

War in the Modern World 2002

Syllabus

SAIS 660.777, Monday 1015-1215, Rome 203

Purpose

version 02.01.04

Note: this syllabus may be revised during coming weeks.

What has been the role of war in international politics since the end of World War II? What has determined success and failure, the intensity, duration, and consequences of military action? And what is the nature of war today? We will address these questions through a series of case studies of contemporary conflicts, comparing and contrasting the forms of conflict during the last forty years. This is an advanced Strategic Studies course: Strategy & Policy is strongly recommended, and knowledge of its content will be assumed.

Course requirements and grading

Requirements will consist of four elements:

- basic knowledge 20%
- class participation 15%
- memoranda/review essays 40%
- final exam 25%

Basic knowledge will consist of a knowledge of (a) key figures, (b) basic chronology, and (c) main events, enough to give a one sentence response on a quiz. The formation of study groups is recommended to students, and as a rule of thumb, the “top ten” in each category will suffice.

Class participation is, of course, taking part in classroom discussion

Four memoranda/review essays will be required of students during the course of the semester. These will be spread evenly across the course. They will consist of 1000 word (roughly four page) assessments of books or articles relevant to each week, or thought pieces on a subject (e.g., “what were the key disputes between NATO political and military leaders during operations in Yugoslavia?”). Students will write two memoranda and two reviews each.

The final exam will take place Wednesday, May 8th, at 9:00 a.m.

Because of the nature of the subject matter, in most weeks **readings** will consist of required materials (listed below) and supplemental readings, which will be discussed in **handouts** available on the **internal ERes website**, and on a **web references** list posted there. Students are expected to read approximately 200 pages a week or equivalent.

INTRODUCTION

1. What is modern war? (28 January)

Cyril Falls, A Hundred Years of War 1850-1950 (New York: Collier, 1953), Chapters 1, 27, "The Transformations of War," "Horrida Bella," pp. 9-12, 448-69. *26 pages*.
Victor Davis Hanson, Carnage and Culture: Landmark Battles in the Rise of Western Power (New York: Doubleday, 2001), Chapters 1, Epilogue, "Why the West Has Won," "Western Warfare – Past and Future," pp. 1-26, 440-56. *42 pages*.
Michael Howard, "War and Social Change," in The Lessons of History (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1991), pp. 166-76. *11 pages*.
John Keegan, A History of Warfare (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1993), Chapter 1, "War in Human History," pp. 1-60. *60 pages*.

WARS OF THE DYING EMPIRES

Algeria (4 February)

Alistair Horne. A Savage War of Peace : Algeria, 1954-1962 (New York: The Viking Press, 1977), Chapters 4-13, pp. 83-298, *216 pages*

WARS OF THE DUELLING GIANTS

3. Vietnam (11 February)

Herring, George C. "Preparing *Not* to Refight the Last War." In After Vietnam: Legacies of a Lost War. (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000), pp. 56-84. *29 pages*.
Krepinevich, Andrew F., Jr. The Army and Vietnam. (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986), Chapter 10, "Paths Untaken, Paths Forsaken," pp. 258-76. *19 pages*.
Summers, Harry G. "Lessons: A Soldier's View." In Vietnam as History: Ten Years After the Paris Peace Accords. Washington, D.C.: University Press of America, 1984. Pages 109-14. *6 pages*.

THE WARS OF THE SOVIET SUCCESSION

4. Yugoslavia (18 February)

Norman Cigar. "The Serbo-Croatian war, 1991: Political and Military Dimensions," The Journal of Strategic Studies vol. 16 no. 3 (Sept. 1993), 297-338. *42 pages*.
Gagnon, V.P., Jr. "Ethnic Nationalism and International Conflict: The Case of Serbia." International Security. Vol. 19, No. 3, Winter 1994/95: 130-66. *37 pages*.
Zimmerman, Warren. "The Last Ambassador: A Memoir of the Collapse of Yugoslavia." Foreign Affairs. Vol. 74., No. 2, March/April 1995: 2-20. *19 pages*

5. Chechnya (25 February)

Dunlop, John B. Russia Confronts Chechnya : Roots of a Separatist Conflict. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998), *selections TBD*
Lieven, Anatol. Chechnya : Tombstone of Russian Power (New Haven : Yale University Press, 1998), *selections TBD*

THE WARS OF REGIONAL ASCENDANCY

6. The Middle East wars, 1967-1988 (4 March)

Herzog, Chaim. The Arab-Israeli Wars (New York: Random House, 1982), Chapters 3, 5, pp. 143-191, 227-323, *144 pages*.
Cordesman, Anthony H. and Abraham R. Wagner. The Lessons of Modern War: The Iran-Iraq War (Boulder: Westview, 1990) Vol. II, Chapters 4-6, pp. 76-186, *110 pages*.

7. The Indo-Pakistani conflict, 1972-2000 (11 March)

Sumit Ganguly, The Origins of War in South Asia: Indo-Pakistani Conflicts Since 1947 (Boulder: Westview, 1986), *selections TBD*.

THE WARS OF THE AMERICAN EMPIRE

8. The Gulf War (25 March)

Eliot A. Cohen, "Kosovo and the New American Way of War," in Andrew J. Bacevich and Eliot A. Cohen, eds., War Over Kosovo (New York: Columbia University Press, 2001), pp. 38-62. *25 pages*.
Gordon, Michael and Bernard Trainor. The General's War (Boston: Little, Brown, 1995) chapters 4-7, 20, Epilogue. *127 pages*.
Record, Jeffrey. Hollow Victory: A Contrary View of the Gulf War, (Washington: Brassey's, 1993), pp. 133-160. *28 pages*.

THE WARS OF THE BLUE HELMETS

9. Somalia (1 April)

Bowden, Mark. Black Hawk Down. (New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 1999), "Black Hawk Down," pp. 69-132.

Hirsch, John L. and Robert B. Oakley. Somalia and Operation Restore Hope: Reflections on Peacemaking and Peacekeeping. (Washington: US Institute of Peace Press, 1995). Selections TBD

THE WARS OF THE THEORISTS

10. The revolution in military affairs (8 April)

"The RMA Debate" Project for Defense Alternatives. <http://www.comw.org/rma/>
"The RMA" Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments. ("Strategic Studies")
<http://www.csbaonline.org/>

11. Information warfare (15 April)

John Arquilla and David Ronfeldt, eds., Networks and Netwars (Santa Monica: RAND, 2001), Chapters 1, 10, "The Advent of Netwar (Revisited)," "What Next for Networks and Netwars?" pp. 1-28, 311-62. *80 pages*.

THE WARS OF THE MARGINAL MEN

12. Terrorism and asymmetric conflict before 9/11 (22 April)

Laqueur, Walter. "Postmodern Terrorism." Foreign Affairs. Vol. 75, No. 5, September/October 1996: 24-36. *13 pages*.

Patterns of Global Terrorism: 1996-2000. Department of State Publication, Office of the Secretary of State, Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism. Released April/May of each year. http://www.state.gov/www/global/terrorism/gt_index.html

13. World War IV? (29 April)

Howard, Michael. "Mistake to Declare this a 'War.'" Speech to Royal United Services Institute. http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/dynamic/news/top_story.html?in_review_id=470295&in_review_text_id=424158

James F. Hoge and Gideon Rose, eds. How Did This Happen? Terrorism and the New War, chapters by Brian Jenkins, Fouad Ajami, Michael Scott Doran, and Walter Laqueur, pp. 1-82. *82 pages*.

Mark Juergensmeyer, Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2000). Selections TBD.