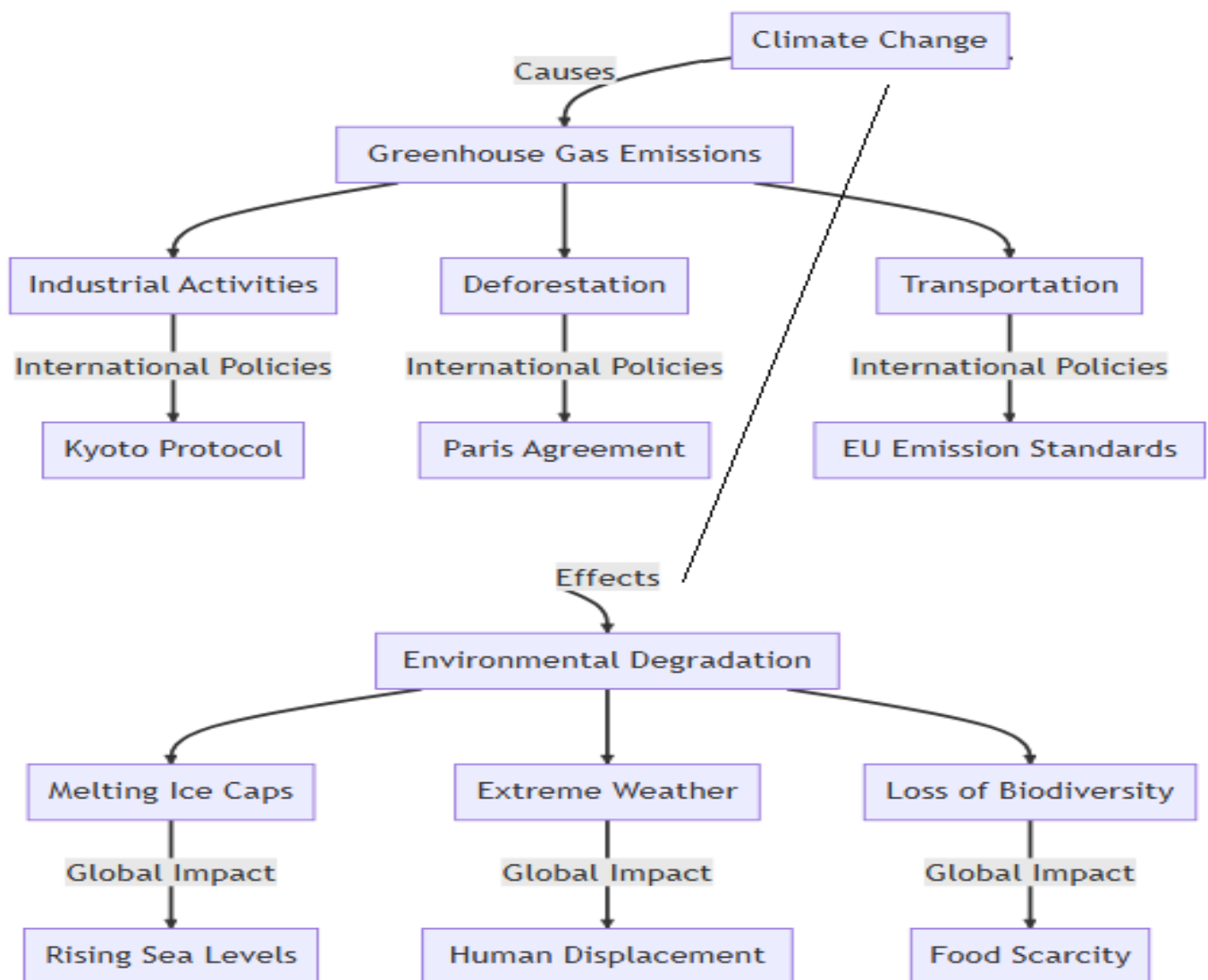


Climate change and the environment

Welcome to this lesson on one of the most pressing issues in international relations today: Climate Change and the Environment. As global citizens, it's crucial to understand how climate change impacts not just our immediate surroundings but also has far-reaching implications on international politics, economics, and social structures.

Climate change is no longer a distant threat; it's a current reality. Its effects are not confined by geographical boundaries, making it a critical subject in international relations. The policies and actions of one nation can have a ripple effect, impacting ecosystems, economies, and human lives across the globe. Therefore, understanding the international dimensions of climate change is essential for anyone studying or working in the field of international relations.



Explanation of the Diagram

The diagram illustrates the complex relationship between climate change, its causes, effects, and the international policies aimed at mitigating it.

1. **Climate Change:** The root node from which two main branches emerge.
 - **Causes:** Leads to Greenhouse Gas Emissions.
 - **Effects:** Leads to Environmental Degradation.
2. **Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** Further divided into three sub-nodes.
 - **Industrial Activities:** Represented by policies like the Kyoto Protocol.
 - **Deforestation:** Governed by policies like the Paris Agreement.
 - **Transportation:** Subject to EU Emission Standards.
3. **Environmental Degradation:** Also divided into three sub-nodes.
 - **Melting Ice Caps:** Resulting in rising sea levels.
 - **Extreme Weather:** Leading to human displacement.
 - **Loss of Biodiversity:** Causing food scarcity.
4. **International Policies:** These are the policies aimed at controlling the causes of climate change.
 - **Kyoto Protocol:** Targets industrial activities.
 - **Paris Agreement:** Targets deforestation.
 - **EU Emission Standards:** Targets transportation.
5. **Global Impact:** These are the worldwide consequences of environmental degradation.
 - **Rising Sea Levels:** Due to melting ice caps.
 - **Human Displacement:** Due to extreme weather.
 - **Food Scarcity:** Due to loss of biodiversity.

Case Studies

1. **Kyoto Protocol:** An international treaty that commits state parties to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It was largely focused on industrial activities and had mixed success.
2. **Paris Agreement:** A more recent international treaty that aims to mitigate climate change by reducing deforestation and promoting sustainable energy. It has been ratified by many countries but faces challenges in enforcement.
3. **EU Emission Standards:** These are a series of emission standards defining the acceptable limits for exhaust emissions of new vehicles sold in the European Union and EEA member states. They have been effective in reducing emissions from transportation.
4. **International Policies:** The Paris Agreement aims to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius.

5. **International Agreements:** The Kyoto Protocol was an international treaty that extends the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
6. **Regional Initiatives:** The European Green Deal aims to make the EU's economy sustainable by turning climate and environmental challenges into opportunities.
7. **Global Governance:** The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is an international environmental treaty addressing climate change.
8. **NGOs:** Organizations like Greenpeace are actively involved in climate change mitigation efforts.
9. **UN:** The United Nations plays a pivotal role in bringing nations together to discuss and implement climate policies.
10. **Regional Organizations:** Organizations like the African Union are working on regional initiatives to combat climate change.

Practical Exercise

1. **Research and Analysis:** Choose one international policy and analyze its effectiveness in combating climate change. Prepare a report and present it.

Self-Assessment

1. Multiple Choice Questions:

- What is the main focus of the Kyoto Protocol?
- Which international policy aims at reducing deforestation?

2. True or False:

- The Paris Agreement has been successful in completely stopping deforestation. (False)
- EU Emission Standards apply to all countries. (False)

This lesson aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the intricate relationships between climate change, its causes and effects, and the role of international policies in mitigating these issues.