

Title: The Contemporary International System: Beyond Westphalia?

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Abstract:

The thesis analyses the contemporary international European system and its chief characteristics. Its main goal is to compare the existing European international system with the ideal model of the modern Westphalian order as defined in the classical works of realist authors in international relations, such as Hans Morgenthau, Kenneth Waltz and Hedley Bull. The thesis will also reflect upon the contemporary debates on the nature of the existing international system, building on texts by Robert Cooper. The thesis will first define the concept (ideal model) of Westphalian system and subsequently will apply it to the contemporary European international relations with the aim to assess whether the contemporary world can still be labelled as "Westphalian" or whether it has moved away from it.

Keywords: International Relations, Westphalian System, Postwestphalian System, Sovereignty, Anarchic Structure, Balance of power