

Keohane, Robert O. 1984. *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter 3: Hegemony in the World Political Economy

Quick summary: A deterministic version of the theory of hegemonic stability, relying on the Realist concepts of interests and power, is incorrect. Hegemony is neither a necessary nor a sufficient condition for the emergence of cooperative relationships. Cooperation does not necessarily require the existence of a hegemonic leader after international regimes have been established. Post-hegemonic cooperation is also possible.

Chapter 3: Hegemony in the World Political Economy

Hegemony (defined as a situation in which 'one state is powerful enough to maintain the essential rules governing interstate relations, and willing to do so) is neither a necessary nor a sufficient condition for the emergence of cooperative relationships.

The theory of hegemonic stability has two central tenets: order in world politics is typically created by a single dominant power and the maintenance of order requires continued hegemony. Under such a theory, cooperation (defined as mutual adjustment of state policies to one another) also depends on the perpetuation of hegemony.

Concentrated power alone is not sufficient to create a stable international economic order in which cooperation flourishes, and the argument that hegemony is necessary for cooperation is both theoretically and empirically weak. If hegemony is redefined as the ability and willingness for a single state to make and enforce rules, furthermore, the claim that hegemony is sufficient for cooperation becomes virtually tautological.

Theories of hegemony should seek not only to analyze dominant powers' decisions to engage in rule-making and rule-enforcement, but also to explore why secondary states defer to the leadership of the hegemon. They need to account for the legitimacy of hegemonic regimes and for the coexistence of cooperation with hegemony.

Hegemony is related in complex ways to cooperation and to institutions such as international regimes. Successful hegemonic leadership itself depends on a certain form of asymmetrical cooperation. Cooperation may be fostered by hegemony, and hegemony requires cooperation to make and enforce rules.