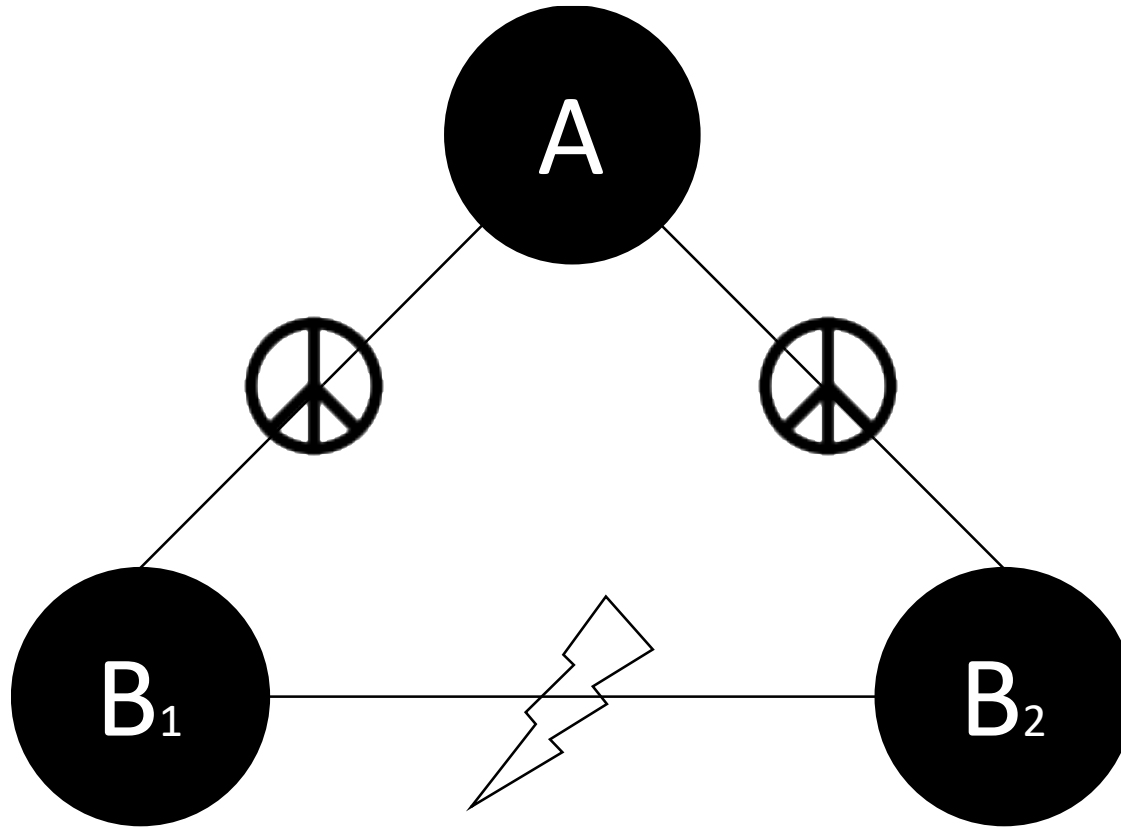


The “Neutral Idea” after the Second World War



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December 14, 2019

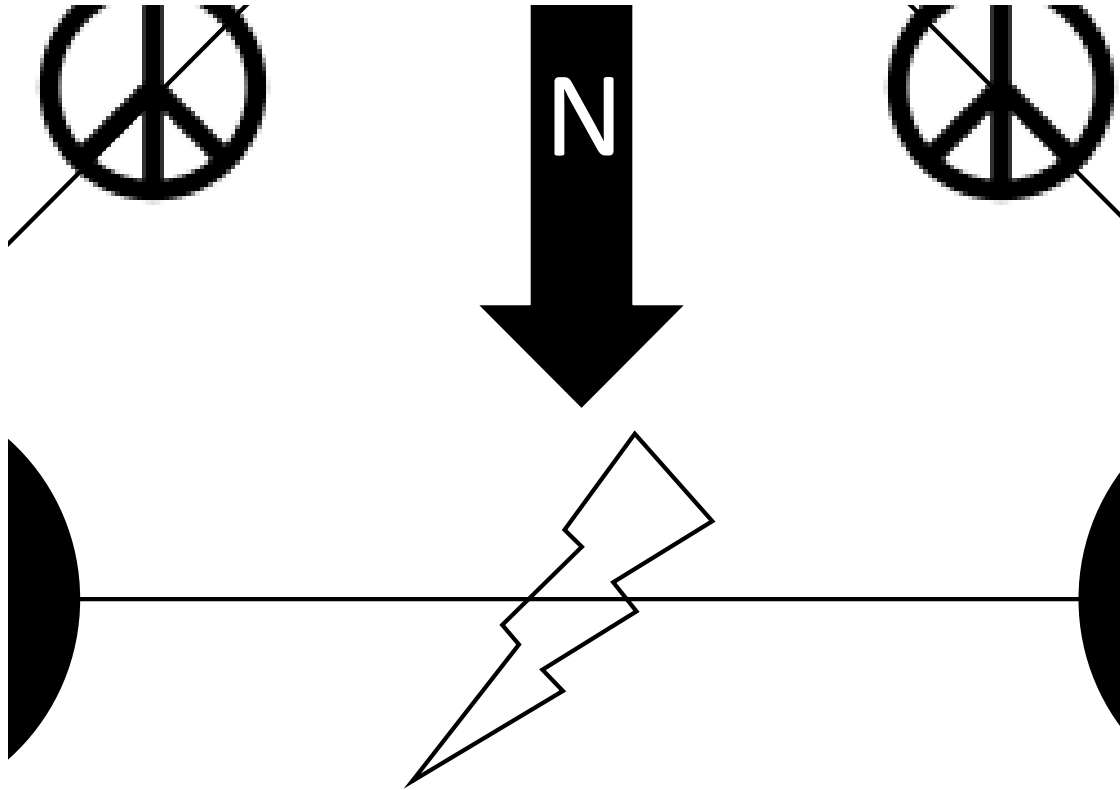
The “Neutral Idea”



- “Being Friends with Enemies”
- It is old
- It is political in nature
- It is a reaction to a conflict



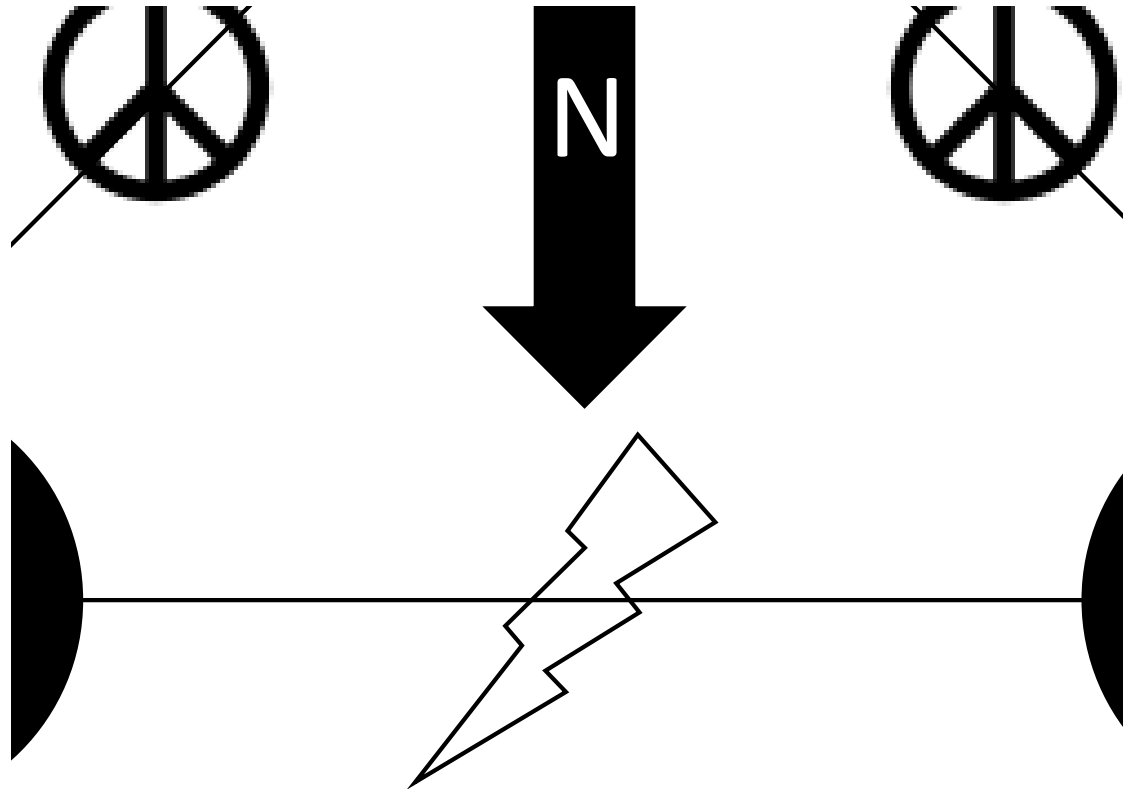
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The “Neutral Idea”



- “Being Friends with Enemies”
- It is old
- It is political in nature
- It is a reaction to conflict
- Ergo: If the nature of conflict changes, the nature of neutrality, too, changes
- The way war is „fought and thought“ determines the appearance of neutrality



1815–1945: The very long 19th Century



Neutralities were (usually):

- The domain of Great Powers
- Maritime
- Situational / Occasional

Developments

- "Permanent Neutrality" was invented (for small states and territories)
- Codification under International Law
- Hague Conferences of 1899 and 1907

1945–TBD: The Nuclear 20th Century

Neutralities are:

- Permanent or Nonaligned

Developments

- Occasional Neutrality vanished
- “Traditional” permanent neutrals became part of the ideological West
- Permanent neutrals develop a “Vorkwirkungslehre”
- “Nonalignment” is the ideological answer to the Cold War Dichotomy, transforming Neutrality into an “-ism”.



1945–Today

Google Books Ngram Viewer

Graph these comma-separated phrases: ☐ case-insensitive

between and from the corpus with smoothing of [Search lots of books](#)



Why care about Neutrals & NPT

- Neutral actors occupy an interesting space in IR.
- Post-WWII Neutralities are strange. They break with old traditions.
- The 50s and 60s were a transition period.
- In some neutral countries the same people who were responsible for WWII neutrality were also instrumental for the NPT process.

