1. **What are the most significant actors in the global political economy and why?**

* Different theoretical perspectives identify different key actors and offer different normative evaluations of their role (Chapter 1)
  + Realists emphasize states, especially powerful states
  + Liberals emphasize a variety of actors, including individuals, firms, and states
  + Critical theorists focus on other groups such as class or genders.
* Globalization and growth of global governance provokes debates about future of state (300-301) and the relevance of other actors such as firms or classes.
* In practice, different actors play significant roles in different areas
  + Globalization of production greatly enhances role of firms in managing, governing production (see Chapter 5).
    - Many governments eager to attract investment and may shape domestic regulations or infrastructure to attract FDI
    - Importance of transnational corporations in providing jobs, ability to shift capital often limits efforts at labour regulation (Chapter 9)
    - Tax abuses often actively undercut state power (Chapter 6, pp. 173-176);
    - However, bargaining between states and firms plays a significant role in shaping impacts of FDI (pp. 142-145), ‘competition states’ play important role in making possible role of TNCs
  + States play key roles in shaping governance of a number of different issues
    - Developmental states (pp. 225-226) often credited with success of East Asian Tigers
    - US state plays major role in shaping IMS through role of dollar; Nixon shock paved the way for current system of floating currencies (pp. 153-157)
    - Key states such as the US have a major voice in the operations of international institutions such as the World Bank and IMF
    - Aid and sanctions remain important tools of economic statecraft, despite move from state-centric Cold War security structure to growing relevance of non-state threats (pp. 290-293)
    - New emerging market powers, especially the BRICs, play an increasingly important role in the global political economy, including by forming new institutions for global development governance (pp. 307-301)
  + Variety of civil society actors important in different issue areas
    - Workers (including US workers, workers in NICs, peasants) play important role in shaping world order (pp. 193-196)
    - Gender (pp. 205-220) and environmental issues (pp. 251-252) mainstreamed in agendas of a number of different IOs through deliberate action by feminist and environmental activists
    - Criticisms of Washington Consensus by labour, environmentalists, street protests, contribute to (somewhat) diminishing influence of liberal ideas (p. 270)