

The background is a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white dots. On the left side, there are several overlapping circular elements. A prominent one is a large circle with a scale around its perimeter, marked with numbers from 140 to 260 in increments of 10. Other circles are partially visible, some with dashed lines and arrows, suggesting a complex, interconnected system or data visualization.

WORLD POLITICS

INTRODUCTION

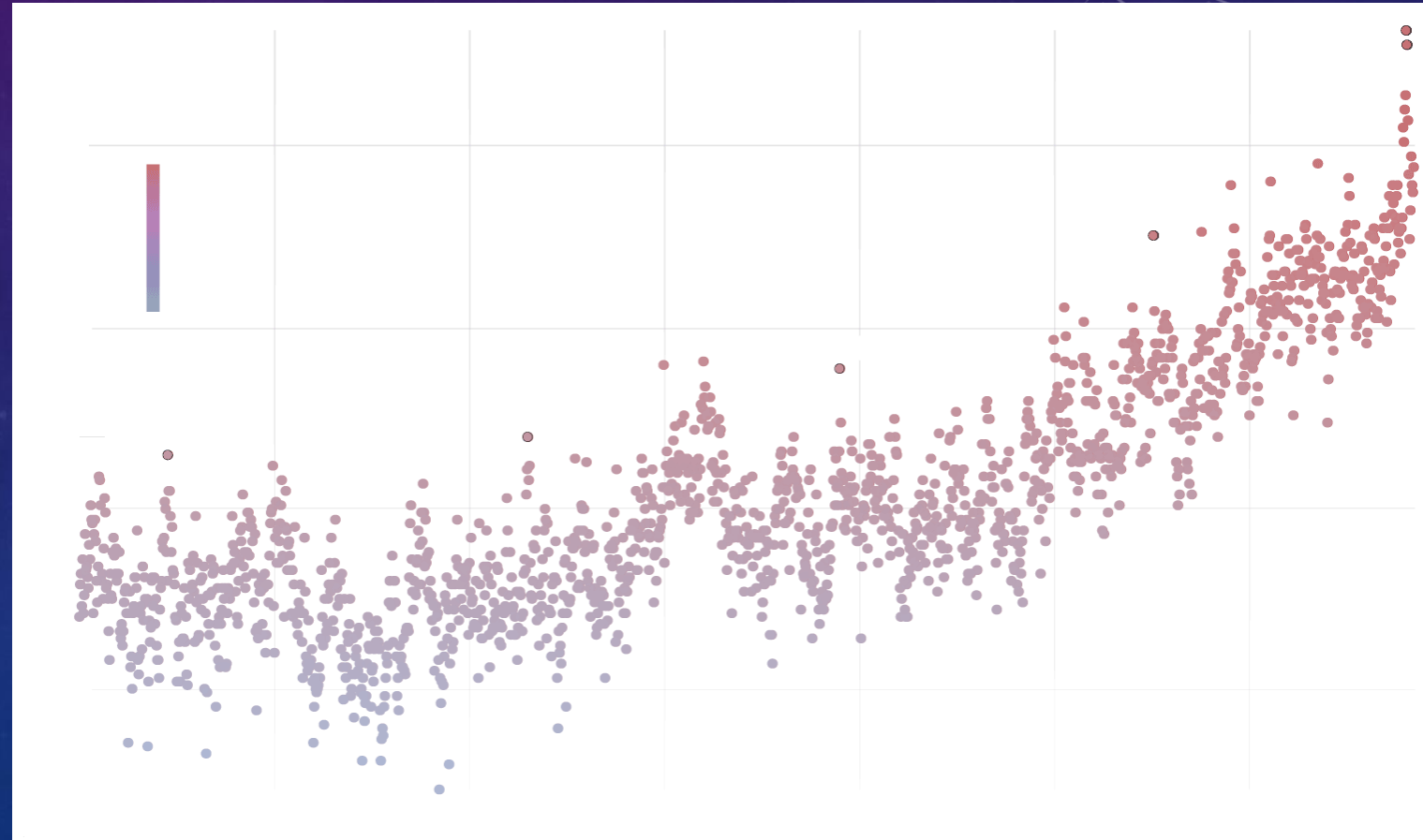
WHY DO WE STUDY IT?

- Rabbi Ben Zion Uziel. What was his story?
- To prepare for the worst, and hope for the best
- Peoples, countries, all have unique interests, interactions, and institutions.... yet we all now share the same finite planetary resources.
- “We study world politics because the bad things in the world distress us and because the good things give us hope that, through understanding and effort, the world could be a better place.”



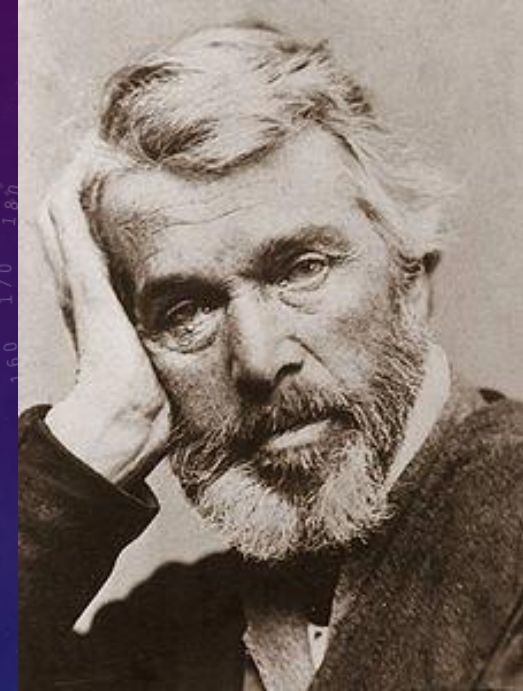
QUICK SIDENOTE ON RESOURCES... AND OUR PLANET

- From the [NYT](#): Global temperatures have continued to rise, making 2016 the hottest year on the historical record and the third consecutive record-breaking year, scientists say. Of the 17 hottest years ever recorded, 16 have now occurred since 2000.



ITS (INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS) ALSO DEPRESSING

- “I should say, like some we have heard of; no, a dreary, desolate and, indeed, quite abject and distressing one; what we might call, by way of eminence, the *dismal science* “ -Thomas Carlyle
- Many agree that International Relations is also this... don't mean to bum you out.
- Things are pretty bad though, aren't they. What do you think?



AND YET..... THERE ARE SOME POSITIVES

- Since 1945, global violence has actually decreased... and in fact since day one (of civilization) violence is on the decline.
- Can you believe that?!
- Let's FIND OUT

TINKER

**THE BETTER ANGELS
OF OUR NATURE**

**WHY VIOLENCE
HAS DECLINED**



THE BOOKS 12 PUZZLES



- These are the most compelling and signature issues faced by International Relations scholars.
- We don't have time in this class to do all 12. I wish we could.
- Let's review them. We will likely only do 5 or 6.
- There is also the history chapter and the chapter on Interests, Interactions & Institutions

The background is a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white stars. Overlaid on this are several technical diagrams in a lighter blue color. On the right side, there is a large circular gauge with concentric rings and numerical markings from 0 to 210. Below it is another circular diagram with dashed lines and arrows. On the left side, there are partial views of similar circular diagrams. The overall aesthetic is that of a technical or scientific presentation.

DURING AND AFTER EACH PUZZLE, WE TRY TO SOLVE THEM.

- What's a THEORY?
- What are INTERESTS, INTERACTIONS, and INSTITUTIONS? This is the foundational framework of the book.
- BARGAINING
- COOPERATION

LEVELS OF ANALYSIS

- International Level
- Domestic Level
- Transnational Level

OUR BOOK INTRODUCES THE 3 IR SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT, THEN SAYS IT WON'T USE THEM

- **Realism:** Relies on 2 major beliefs: 1) States are the dominant actors, and 2) world politics is defined by anarchy. The state of nature is war, or the fear of war.
- **Liberalism:** There are many different types of actors on the international stage, places more importance on internal factors (to state interests), and actors desire wealth. They are more optimistic...
- **Constructivism:** Like liberals except that they focus on different priorities for states.... Ideas, culture, norms... (instead of wealth).

1. GIVEN THE COSTS OF WAR, WHY DO COUNTRIES WAGE IT?

- Game theory might help answer that....

2. IS WAG THE DOG REAL?? (DOMESTIC POLITICS & WAR)

- Remember the Maine.....
- 54'40" or Fight!
- Tippecanoe & Tyler Too....
- Iwo Jima

WHY IS IT SO HARD FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO CONTROL THE WORLD?

- UN anyone?

WHY IS SO MUCH VIOLENCE PERPETRATED BY NON-STATE ACTORS?

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WHY ARE TRADE BARRIERS SO COMMON?

