TABLE 11.1 Four Approaches to Security

Security Approach	Sources of Insecurity	World Political System	Armaments Strategy	Primary Peacekeeping Mechanism	Strategy
Unlimited self-defense	Many; probably inherent in humans	State-based national interests and rivalries; fear	Have many and all types to guard against threats	Armed states, deterrence, alliances, balance of power	Peace through strength
Limited self-defense	Many; perhaps inherent, but weapons intensify	State-based; limited cooperation based on mutual interests	Limit amount and types to reduce capabilities, damage, tension	Armed states; defensive capabilities, lack of offensive capabilities	Peace through limited offensive ability
International security	Anarchical world system; lack of law or common security mechanisms	International political integration; regional or world government	Transfer weapons and authority to international force	International peacekeeping/ peace enforcement	Peace through law and universal collective defense
Abolition of war	Weapons; personal and national greed and insecurity	Options from pacifist states to global village model	Eliminate weapons	Lack of ability; lack of fear; individual and collective pacifism	Peace through being peaceful

Concept source: Rapoport (1992).

The path to peace has long been debated. The four approaches outlined here provide some basic alternatives that help structure this chapter on security.

Unlimited self-defense, the first of the four approaches, is the traditional approach of each country being responsible for its own defense and amassing weapons it wishes for that defense. The thinking behind this approach rests on the classic realist assumption that humans have an inherent element of greed and aggressiveness that promotes individual and collective violence. This makes the international system, from the realists' perspective, a place of danger where each state must fend for itself or face the perils of domination or destruction by other states.

Beyond the traditional approach to security, there are three alternative approaches: *limited self-defense* (arms limitations), *international security* (regional and world security forces), and *abolition of war* (complete disarmament and pacifism). Each of these will be examined in the pages that follow. Realists do not oppose arms control or even international peacekeeping under the right circumstances. Realists, for instance, recognize that the huge arsenals of weapons that countries possess are dangerous and, therefore, there can be merit in carefully negotiated, truly verifiable arms accords. But because the three alternative approaches all involve some level of trust and depend on the triumph of the spirit of human cooperation over human avarice and power-seeking, they are all more attractive to liberals than to realists.

Standards of Evaluation

Our central question is to determine which or what mix of the various approaches to security offers us the greatest chance of safety. To begin to evaluate various possibilities, consider the college community in which you live. The next time you are in class, look around you. Is anyone carrying a gun? Are you? Probably not. Think about why you are not armed. The answer is that you feel relatively secure. Are you?

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