Discussion Sheet #1: *Theoretical and Historical Approaches*

**What?** Please complete a summary for Chapters 1 and 2 in Mingst, *Essentials of IR*

**How?** Use the form and space below

**When?** Due at the beginning of class, Monday, October 4 (10 points)

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*Chapters 1&2: “Approaches to IR” and “Historical Context”*

1. **Briefly summarize and comment on the author’s answer to the primary question of Chapter 1, “how can we begin to make sense of international political events in our daily lives?”** Try to offer illustrations of each of the approaches she introduces.

2. **What is the *Westphalian System?* How is it central to an understanding of the nature of international relations?** Offer several examples in your summary.

3. **Identify important features of the Westphalian System that appeared between 1770 and 1945.**
4. Has the end of the Cold War altered the basic character of international relations? Has 9-11 altered the basic character of international relations?

5. Comment on this reading—what concepts seem most important? What is the most significant insight you gained? Pose several questions raised by this reading.