

**Enduring question:**

***How can states attain peace?***

1. Diplomacy is frequently used as a mechanism for peace. However, there may be elements of it that can cause conflict if wielded improperly. Can you think of how diplomatic immunity, diplomatic snubs, or other elements of diplomacy might serve to undercut peace in some instances?
2. The idea of a community or summit of democracies has been proposed at various points over the last several decades. Suppose you were a leader who was working to get such a group started. How would you decide who gets to join the community; that is, how you define democracy for the purposes of this exercise? Do you think that the act of including versus excluding certain countries from the community could pose issues? Think back to controversy surrounding the UN Human Rights Council discussed in chapter 5. You can also refer to a debate on this question in the “outside resources” page for this chapter.
3. Which do you think is a more stable system: a multipolar balance of power, a bipolar system, or a unipolar hegemonic system? Why?
4. What do you think are the primary reasons that diplomacy sometimes fails? Why do states resort to war instead of settling differences peaceably?
5. Think of three good examples each of internal balancing and external balancing. Is one more effective than the other?
6. If you were a small, relatively weak state living next to a hegemon, would you opt for a power balancing strategy or a bandwagon strategy? Why?
7. Consider the League of Nations, the UN, and the EU. What differences led to the failure of the League of Nations compared to the UN? What differences currently exist between the EU and the UN?
8. Try stepping into the shoes of advocates of the major theories we have discussed. How might a realist go about keeping international peace? A liberal? A constructivist? A Marxist? A feminist?
9. How effective is the idea of collective security? Could collective security on a large scale put an end to war?
10. The textbook offers many citations to various authors who have debated the effect of economic interdependence on peace in the world. How do you assess these arguments? How does (or does not) economic interdependence contribute to a more peaceful world? Do you think globalization could ever reach a point where cost-benefit analyses made wars strictly harmful to all parties? If so, will they still be fought?