

# **Buzan and Little**

## **Chapter 4**

# Q & A

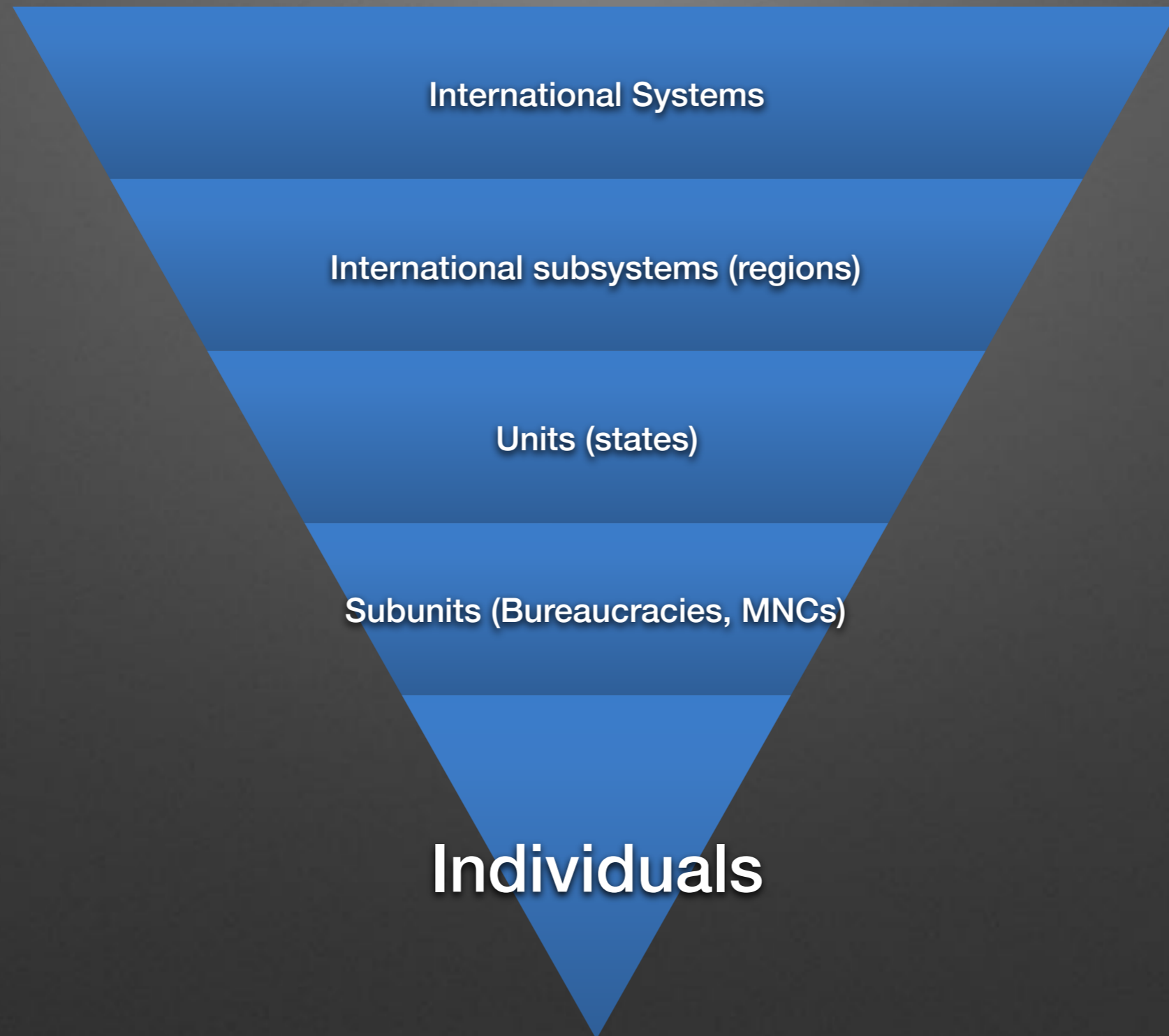
- What are levels of analysis, and how might they be useful?

# A New Toolbox

- Levels of Analysis (LOA)
  - Where do the causes of behavior occur?
  - In what patterns of behavior are we interested?
  - Who are the key actors?
- Increasing LOA = Increasing abstraction



# A New Toolbox



International Systems

International subsystems (regions)

Units (states)

Subunits (Bureaucracies, MNCs)

Individuals

# Peer Discussion

- What are sectors, and how might they be useful?

# A New Toolbox

- **Sectors**
  - Lens for viewing the world
  - Isolates different aspects of the whole
- **Five sectors**
  - **Military**
  - **Political**
  - **Economic**
  - **Societal**
  - **Environmental**

# A New Toolbox

- **Danger!**
  - **Confuse sector for the whole**
  - **Lose sight of differences between the natural and the social**

# New Toolbox

<b>Levels/Sectors</b>	<b>military</b>	<b>political</b>	<b>economic</b>	<b>societal</b>	<b>environmental</b>
<b>system</b>					
<b>subsystem</b>					
<b>unit</b>					
<b>subunit</b>					
<b>individual</b>					

Buzan, Barry, and Richard Little. *International Systems in World History: Remaking the Study of International Relations*. Oxford University Press, 2000. © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <https://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.



# Q & A

- What is interaction capacity?
- What is structure?
- What is process?

# Sources of Explanation

- **Interaction Capacity**
  - **Carrying capacity of the social system**
    - Ability to exchange ideas, information, goods, or violence
  - **Defines what units can do with respect to each other**
  - **Precondition for process and structure**
  - **Three elements**
    - **Geography**
    - **Physical technology**
    - **Social technology**

# Sources of Explanation

- **Structure**
  - How the operating environment is constructed
  - Sectoral structures
    - Political/Military
      - Issues of Functional and structural differentiation
    - Economic
    - Social

# Sources of Explanation

- **Process**
  - Patterns of interaction
    - Trade, war
  - What do units actually do to each other

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