

### Chapter 17: Gender

- Gender is a social construct. It is not the same as biological sex, against which it is often contrasted. Gender refers to the social codes that express ideals of masculinity and femininity.
- Just because gender is constructed does not mean it is imaginary. It has the force of a fact because we behave as if it is a fact. So gender also includes the practices and behaviours that express and enforce social codes.
- Gender is a structure of power because gender norms and gendered behaviours are means by which some people receive benefits, while others suffer harms.
- Gender does not exist in isolation. It intersects with other forms of power in complex ways.
- Gender studies is not the same as feminism, although they are closely related historically and conceptually.
- Gender is relational. The meanings of masculinity and femininity are not fixed, but established in interaction and contrast with each other.
- Gender is multiple. It means more than 'male' or 'female'; there are always various possible ways of being masculine or feminine, depending on the gender order in place.
- Gender changes over time, at least in part due to political struggles over what it does and should mean.
- Gender structures how we think of international politics, right down to how we represent states, their rulers, citizens, and defenders.
- Gendered rules also shape basic elements of international politics, such as border crossing.
- Gender inequality is a major topic of contemporary political debate, and many international organizations are officially dedicated to taking a gender perspective seriously.
- The international community has committed to acting on gender inequalities through treaties, world conferences, UN resolutions, and specialist organizations, but debate exists about the degree of progress and which inequalities are the most pressing.
- Gender norms affect who can use violence and who it is used against. These norms make persons into soldiers and civilians and can distort the reality of who is most at risk.
- Global security is shaped by assumptions of masculinity (such as the battle-age male) and femininity (such as 'womenandchildren').
- Simplistic ideas of men as violent and women as vulnerable are unsustainable. Gender analysis helps us to understand the complexity of individuals' situated gender positions.
- Gender matters in the preparation, enactment, and aftermath of war. Gender is reshaped in the process of political violence, but stereotypical gender roles can also re-emerge at war's end.
- Gender structures economic behaviour, and gender ideologies support a sexual division of labour in which women's work tends to be lower-paid and more precarious.
- The gendered character of the economy is about more than waged labour; it also includes hidden kinds of work in the 'reproductive economy'.
- Flows of reproductive and care labour are a major element of the global economy today.
- Despite multiple manifestations of the sexual division of labour, there is no single or simple way to characterize the disparity between women and men in the global economy. Some

women wield extraordinary economic power, and many men face poverty and oppressive labour conditions.