Cyber Space in International Relations
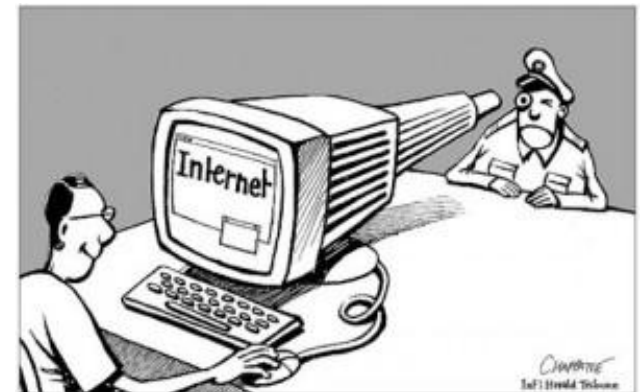
ICT for IR

International Relations, FISIP, UNIKOM

2017

- Cyberspace was considered largely a matter of *low politics.* In recent years, issues connected to cyberspace and its uses have vaulted into the highest realm of high politics

- Cyberspace capabilities are also a **source of vulnerability**, posing a **potential threat** to **national security** and a disturbance of the familiar international order

- Cyberspace (a new arena of human interaction)

- Cyberspace are reshaping contemporary international relations theory, policy, and practice

- All forms of space in international relations provide opportunities for expanding power and influence in world politics

- The term " space " refers to domains of interactions that :

  (1) create potential sources of power,

  (2) provide for an expansion of influence and leverage, (3) enable new services, resources, knowledge, or markets,

  (4) realize further potentials when reinforced and sustained by technological advances

- When the activities of one actor threaten the sovereignty, stability, or security of other actors, then space becomes a **critical variable** in international relations

Characteristics of cyberspace

- *Temporality — replaces conventional temporality with near instantaneity*
- *Physicality — transcends constraints of geography and physical location*
- *Permeation — penetrates boundaries and jurisdictions*
- *Fluidity — manifests sustained shifts and reconfigurations*
- *Participation — reduces barriers to activism and political expression*
- *Attribution — obscures identities of actors and links to action*
- *Accountability — bypasses mechanisms of responsibility*

□ By 2010 the number of people with Internet access had reached nearly two billion. This space offers new opportunities for competition, contention, and conflict — all fundamental elements of politics and the pursuit of power and influence.

Welcome to CYBERSPACE

POPULATION: 1,700,000,000 AND GROWING

□ The cyber sphere is now a venue for competition among interests and interest groups, as well as an arena for conflicts and contentions surrounding the increasingly visible hand of government. We can no longer ignore the political salience of cyberspace

□ cyberspace is becoming " heavily contested, colonized, and reshaped by governments, militaries, and private corporate and civic networks

" Internet is not ' unbound with respect to geography "

- cyber realities undermine state sovereignty in notable ways (see, e.g., Kahin and Nesson 1997). In this view, cyberspace " is destroying the link between geographic location and:

  (1) the *power* of local governments to assert control over online behavior;

  (2) the *effects of online behavior on individuals or things;*

  (3) *the legitimacy of* the efforts of a local sovereign to enforce the rules applicable to global phenomena; and

  (4) the *ability of physical location to give notice of*

   which sets of rules apply

- How can we take explicit account of cyberspace in the analysis of international relations and world politics?
- What are the notable patterns of cyber access and participation worldwide?
- What new types of international conflicts and contentions arise from activities in cyberspace?
- What are the new modes of international collaboration?
- What are alternative cyber futures?
- In sum, how do we address the new imperatives for international relations theory that emerge from the construction of cyberspace?