

Liberal Norms and Support for War in
Comparative Cross-Regime
Perspective.

*Evaluating the presence and influence
of liberal norms*

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Democratic Peace Thesis

Empirical finding (Babst, 1964)

Explanations

Factor (liberal)democracy

Liberal norms

Democratic institutions

Other explanatory factors

Economic interdependence

Military alliances

Common interests

Liberal Norms Explanation

Tries to explain:

Democracies do not fight with democracies

Democracies do fight with other regime-types

Underlying assumptions:

Liberal-democracies breed liberal norms

Other regimes lack these norms

Liberal norms cause peace

Problems earlier research

- Level of analysis
- Conceptualization
- Operationalization

- Case selection
- Black box of 'non-democracy'

This project

Test underlying assumptions

Offer alternative explanation support for war at individual level

Individual level

Conceptualization liberal norms

Cross-regime

Large N study liberal norms cross-regime

Experiments

Process tracing

Concept Liberal Norms

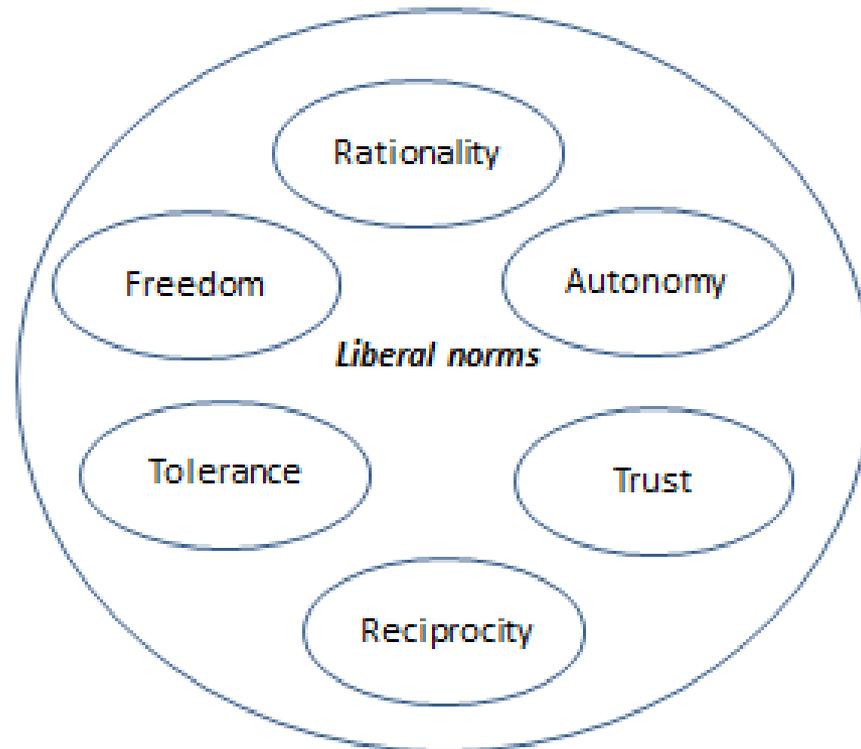


Figure 1

Operationalization

Liberal norms

| Dimension | Indicator |
|-------------|--|
| Rationality | Assumed (bounded rationality) |
| Freedom | Feeling of freedom within regime |
| Autonomy | Perceived control over life, finances and freedom of choice |
| Tolerance | Willingness to accept (also objectionable) behavior or views of others |
| Trust | Believe that others will not harm you and will look out for your interests |
| Reciprocity | Belief that taking responsibility for wellbeing of other will repay |

Experiments

Effect of three factors on support for war:

- Regime-type
- Level of Threat
- Level of aggressiveness

Control for:

- Liberal norms measure
- Individual predispositions towards foreign policy
- Feeling of fear

Cross-regime

Liberal democracy: USA

New democracy: South Africa

Hybrid regime: Russia

Autocracy: China

Triangulation

Cross-regime liberal norms (WVS)

Experimental approach (Cross-regime)

Process tracing (causal mechanism)

Thank you!