
Political Science 578

International Conflict: Theory and History

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Harkness 320
Office Hours: Tuesday, 1-2
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Course Info: Spring 2010
Thursday 14:00-16:40
Dunkman Library

Course Description

This course aims to provide graduate students with a basic introduction to the history of the main components of international relations. We will examine the historical development of organizations that employ the use of force, i.e., state formation, the historical development of technologies of the use of force and some of the ideas that have historically motivated the application of the use of force. To that end, we will race through the last 800 years in seven-mile boots.

Course Requirements

Students will be expected to do *all* the reading and come to class prepared to discuss them. Students will be expected to critique current international relations theory based on the historical readings. Students will also be expected each class to present a question or puzzle derived from the readings that could serve as the basis for an article or dissertation. This puzzle can be empirical or theoretical. In addition, students are expected to complete the following three requirements.

- **Two summary papers** (20 % each). Each student must summarize and critique the main theory or theories – stated implicitly or explicitly – in a book or series of articles. The summary should be no more than five double-spaced pages.
- **Final or Research paper** (40%). As research paper of about 25 pages that may address anything relevant to the course. If you have questions, feel free to come and discuss your topic with me before. *I urge you to consider the topic and research question in the first couple of weeks of the class.*
- **Class participation** (20%) Students are expected to come to class prepared, and ready to discuss the readings. Students should feel free to draw on their research from other classes and extend the discussion beyond the readings of a particular class.

Texts

The following books should be in the bookstore, but you are better off buying them from Amazon or some such online store:

- Marc Trachtenberg. *The Craft of International History; a guide to method*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2006.
- James West Davidson & Mark Hamilton Lytle. *After the Fact; The Art of Historical Detection*. 3rd ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, Inc. 2000.
- William H. McNeil. *The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Force, and Society since A.D. 1000*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. 1982.
- Brian M. Downing, *The Military Revolution and Political Change; Origins of Democracy and Autocracy in Early Modern Europe*, Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press. 1992
- Hendrik Spruyt, *The Sovereign State and Its Competitors*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. 1996.
- John Brewer. *The Sinews of Power; War, Money and the English State 1688-1783*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. 1988.
- Geoffrey Parker, *The Military Revolution. Military innovation and the rise of the West 1500–1800*. Second Edition. New York: Cambridge University Press. 1996.
- Paul Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of British Naval Mastery*, Atlantic Highlands, NJ: The Ashfield Press. 1986
- Hew Strachan, *European Armies and the Conduct of War*, Boston: Unwin Hyman. 1983.
- Alistair Horne. *The Price of Glory; Verdun 1916*. New York: Penguin Books. 1993
- John Keegan. *The Face of Battle*. New York: Penguin. 1985.
- Christopher R. Browning. *Ordinary Men. Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland*. New York: HarperPerennial. 1998.
- Marc Trachtenberg. *A Constructed Peace: The Making of the European Settlement, 1945-1963*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. 1999.

Course Outline

Thursday, 14 January

1. Introduction: Making Sense of History

- Marc Trachtenberg *The Craft of International History*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2006. Entire book.

Thursday, January 21

2. The Use and Abuse of History

- James West Davidson & Mark Hamilton Lytle. *After the Fact; The Art of Historical Detection*. 3rd ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, Inc. 2000. Prologue: xvii–xxxii; Chapter 2, The Visible and Invisible Worlds of Salem: 22–44; 4, Jackson’s Frontier—and Turner’s: 70–92; 9, USDA Government Inspected: 201–225; 12, The Decision to Drop the Bomb: 275–300; and 14, Instant Watergate: 329–352.
- Fritz Stern (ed.). *The Varieties of History; From Voltaire to the Present*. New York: Vintage Books. 1973. Introduction: 11-34; Part I: Chapter 8: Positivist History and its Critics: 120-144. Part I: Chapter 11. The Ethos of a Scientific Historian: 178-190. Part I: Chapter 14: History as a Science: 209-226. Part II: Chapter 10: History and Political Culture: 371-386.
- Jack S. Levy, “Explaining Events and Developing Theories: History, Political Science, and the Analysis of International Relations.” Chapter 1 in Colin Elman and Miriam Fendius Elman (eds.) *Bridges and Boundaries: Historians, Political Scientists, and the Study of International Relations*. Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press, 2001: 39–83
- Paul W. Schroeder, “History and International Relations Theory: Not Use or Abuse, but Fit or Misfit.” in *International Security*, Symposium: History and Theory, Vol. 22, No. 1, Summer 1997, pp. 64–74
- John Lewis Gaddis, “History, Theory, and Common Ground,” in *International Security*, Symposium: History and Theory, Vol. 22, No. 1, Summer 1997, pp. 75–85

Thursday, January 28

3. History on the Grand Scale

- William H. McNeil. *The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Force, and Society since A.D. 1000*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. 1982. Chapters 1–8.

Thursday, February 4

4. History on the Grand Scale

- Ronald Findlay and Kevin H. O'Rourke. *Power and Plenty. Trade, War, and the World Economy in the Second Millennium*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2007.

Thursday, February 11

5. Organizations for the Use of Force

- F. C. Lane. "Economic Consequences of Organized Violence." *The Journal of Economic History* Vol. 18, No. 4. (December, 1958):401-417. **Available on jstor.org**(Reprinted in Frederic C. Lane, ed., *Profits from Power*. Albany: State University of New York Press. 1979.
- Diego Gambetta. *The Sicilian Mafia: The Business of Private Protection*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press. 1993. Chapters 1–3: 15–71.
- Charles Tilly. "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime." Chapter 5 in Peter B. Evans, et. al. eds., *Bringing the State Back In*. New York: Cambridge University Press. 1985: 169-191.
- R. Harrison Wagner, *War and the State. The Theory of International Politics*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2007, Chapter 3: 105–130.

Thursday, February 18

6. Organizations for the Use of Force

- Brian M. Downing, *The Military Revolution and Political Change; Origins of Democracy and Autocracy in Early Modern Europe*, Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press. 1992.
- Hendrik Spruyt, *The Sovereign State and Its Competitors*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. 1996.

Thursday, February 25

7. Organizations for the Use of Force

- John Brewer. *The Sinews of Power; War, Money and the English State 1688-1783*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. 1988.
- Douglass C. North and Robert Paul Thomas, *The Rise of the Western World. A New Economic History*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 1977. Part Three, Chapters 9–11: 91–157.

Thursday, March 4

8. **Technology for the Use of Force**

- Paul Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of British Naval Mastery*, Atlantic Highlands, NJ: The Ashfield Press. 1986
- Geoffrey Parker, *The Military Revolution. Military innovation and the rise of the West 1500–1800*. Second Edition. New York: Cambridge University Press. 1996.

Thursday, March 18

9. **Technology for the Use of Force**

- Robert A. Pape, *Bombing to Win: Air Power and Coercion in War*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. 1996.

Thursday, March 25

10. **Technology for the Use of Force**

- Hew Strachan, *European Armies and the Conduct of War*, Boston: Unwin Hyman. 1983.

Thursday, April 1

11. **Applying Force**

- Dave Grossman. *On Killing: the psychological cost of learning to kill in war and society*, Boston: Little, Brown, 1995.
- Chris Hedges, *War is a Force That Gives Us Meaning*. New York: Anchor Books, 2002.
- Chris Hedges, *What Every Person Should Know About War*, New York: Free Press, 2003.

Recommended:

- Alistair Horne. *The Price of Glory; Verdun 1916*. New York: Penguin Books. 1993
- John Keegan. *The Face of Battle*. New York: Penguin. 1985. Chapter 4: The Somme, 1 July 1916.

Thursday, April 8

12. **Motivations for the Use of Force: Racism**

- Christopher R. Browning. *Ordinary Men. Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland.* New York: HarperPerennial. 1998.
Or
- Daniel Goldhagen. *Hitler's Willing Executioners: ordinary Germans and the Holocaust.* New York: Vintage Books, 1997.
Or
- Iris Chang. *The Rape of Nanking.* New York: Penguin Books. 1997
Or
- John Dower. *War without Mercy: race and power in the Pacific war .* Pantheon Books. 1987.
Or
- Philip Gourevitch. *We wish to inform you that tomorrow we will be killed with our families: stories from Rwanda.* New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux. 1998.

Thursday, April 15

13. The Cold War

- Marc Trachtenberg. *A Constructed Peace: The Making of the European Settlement, 1945-1963.* Princeton: Princeton University Press. 1999.
- John Lewis Gaddis. *Strategies of containment: a critical appraisal of postwar American national security policy.* New York : Oxford University Press. 1982.

Thursday, April 22

14. History and Theory in International Relations

- R. Harrison Wagner. *War and the State. The Theory of International Politics.* Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2007.