
Political Science 583 International Conflict: Theory and History

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Harkness 337
Office Hours: Wed. 1-2
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Course Info: Fall 2020
Thursday 12:30–15:15
Harkness 329

Course Description

Plan A:

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.

Plan B:

In the parallel universe of the corona-virus the goal is to come to understand how historians make up their minds as to what *exactly* ‘happened’. To understand this I pose up to three ‘puzzles’ of international history, where students are required to do independent research. These puzzles are of course subject to feedback and change, but so far are:

- Munich 1938: Why was there no war?
- Gulf War 1991: Why was there war?
- World War I. August 1914, or the decision of other powers to join.

For each of these cases, one student does research on one country, and presents to the rest of the class a case for or against war from that country’s perspective. In the following week, the students are supposed to have consulted, argued and discussed the case with each other, and together give a presentation of the overall situation, and argue for war or peace. This means that in the Munich case, one person has to consider the information, choices, alternatives from the perspective of Great Britain, another student is required to understand France’s position, a third student would take Czechoslovakia’s position, a fourth takes Hitler’s position, a fifth would do the required research on Russia.

Course Requirements

There is a *lot* of reading material for this course. In addition, students are expected to complete the following three requirements.

- **One short paper:** (20%)
 - Plan B: Each student must summarize one country’s position for or against war in the Munich crisis. The summary should be no more than 2-3 double-spaced pages.
- **Two book reports** (30% each):
 - Pick one book for week 12 and another for week 13. Prepare a brief book report for the class. No more than 5 pages per book. As you should know by now, the report should summarize the book by clearly identifying: 1) **The Central Question**), 2) **The Central Answer**, 3) **The Competing Explanations**, 4) **Why are he Competing Explanations Wrong?**, and 5) **Why Do We Care?**.
- **A Joint Research paper** (20%). Totalling 25 pages or so
 - Plan B: Collaborate with the other students to present, in depth, one joint paper on Munich 1938.

Texts

The following books are available from Amazon or some such online store:

- James West Davidson & Mark Hamilton Lytle. *After the Fact; The Art of Historical Detection*. 3rd ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, Inc. 2000.
- Marc Trachtenberg. *The Craft of International History; a guide to method*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2006.
- William H. McNeil. *The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Force, and Society since A.D. 1000*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. 1982.
- Stephan Haggard. *East Asia in the World: Twelve Events that Shaped the Modern International Order*. Cambridge University Press, release date 25 September 2020.
- Diego Gambetta. *The Sicilian Mafia: The Business of Private Protection*. Havard University Press, 1996.
- Hendrik Spruyt, *The Sovereign State and Its Competitors*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. 1996.
- Stephen Biddle, *Military Power: Explaining Victory and Defeat in Modern Battle*, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2006.

Course Outline

Thursday, 27 August

1. Introduction: Making Sense of this Course

Thursday, 3 September

2. Introduction: Making Sense 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–xxxi; Chapter 2, The Visible and Invisible Worlds of Salem: 22–44;
- 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.
- 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
- Jack S. Levy, 1997. Too Important to Leave to the Other; History and Political Science in the Study of International Relations. *International Security*, Vol 22(1) (Summer): 22–33.

Thursday, 10 September

3. Counterfactuals

- Philip E. Tetlock and Aaron Belkin, eds. *Counterfactual Thought Experiments in World Politics*, Princeton University Press. Chapter 1. Some pages will be missing in this Google Book!
https://books.google.com/books?id=UyMXon0JmBsC&printsec=frontcover&dq=Counterfactual+thought++experiments+in+world++politics++logical,+methodological,+and+psychological+perspectives&hl=en&ei=Jgs-TKvxFIS8lQeq-7H5BQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=0CCoQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q&f=false
- James D. Fearon, 1991. Counterfactuals and Hypothesis Testing in Political Science. *World Politics*, Vol. 43, No. 2 (January): 169–195.
- Eric Grynviski, Contrasts, counterfactuals, and causes, *European Journal of International Relations*, Vol. 19(4): 823–846.

- From Robert Cowley, *What If? The World's Foremost Military Historians Imagine What Might Have Been*, Berkley Books, 1989, pick one of the following chapters:
 - The Plague That Saved Jerusalem, 701 BC
 - The Persians Win at Salamis, 480 BC
 - The Premature Death of Alexander the Great
 - Furor Teutonicus: The Teutoburg Forest, AD 9
 - The Consequences of Two Defeats
 - The Mongols Turn Back, 1242
 - If the Holy League hadn't Dithered (91520-1530)
 - George Washington's Gamble
 - The Revolution's Dunkirk, August 29, 1776
 - Napoleon Wins at Waterloo
 - Robert E. Lee Humbles the Union, 1862
 - Vietnam in American, 1865
 - The Armistice of Desperation (WW I)
 - What a Taxi Driver Wrought (WW II)
 - The Cases of the Missing Carriers (Midway, June 4, 1942)
 - The Soviet Invasion of Japan
 - The Cold War Turns Hot
 - A Quagmire Avoided (If Chang Kai-shek Hadn't Gambled in 1946)
- Optional:
 - Richard New Lebow, 2010. *Forbidden Fruit; Counterfactuals and International Relations*, Princeton University Press. Chapter 5, Scholars and Causation 1, co-authored with Philip E. Tetlock.
 - Jack S. Levy, Counterfactuals, Causal Inference, and Historical Analysis, *Security Studies*, Vol 24(3): 378-402.
 - Francis J. Gavin, What If? The Historian and the Counterfactual, *Security Studies*, Vol 24(3): 425-430.

Thursday, 17 September

4. Doing History

- **Munich 1938: What Happened?**
 - Norman Rich, 1992. *Hitler's War Aims: Ideology, the Nazi State and the Course of of Expansion*, Volume 1. W. W. Norton & Company. Chapters on Anschluss and Sudetenland.
 - UK Cabinet papers. <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/cabinetpapers/themes/descent-into-war.htm>
 - The French Yellowbook (1938-1939)
<http://www.ibiblio.org/pha/fyb/fyb-preface.html>

- J. L. Richardson, 1988. “New Perspectives on Appeasement: Some Implications for International Relations.” *World Politics*, Vol. 40, No. 2 (April): 289-316. https://www.jstor.org/stable/2010215?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents
- Gerhard L. Weinberg with William R. Rock and Anna M. Cienciala. 1989. Essay and Reflection: The Munich Crisis Revisited. *The International History Review* Vol. 11, No. 4 (November): 668-688. https://www.jstor.org/stable/40106088?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents
- Sidney Aster, 2008. “Appeasement: Before and After Revisionism.” *Diplomacy & Statecraft* Vol. 19, No. 3: 443-480. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09592290802344962>
- Robert J. Caputi, 2000. *Neville Chamberlain and Appeasement*. Second rate book. Susquehanna University Press. https://books.google.com/books?id=KWQcos95hHsC&pg=PA68&source=gbs_toc_r&cad=3#v=onepage&q&f=false

- **Munich 1938: What were they thinking?**

- Germany
- France
- United Kingdom
- Russia
- Czechoslovakia

Thursday, 24 September

5. 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, October 1

6. History on the Grand Scale

- Stephan Haggard. *East Asia in the World: Twelve Events that Shaped the Modern International Order*. Cambridge University Press, release date 25 September 2020.

Thursday, 8 October

7. 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.
- Mancur Olson, 1993. “Dictatorship, Democracy and Development,” in *The American Political Science Review*, Vol 87, Nno. 3 (September): 567-577.
- P. Jeffrey Brantingham, George E. Tita, Martin B. Short, and Shannon E. Reid. 2012. The Ecology of Gang Territorial Boundaries. *Criminology*. 40(3): 851-885

Thursday, 15 October

8. Organizations for the Use of Force

- Hendrik Spruyt, *The Sovereign State and Its Competitors*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. 1996.
- 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, 22 October

9. Munich: Why Peace?

- Class presentation of the 1938 Sudetenland crisis / Munich Conference.

Thursday, 29 October

10. Technology for the Use of Force

- Stephen Biddle, *Military Power: Explaining Victory and Defeat in Modern Battle*, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2006.

Thursday, 5 November

11. Technology for the Use of Force

- Martin van Creveld, *Supplying War: Logistics from Wallenstein to Patton*, New York: Cambridge University Press, Second Edition, 2004

Thursday, 12 November

12. **Motivations for the Use of Force: Nationalism – Roots?**

Each student picks a different book.

- Donald Horowitz, 2003. *Ethnic Groups in Conflict*, University of California Press.
- Anthony D. Smith, 1991. *The Ethnic Origins of Nations*. Wiley-Blackwell, 1991.
- Walker Connor, 1993. *Ethnonationalism: The Quest for Understanding*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Eric J. Hobsbawm & Terence Ranger (eds.), 2012, Reissue Edition. *The Invention of Tradition*. NY, Cambridge University Press.
- Eric J. Hobsbawm, *Nations and Nationalism since 1870: Programme, Myth and Reality*, Cambridge University Press, 2nd edition, March 2012.
- Ernest Gellner, *Nations and Nationalism*, Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1983.
- Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*, Verso, 2nd edition, 1991.

Thursday, 19 November

13. **Motivations for the Use of Force: Nationalism – Branches**

Each student picks a different book.

- Margaret Levi, 1997. *Consent, Dissent, and Patriotism*, NY: Cambridge University Press.
- Andreas Wimmer, 2012. *Waves of War: nationalism, State Formation and Ethnic Exclusion in the Modern World*, NY Cambridge University Press.
- Liah Greenfield, 2nd edition, 1993. *Nationalism: Five Roads to Modernity*, Harvard University Press.
- Rogers Brubaker, 1996. *Nationalism Reframed*, NY: Cambridge University Press.
- Eugen Weber, *Peasants into Frenchmen*. Stanford University Press, 1976.

Thursday, 26 November

Thanksgiving : No Class

Thursday, 3 December

Last Class

14. **Motivations for the Use of Force: Nationalism**

- Hein Goemans, “On Nationalism.”