**Conceptual Words & Phrases Sort**

 In the article, “What Would Wilson Do?” we are confronted with three major concepts as well as a plethora of vocabulary describing those concepts. As with most concepts, the ideas inherent in and characteristic of one concept may also apply to another concept. For instance, the idea of “balancing ambition with feasibility and material costs” (#23) can fit with both Realism and Wilsonianism. When a concept’s critical characteristics are shared with other concepts, the result can be confusing for students. Consider as an example the concepts of “democracy” and “republic.” These concepts describe very different ideas but share critical characteristics such as popular sovereignty, voting for officials, rule of law, etc. Working through a conceptual analysis when a reading is “concept heavy” can be a productive way to **read closely and deeply** as well as to develop an in-depth understanding of the concepts and vocabulary involved. It can also be a great **pre-writing strategy** if a compare/contrast analysis is warranted.

1. In your small groups, discuss each of the following 45 words and phrases. Based on your understanding of the article, place a “R,” “I,” and/or “W” in the box. This is not an exact science! Because the author works with these ideas in a fairly fluid manner, it can be difficult to assign a word to a single area. The discussion is the most important aspect. Ask one member of the group to make a final decision if a decision eludes the group. You may also choose to place a word in multiple categories.
2. Discuss vocabulary. Does the group share an understanding of “sovereignty,” “providential,” “hegemon,” “preemptive,” etc.?
3. Finally, come up with your own group definitions of the three major concepts as they are explained in this article: realism, idealism, and Wilsonianism. Write your definitions in on the diagram.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Moral aspiration
 | 1. Prudence
 | 1. Unsentimental caution
 | 1. Single sustainable model for national success
 | 1. Universalizing claims
 |
| 1. Sovereignty
 | 1. Ceaseless exercise of power
 | 1. Contentious states in tenuous equilibrium
 | 1. Appeals to morality and justice
 | 1. “The strong do what they will and the weak suffer what they might.”
 |
| 1. International law and permanent peace
 | 1. Utopian
 | 1. Raison d’etat (national interest)
 | 1. Separate and equal stations as sovereign states
 | 1. Only certain kinds of states can be regarded as fully legitimate
 |
| 1. Only states deriving power from the consent of the governed are rightfully constituted
 | 1. A world composed of republics is more peaceful than a world of monarchies
 | 1. Value driven, morally infused
 | 1. Devoted to concepts of international law
 | 1. Providential mission to redeem the world
 |
| 1. Transcendent standards of justice
 | 1. Importance of limits
 | 1. Balancing ambition with feasibility and material costs
 | 1. Exporting ideals
 | 1. State security
 |
| 1. Project its power
 | 1. Strength to work its will
 | 1. Great power pursuing worldwide interests commensurate with its capacities
 | 1. Understand the difference between ideological aspiration and historical possibility
 | 1. Fitted ideals to the circumstances confronted
 |
| 1. World now bristled with dangers that no single state could contain
 | 1. Prospects that could be seized only by states acting together
 | 1. Isolationism
 | 1. Active engagement with other states to muzzle the dogs of war
 | 1. Adaptation of venerable practices to modern circumstances
 |
| 1. An engaged international role
 | 1. Ruling with preemptive Olympian majesty
 | 1. Imperial power
 | 1. Hegemon: a guide, a leader between consenting groups
 | 1. The responsibility of great states is to serve and not dominate the peoples of the world
 |
| 1. Pursue its own aggrandizement and material benefit
 | 1. Empire by invitation
 | 1. Predominance is not the same thing as omnipotence
 | 1. Recognize and obey stipulated rules of international behavior
 | 1. Multilateral cooperation…acting unilaterally only in the extreme.
 |