

# **IRD 315: REVOLUTIONS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

## **WEEK 3: How Do Revolutionary States Conduct Their Foreign Policy**

### **3.0. INTRODUCTION**

Foreign Policy is within the purview of sovereign states. As such, when a revolution occurs and the previous order is swiped away by a revolutionary replacement, the state function of Foreign Policy Making is inherited by the new order. Such transitioning warrants questions in the minds of an analyst on how these revolutionary states conduct their Foreign Policy. This question forms the direction of our this topic

### **3.1. WHAT IS THE REVOLUTIONARY STATE**

Firstly, we must understand what a revolutionary state is. A Revolutionary State can be said to be a sovereign entity, with a defined territory and population and the ability to enter into treaties with other states which emerge from the overthrow of a previously existing state or regime. For some, a revolution state is limited to the replacement governments or socio-political order that substitute an old regime. These states inherit the previous duties of the preceding regime. E.g. The First French Republic, The Soviet Union, etc

### **3.2. WHAT IS FOREIGN POLICY**

Foreign Policy is the guiding principle or framework which dictate a state's relations with its external environment. It can be said to be the domestic agenda of a state as promoted in its interaction with external elements. Likewise, it could be further viewed as the aspirations of citizens of a particular polity as conveyed through its national leadership, outside of the country, geared towards achieving a state national interest

### **3.3. HOW ARE STATES FOREIGN POLICY CONDUCTED**

The conduct of a state Foreign Policy is carried out in a formal structure. Although, this does not mean that leaders do not make use of informal avenue to conduct their Foreign Policy. For a state to carry out its Foreign Policy, it must first of all, set up its goals and objectives as well as the principles and ideology underpinning it. Likewise, it makes use of bureaucracies (i.e., Diplomats, Diplomatic Missions, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Protocols etc.). Also, Foreign Policy is influenced by some determinants (domestic and external)

### **3.4. REVOLUTIONARY STATES AND FOREIGN POLICY**

The Foreign Policy of revolutionary states is an understudied area of Revolutions. The Revolutionary States Foreign Policy is characterized by issues of New Diplomacy, the Role of Ideology and unconventional Foreign Policy Actions they

adopt. And so, the reason why some view the Foreign Policy of Revolutionary States as challenging the status-quo of international behaviour. For Example, the Foreign Policy Goal of a Revolutionary State will be distinct from that of a status-quo state. This is because the international system promotes some level of homogeneity, hence the appearance of revolutionary states is outright disruptive to the status quo and international norms. So the reason status-quo state react with avarice towards them. Hence, when revolutionary states assume the mantle from previous orders, they set about reinforcing their newly won legitimacy on both their internal structures and the external world.

### **3.5. OBJECTIVES OF REVOLUTIONARY STATES FOREIGN POLICY**

Some of these objective include but are not limited to:

- ❖ Recognition by other state and the international system at large
- ❖ The Export of the Revolution to other States
- ❖ To preserve the survival of the Revolution at Home
- ❖ To protect against or discourage counter-revolutionary elements

### **3.6. THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES ON REVOLUTIONARY STATES FOREIGN POLICY**

Amongst the literature of how revolutionary states conduct their foreign Policy, two theoretical perspectives can be put forward. These are the:

- ❖ The Realist Perspective
- ❖ The Liberal Perspective