

IS CHESS A FITTING OR MISLEADING METAPHOR FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS?



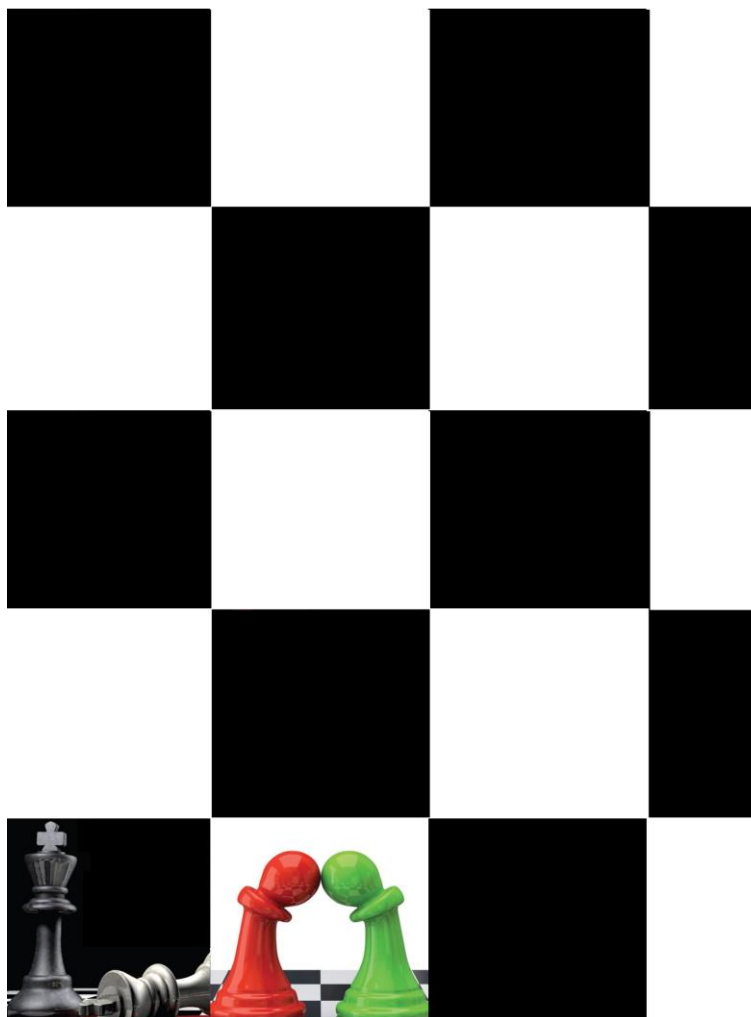
AN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS' SEMINAR BY

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Chess has been used to represent and symbolize international relations (IR) both in everyday discussions by non-academics, but also by experts and practitioners of the field, from Graham Allison to Henry Kissinger and Mao Zedong. This talk focuses on the question what image IR projects of itself using the metaphor of chess, foremost by using it in visual references to international relations on book covers, in advertisements, or in cartoons.

In my talk I discuss, first, visual metaphors' role in the epistemological process; and second, how images may reinforce and corroborate particular understandings of IR — while at the same time they may also offer captivating critiques of the way we think about and practice international relations.