

## **Abstract**

Liberalism encompasses many disciplines. Individual freedom, free-market capitalism, republican form of government, and rule of law are considered to be among its main pillars. The Thesis illustrates an original analysis of three partial “liberal” theories of International Relations (IR) – referred to as “approaches” because of their interdisciplinarity – and their main scholars’ considerations *vis-à-vis* important selected elements of global politics, with peace as the general background. The three analyzed approaches are Economic Liberalism, Democratic Peace Theory, and Democratic Realism. Keeping into account their differences, traditions, and purposes, the approaches are operationalized through five subchapters – institutions, free-market, international law, conflict intervention, and nationalism – to prove their compatibility, non-contradiction, and possible juxtaposition *vis-à-vis* these features. Despite some “empirical differences”, while looking at the selected-IR issues, the approaches have “common threads”, and this is visible when the three frameworks and their top-selected scholars are confronted with the elements. After a general introduction on liberalism, a definition of peace in IR, and a quick overview of Peace Studies, the three approaches are presented in their theoretical formulation, along with their main content, inspirational figures and theorists, salient literature, and weaknesses. These are the theoretical tools that will allow understanding the approaches’ positions and thoughts on the selected IR features. Together, the three approaches can be defined as “liberal” since they share a commitment towards the individual, free trade, interstate cooperation, rule of law – but also the similar concerns on the international institutions and law, conflict, war, security, and autocracies. However, most of all, along with freedom, it is their link to the background issue and desirable outcome, the “invisible guideline” of peace, that – with limits – ties them together.

## **Keywords**

Liberalism, International Relations, Economic Liberalism, Neoliberal Institutionalism, Democratic Peace Theory, Democratic Realism, Peace, Freedom, International institutions

## **Title**

Selected elements of global politics: Theoretical aspects, common threads, and empirical divergences in three “liberal” International Relations’ approaches