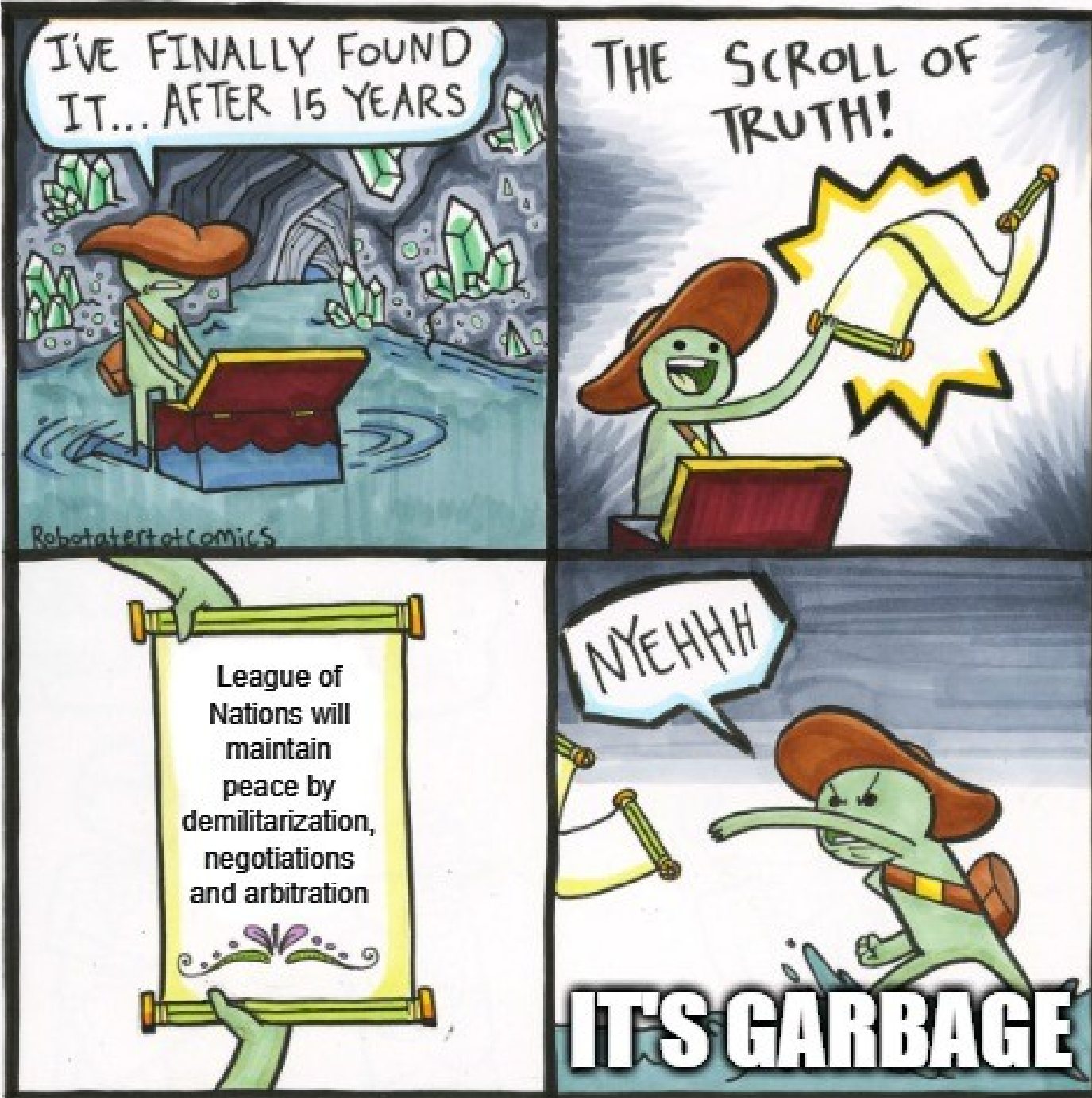


I bet he is thinking  
about other women

"How could I explain  
wars as a rational conduct  
of states in power politics?"



Thomas Hobbes



Realism (as a modern school of thought) begins in the wake of World War 2



"make a bunch of totally unreasonable assumptions about human nature to explain it all"-ism



realism





Make a balanced  
assessment of  
the importance of  
different actors in  
international politics

"states  
are the  
only actors  
that matter"



realism

State as the key  
actor of  
international  
politics



**DATA COLLECTION,  
BEHAVIORALISM,  
FINDING  
BASIC CORRELATIONS**

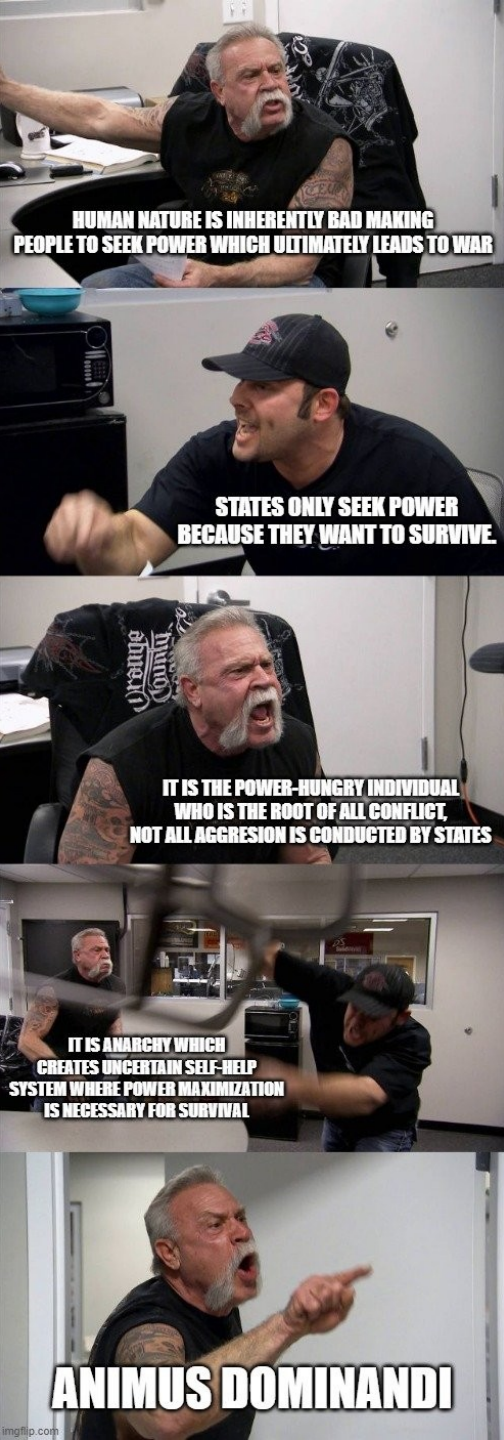
**INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS  
WANTING TO BE  
MORE SCIENTIFIC**

**HISTORICAL  
APPROACH  
OF REALISM**

Crisis of  
classical  
realism

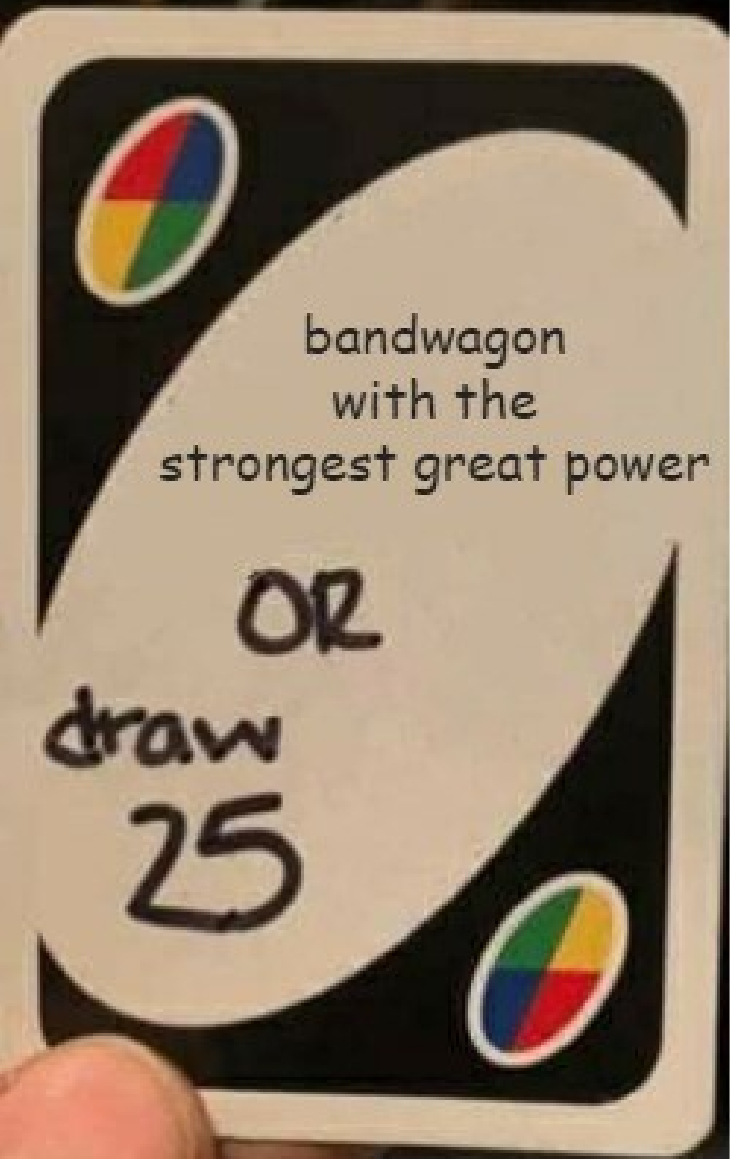


# Structural realism



**ONE DOES NOT SIMPLY ASSUME**

**ANARCHY IS A SELF-HELP SYSTEM CREATING UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE INTENTIONS OF OTHERS LEADING STATES TO BALANCE POWER AND ENGAGE IN WARS**



rational states maximizing their chances of survival by joining the balancing coalition



# Balance of power



## Offensive realism



States will maximize power under all circumstances and attempt to achieve hegemony if possible

[imgflip.com](https://imgflip.com)

## Defensive realism



States only seek enough power so they can be safe, too much power will invite a balancing coalition



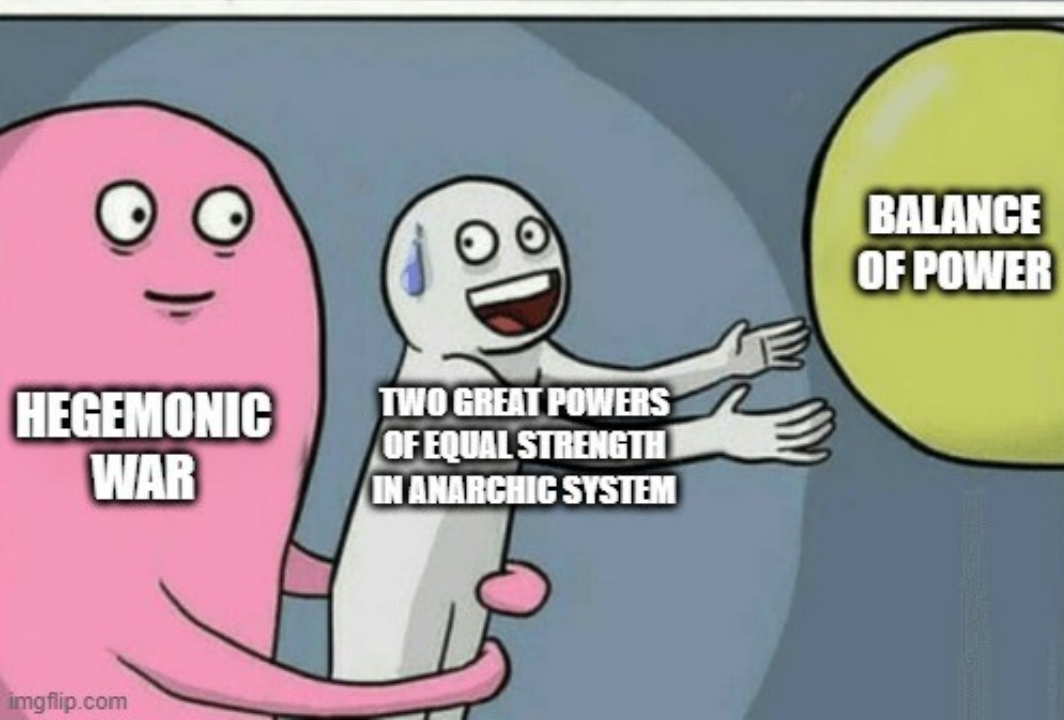
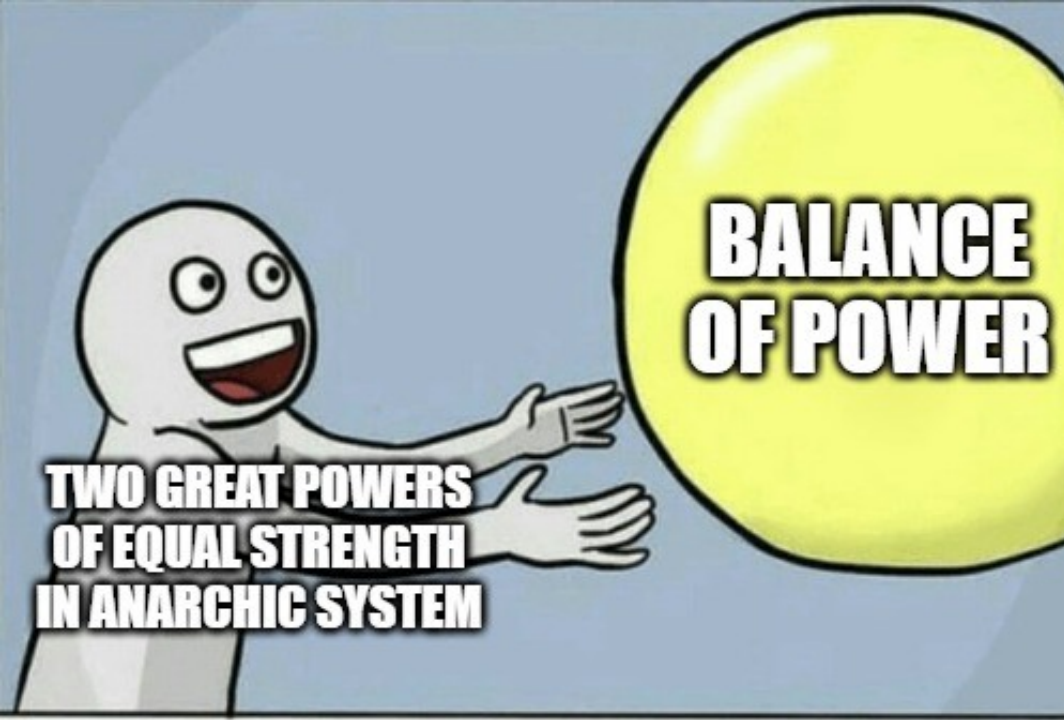
The effects of polarity





# Neoclassical realism





The two realist traditions





hegemonic  
war

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Thucydides  
trap

# Different strategies in realist theories

**POWER  
BALANCING**



**BUCK  
PASSING**



**BANDWAGONING**



**BLOOD  
LETTING**





Realist views of energy security