Political Science 279/479  
War and the Nation-State

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Course Information:  
Fall 2013  
Tues/Thursday 11:05–12:20  
Dewey 2110D

This course examines the development of warfare and growth of the state. In particular, we examine the phenomenon of war in its broader socio-economic context between the emergence of the modern nation-state and the end of World War II. Students are required to do all the reading. Student are required to make a group presentation in class on the readings for one class (25% of the grade), and there will be one big final (75%).

Course Requirements

Participation and a presentation in the seminar comprises 25% of your grade. A final exam counts for 75%. The final exam is given during the period scheduled by the University. In particular instances, students may substitute a serious research paper for the final. Students interested in the research paper option should approach me no later than one week after the mid-term.

Academic Integrity

Be familiar with the University’s policies on academic integrity and disciplinary action (http://www.rochester.edu/living/urhere/handbook/discipline2.html#XII). Violators of University regulations on academic integrity will be dealt with severely, which means that your grade will suffer, and I will forward your case to the Chair of the College Board on Academic Honesty.

The World Wide Web

A number of websites will prove useful:

1. General History of the 20th Century
   - http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/war/
   - http://www.fsmitha.com/

2. On the Franco-Prussian War
   - http://uk.geocities.com/fpw1870/contents.html
3. On World War I
   - http://www.duke.edu/~hgoemans/WWI.htm
   - http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/
   - http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/war/wwone/index.shtml and from there:
   - http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/war/wwone/launch_ani_western_front.shtml

4. On World War II
   - http://dobias.webz.cz/m_dohoda_de.htm (München Agreements 1938)
   - http://www.duke.edu/~hgoemans/WWII.htm
   - http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/war/wwtwo/index.shtml and from there
   - http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/war/wwtwo/launch_ani_campaign_maps.shtml
   - http://libraries.ucsd.edu/speccoll/dswenttowar/
Texts

I may make some minor tweaks in the syllabus during the semester, but the course largely builds on the following books which should be available in the bookstore or—cheaper—at Amazon.com. Since this is a long list, I list in bold books that you definitely should get.


Course Outline

Tuesday September 3

1. Introduction

General Themes

Thursday September 5

2. Global Historical Background

Optional:

Tuesday September 10

3. European Historical Background of the Napoleonic Wars
   - Michael Howard, *War in European History*, chapters 4–5, pp.54–93
   - Hew Strachan, *European Armies and the Conduct of War*, chapters 2–4, pp.8–59

Thursday September 12

4. Nationalism and War
   - Clausewitz, *On War*, Books 1, 2 and 8.
5. Nationalism and War


Thursday September 19

6. Democratization and War


Optional:


Tuesday September 24

7. Democratization and War

8. **Industrialization and War**

- Howard, *War in European History*, Chapter 6, pp.94 – 115

Tuesday October 1

9. **Industrialization and War**

- Strachan, *European Armies and the Conduct of War*, Chapter 8, pp.108 – 129

Thursday October 4

10. **Bureaucratization**

- Samuel Huntington, *The Soldier and the State*, Chapters 1 – 3

Tuesday October 8

- FALL BREAK

**Causes of the World Wars**

Thursday October 10

11. **Causes of World War I**

**Military Strategy**


Tuesday October 15

12. Causes of World War I
   Domestic Politics

   • Immanuel Geiss, “The Outbreak of the First World War and German War Aims,” *Journal of Contemporary History*, Vol.1, No.3 (July 1966), pp.75 – 91

   • Eckart Kehr, “Anglophobia and Weltpolitik,” in his *Economic Interest, Militarism and Foreign Policy*, pp.22 – 49


Thursday October 17

13. Causes of World War I
   Systemic Explanations


Tuesday October 22

14. Causes of World War I
   Systemic Explanations

Thursday October 24

15. Causes of World War II
Versailles and its consequences

- Holger Herwig, "Clio Deceived, Patriotic Self-Censorship in Germany after the Great War," in Miller, ed., Military Strategy and the Origins of the First World War, pp.262 – 301
- John Maynard Keynes, The Economic Consequences of the Peace, introduction, Chapter 6

Deterring the Third Reich

- Kennedy, The Rise and Fall of British Naval Mastery, Chapter 10
- Kennedy, Strategy and Diplomacy, Chapter 1
- John Mearsheimer, Conventional Deterrence, Chapters 3 – 4

Tuesday October 29
Deterring the Empire of the Rising Sun


Conduct of the World Wars

Thursday October 31

16. Conduct of World War I
Attrition Warfare

- John Keegan, The Face of Battle, Chapter 4

OPTIONAL: The Homefront

- David Kennedy, Over Here, prologue, Chapters 1, 2 and 6

Tuesday November 5
17. Conduct of World War II
The Ground War on the Eastern Front


OR, ALTERNATIVELY:


Thursday November 7

Conduct of World War II
The Killing Machine and the Eastern Front

- Christopher Browning, “The Decision Concerning the Final Solution,” in Francois Furet, *Unanswered Questions*, pp.96 – 118
- Jürgen Förster, “The relation between Operation Barbarossa as an ideological war of extermination and the Final Solution,” in *The Final Solution; Origins and Implementation*, pp.85 – 102
- Christian Streit, “Wehrmacht, Einsatzgruppen, Soviet POWs and anti-Bolshevism in the emergence of the Final Solution,” in *The Final Solution; Origins and Implementation*, pp.103 – 118
- Omar Bartov, “Operation Barbarossa and the origins of the Final Solution,” in *The Final Solution; Origins and Implementation*, pp.119 – 136

Tuesday November 12

Conduct of World War II
Murderers on the Eastern Front

Thursday November 14

18. **Conduct of World War II**
War with Japan

“Death of the Ball Turret Gunner”

From my mother’s sleep I fell into the State,  
And I hunched in its belly till my wet fur froze.  
Six miles from earth, loosed from its dream of life,  
I woke to black flak and the nightmare fighters.  
When I died they washed me out of the turret with a hose.

– Randall Jarrell

- Schaeffer, *Wings of Judgment*, Chapters 2, 6 – 8
- Kennedy, *Strategy and Diplomacy*, Chapter 7

Tuesday November 19

19. **Conduct of World War II**
War with Japan


For racial attitudes check out:  
http://libraries.ucsd.edu/speccoll/dswenttowar/. You’ll be surprised by the author.

Thursday November 21

20. **Conduct of World War II**
War with Japan

The Termination and Consequences of War

Tuesday November 26

21. The Termination of War


Optional:


Thursday November 28

Thanksgiving Break

Tuesday December 3

The Consequences of War


Thursday December 5

The Consequences of War

Two of the following, or substitute another of your choice, after consultation:

- Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*.
- Robert Graves, *Good-Bye to All That*.
- Ernest Hemingway, *Farewell to Arms*.
- Sebastien Japrisot, *A Very Long Engagement*.

Tuesday December 10

The Consequences of War

Two of the following, or substitute another of your choice, after consultation:

- Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*.
- Robert Graves, *Good-Bye to All That*. 
• Ernest Hemingway, *Farewell to Arms.*
• Sebastien Japrisot, *A Very Long Engagement.*

Thursday December 12
LAST DAY OF CLASS
Questions to consider in formulating and evaluating social science research

1. What is the central question?
   - Why is it important (theoretically, substantively)?
   - What is being explained (what is the dependent variable and how does it vary)?
   - How does this phenomenon present a puzzle?

2. What is the central answer?
   - What is doing the explaining (what are the independent variables and how do they vary)?
   - What are the hypotheses, i.e., what is the relationship between independent and dependent variables, what kind of change in the independent variable causes what kind of change in the dependent variable?
   - What are the causal mechanisms, i.e., why are the independent and dependent variables so related?
   - How do the independent variables relate to each other?
   - What assumptions does your theory make?
   - Is the theory falsifiable in concept?
   - What does this explanation add to our understanding of the question?

3. What are the possible alternative explanations?
   - What assumptions are you making about the direction of causality?
   - What other explanations might there be for the phenomenon of study, and to what degree do they conflict with the central answer?
   - Could the hypothesized relationships have occurred by chance?

4. Why are the possible alternative explanations wrong?
   - What is the logical structure of the alternative explanations (compare 2)?
   - What is the empirical evidence?

5. What is the relationship between the theory and the evidence?
   - What does the research design allow to vary, i.e., in this design are the explanations variables or constants?
   - What does your research design hold constant, i.e., does it help to rule out the alternative competing explanations?
   - How are the theoretical constructs represented empirically, i.e., how do you know it when you see it (measurement)?

6. How do the empirical conclusions relate to the theory?
   - How confident are you about the theory in light of the evidence?
   - How widely do the conclusions generalize, i.e., what might be the limitations of the study?
   - What does the provisionally accepted or revised theory say about questions of broader importance?