

# A Theory of Neutrality Rights in War

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# Question

How (if at all) can the laws of war affect state behavior?

# Motivation

Laws of war govern behavior between

- Co-belligerents (POWs, civilians, violence)
  - ▶ Threats of reciprocity
  - ▶ (Morrow 2002, 2007; Wallace 2012; Valentino et al. 2006)
- Belligerents and third parties (neutrality)
  - ▶ Threats of *intervention*
  - ▶ Where this paper comes in

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# Theory

- Theory of international law

- ▶ Coordinates expectations on unacceptable behavior and response (Morrow 2002, 2014)
- ▶ May also reduce costs of intervention (cf. Voeten 2005)

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# The Model

- Players: belligerent ( $B$ ), third party ( $A$ )
- Belligerent honors or violates neutrality
  - ▶ military boost at some cost  $c_B$
  - ▶ expansionist  $\bar{\beta}$  values victory more than satiable type  $\underline{\beta}$
  - ▶  $\underline{\beta} < \bar{\beta}$
- Third party joins war or not
  - ▶ would like to fight expansionist but not satiable type
  - ▶ uncertain over belligerent's type
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for generic  $\beta$ ,

$$u_B = \begin{cases} (\rho + b) \beta & \text{if } h, \neg j \\ (\rho + b - a) \beta & \text{if } h, j \\ (\rho\lambda + b) \beta - c_B & \text{if } v, \neg j \\ (\rho\lambda + b - a) \beta - c_B & \text{if } v, j, \end{cases}$$

$$u_A = \begin{cases} (\rho + b) u_A(\beta) & \text{if } h, \neg j \\ (\rho + b - a) u_A(\beta) - c_A & \text{if } h, j \\ (\rho\lambda + b) u_A(\beta) & \text{if } v, \neg j \\ (\rho\lambda + b - a) u_A(\beta) - d c_A & \text{if } v, j \end{cases}$$

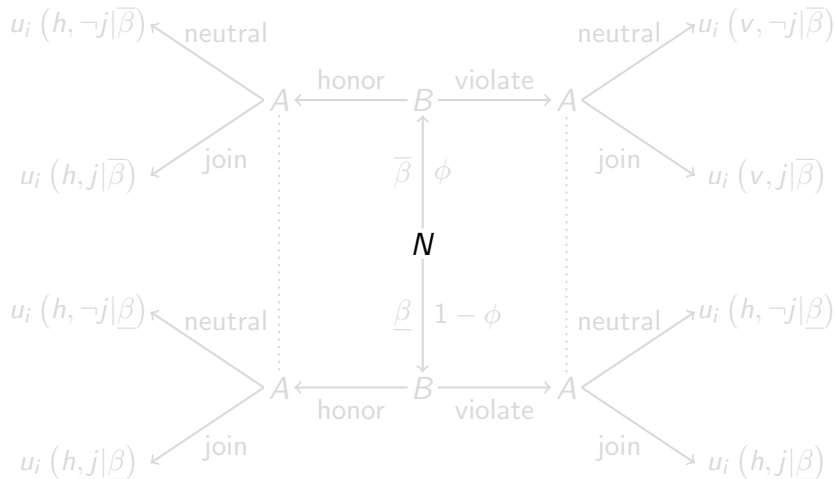
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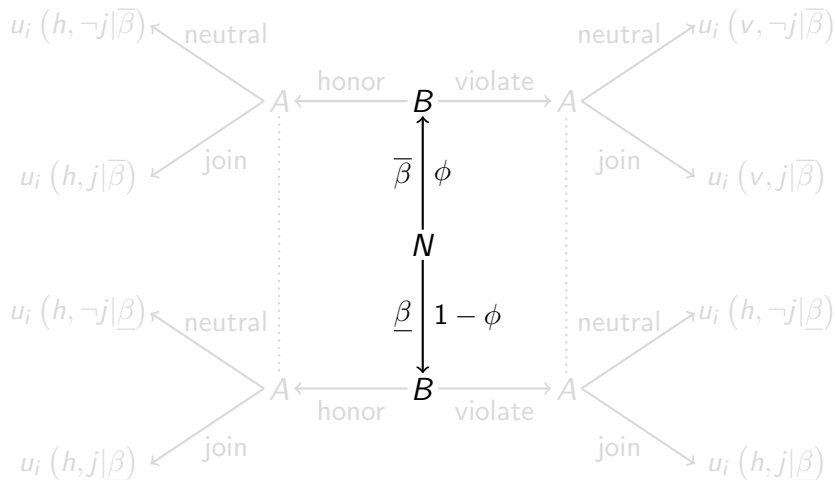
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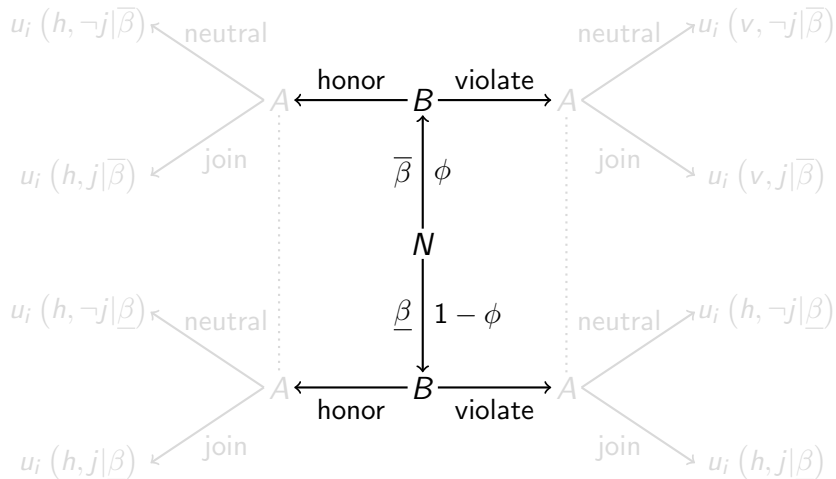
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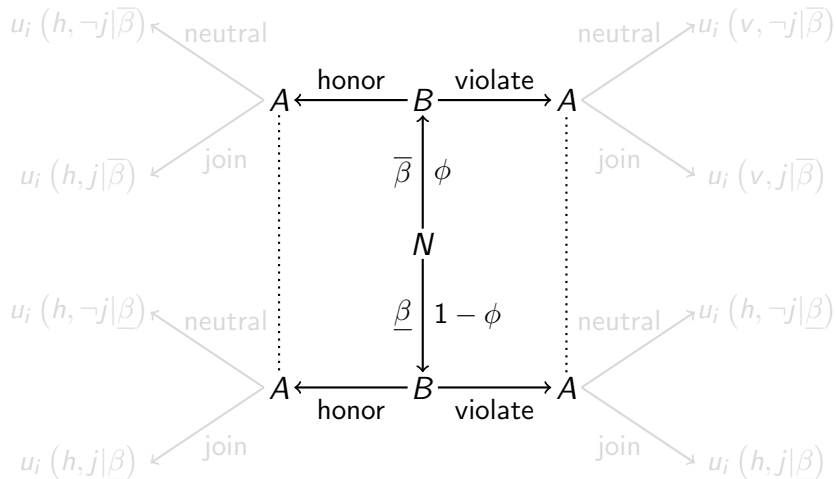


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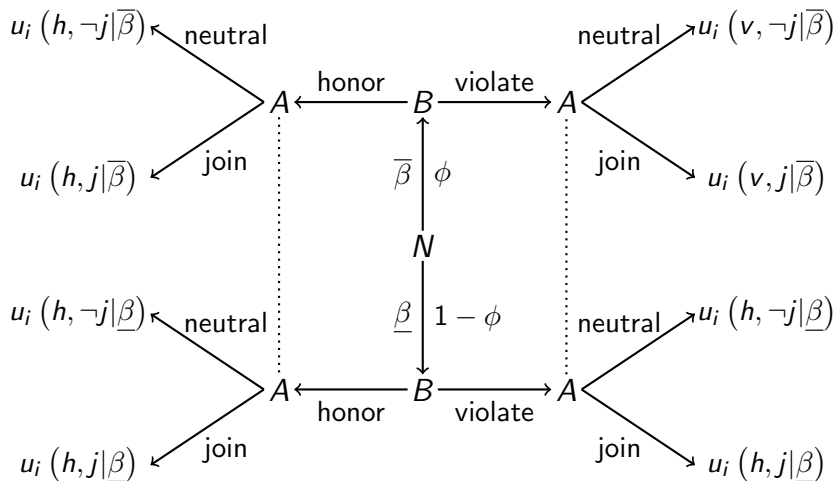




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# Analysis

## Three types of equilibrium

- No law / opportunistic violation → both types violate\*
- Full compliance / pooling → no type violates
- Separating → only expansionist violates

## Two types of effect

- Equilibrium selection
- Equilibrium replacement

... but both depend on opportunistic defection existing as well

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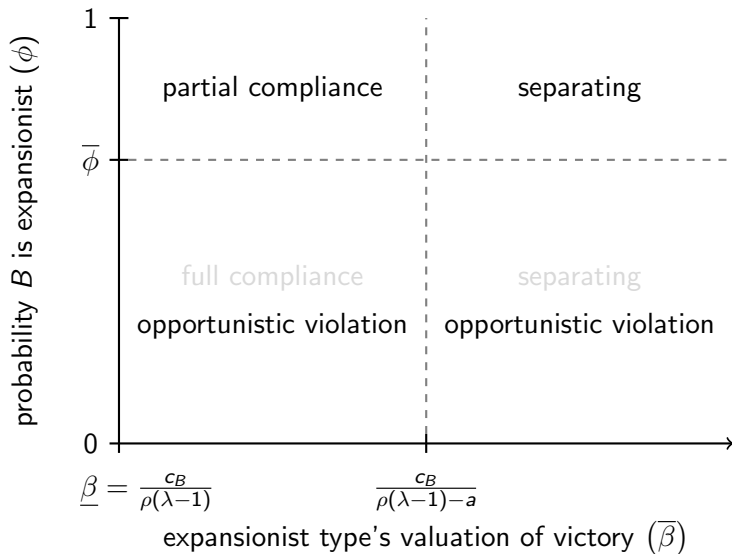
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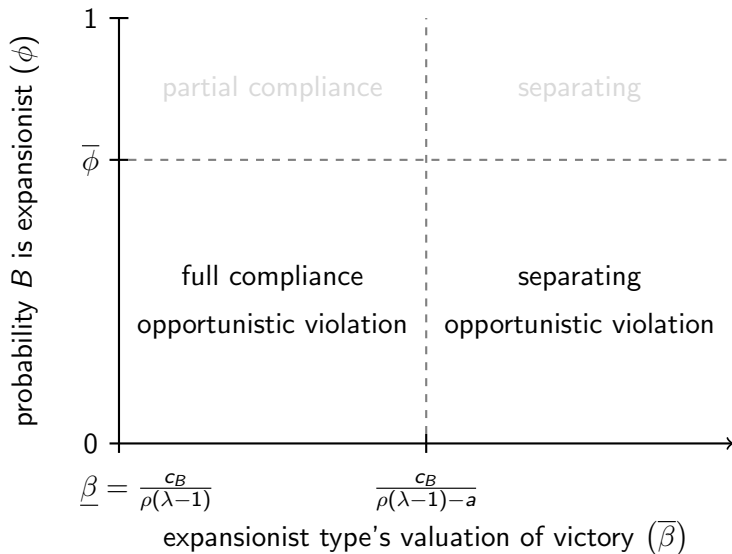
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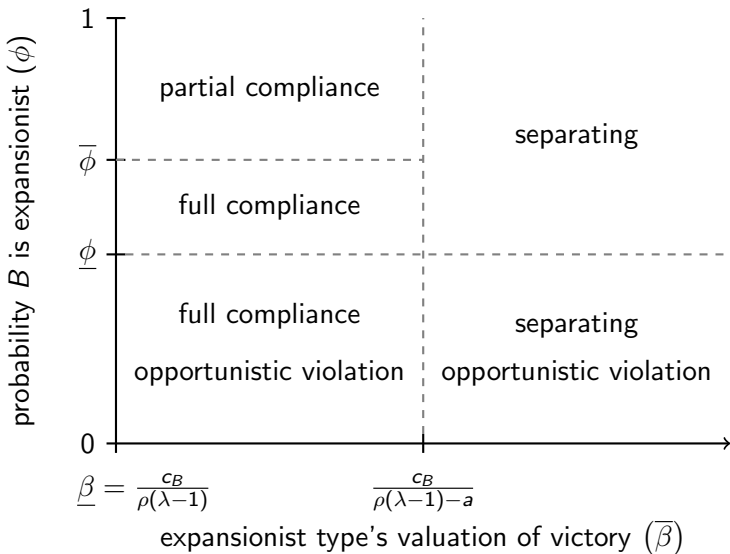




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# Implications

1. Effect greatest when expansionism believed rare.
2. Violations facilitate **desirable** interventions b/c only expansionists violate.
  - “punishment” spurious to desirable intervention
  - compliance the right standard?
3. More powerful 3rd parties more prone to regretted non-intervention.
4. Violations independently increase chances of war expansion.

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- Laws of neutrality are unique
  - ▶ govern behavior b/w belligerents and non-belligerents
- Integrated theories of law and war expansion
- Deterrence vs. solving information problems
- Implications for
  - ▶ Judging effectiveness
  - ▶ Spuriousness of “punishment”
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Questions? Comments?

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