

**Enduring question:**

***What factors make it more likely that states will resolve their differences and avoid war?***

* Distribution of power among states influences the potential for peace.
  + Balance of power may increase the likelihood of peace because no aggressive state has enough of a power advantage to risk war.
  + Hegemony may increase the likelihood of peace if peace is in the interests of the hegemon, since no state can challenge it.
* States use diplomacy and power balancing to try to increase international peace.
  + Diplomacy: actions taken by representatives of states negotiating with other representatives to resolve disputes and collaborate.
  + Power balancing: Actions taken by states to array “power against power”
    - Includes **internal** and **external balancing.**
    - Bandwagoning: When smaller, weaker states ally with larger states.
* International law and institutions have also been put in place to increase peace.
  + The League of Nations is an example of collective security.
  + The United Nations is another example of modified collective security.
    - Peacekeeping and peacemaking.
  + The European Union developed through rule-making and institutions.
* Transnational mechanisms allow private individuals and nongovernmental actors to play a role in peace promotion.
  + Economic interdependence: the idea that free trade promotes interests that promote peace.
  + A potential international community of democracies: The spread of democracies could create Zones of Peace around the world.
  + Peace movements within a global civil society also increase chances of living in a peaceful international system.

