

Causes of War and Peace
Course Number: PO357 / IR347
Spring 2016

Professor Rosella Cappella Zielinski
Boston University

Course Time: T/Th 9:30-11:00am
Course Location: KCB106

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 2-4pm & By Appointment

The Causes of War

War is the single most destructive social act in which humanity engages: while precise numbers are impossible to get, by many estimates in the twentieth century over 100 million people died as a direct result of war. And while there have been no wars between the great powers of the international system in over fifty years, violence continues in many other forms: almost five million people died as a result of the 1998-2003 Congo War, and fighting continues not just in Iraq and Afghanistan but in dozens of places around the world. Why do these wars happen? What (if anything) can be done to prevent them? What can we do to bring ongoing wars to an end and to consolidate peace in their aftermath?

This course addresses these questions, focusing on a variety of popular and scholarly explanations for interstate war. We will pair theoretical discussions with examination of historical cases, including both prominent cases such as the World Wars and lesser known conflicts from Africa and elsewhere. By the end of this course, students should have both a good understanding of the merits of different explanations for war as well as significant knowledge about wars through history.

Readings:

Required Books: Geoffery Blainey, *The Causes of War* (any edition is fine), Richard Betts, *Conflict After the Cold War: Arguments on Causes of War and Peace* (any edition is fine)

The rest of the readings can be accessed through blackboard or via the websites provided on the syllabus.

Important Dates:

- *Midterm Exam I (in-class): **February 18**
- *Midterm Exam II (in-class): **March 22**
- *Escalation Simulation: "The July 1965 Decision to Escalate": **March 24**
- *Escalation Simulation 3-Page Write-up (in-class): **March 31**
- *Final Exam: ****SEE BU EXAM WEEK SCHEDULE****

Grades:

Midterm Exam I	25%
Midterm Exam II	25%
Simulation	20%
Final Exam	30%

Grading Scale:

A	93+
A-	90-92
B+	88-90
B	83-87
B-	80-82
C+	78-80
C	75-78

Simulations: These simulations are designed to put you in the place of the policy maker. You will be given a scenario and tasked, with your group, to advise the President or defense organization in question, on future policy. For the simulation to be successful you **must** complete the weeks readings **before** coming to class that day. You will be graded on both your participation in class and a 3-page write up of the simulation due the next class. The 3-page write up will change and will be given out at the end of the simulation and due the next class.

Make-up Policy: There are no makeup exams or simulations (especially simulations as they are done in a group and in class). Plan your vacations and travel accordingly.

Electronic Communications in Class: Please do not use laptop computers, cell phones, or any other electronic devices during the seminar. These are serious distractions to your learning.

Academic Integrity: By remaining in the course you are tacitly agreeing to follow standard principles of academic integrity in this course. Academic dishonesty is a serious offense because it undermines the bonds of trust and honesty among members of the community and defrauds those who may eventually depend upon our knowledge and integrity. Such dishonesty consists of cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism. Examples of academic dishonesty include using someone else's words or ideas without proper documentation; copying some portion of your text from another source without proper acknowledgement of indebtedness; borrowing another person's specific ideas without documenting their source; turning in a paper written by someone else, an essay "service," or from a web site. Any assignment that was generated in whole or part through academic dishonesty will be failed with no "do-overs." If you are not sure you understand what constitutes academic integrity or the lack of it, consult with me. [Wording provided largely by Jeffrey Henriques.] For the university policy on academic conduct, see <http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code/>.

Disabilities: Students have a right to reasonable accommodations to take account of certain physical or cognitive disabilities and allow them to pursue success in their education at BU. Students who believe they require such accommodations must go through the formal process of application in a timely way. For more information, see <http://www.bu.edu/disability/policies-procedures/academic-accommodations/beginning-academic-program/>.

Part I: Introduction and What is War?

Week 1: January 19-21

What is War?

- Clausewitz, C. v., M. E. Howard, et al., Eds. (1976). On War. Princeton, Princeton University Press, Book 1, Chapters 1 and 2; **PP 75-99**
- Hobbes, Thomas, *Leviathan* The Natural Condition of Mankind, “ **Chapter 13**
- Keegan, J. (1993). A History of Warfare. New York, Alfred A. Knopf, **PP 3-12**
- Blainey, Geoffrey, *The Causes of War*, **Chapter 1**
- J. Joseph Hewitt, Jonathan Wilkenfeld, and Ted Robert Gurr, “Peace and Conflict 2012: Executive Summary,” Chapter 3, **PP 18**. Available online at http://www.cidcm.umd.edu/pc/executive_summary/exec_sum_2012.pdf

Part II: Structural Causes of Interstate War

Week 2: January 26 – 28

Structural Causes and Hegemonic War. Case Study – Rising China?

- Waltz, K, *The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory* in Betts
- Gilpin, R, *Hegemonic War and International Change* in Betts
- Betts and Christensen, *China: Can the Next Super Power Rise without War?* in Betts
- Subramanian, Arvind (2011). “The Inevitable Super Power: Why China’s Dominane Is a Sure Thing,” Foreign Affairs September/October.
- Scissors, Derek and Arvind Subramanian (2012). “The Great China Debate: Will Beijing Rule the World? Foreign Affairs January/February.

Week 3: February 2 – 4

Alliances: Balancing and Bandwagon

- Walt, Stephen, *Alliances: Balancing and Bandwagoning*

Offensive, Defensive, and, the Security Dilemma. Case Study – World War I

- Jervis, R, *Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma* in Betts
- Levy, J, *The Offensive/Defensive Balance of Military Technology* in Betts
- Van Evera, Stephen, (1984). “The Cult of the Offensive,” International Security
- Singer and Freedman (2014). “Cult of the Cyber Offensive,” Foreign Policy

Part III: Domestic Causes of Interstate War

Week 4: February 9 – 11

Economic Causes (and Consequences?) of War (and Peace?)

- Blainey, Geoffrey, *The Causes of War*, **Chapter 6**
- Lenin, V. I. *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism* in Betts
- Milward, *War as Policy* in Betts
- Keynes, John *Economic Consequences of Peace*, **Chapter 1-2, skim 4-5, 6**
- Stiglitz and Blimes, “Three Trillion Dollar War” – Listen to Stiglitz interview on NPR:
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=87801279>

Week 5: February 16 – 18

Diversionary War

- Oaks, Amy. 2006. “Diversionary War and Argentina’s Invasion of the Falkland Islands”
Security Studies 15(3):431-463

****Midterm February 18****

Part IV: The Inevitable Causes of War?

Week 6: February 23 – 25

The Bargaining Model of War. Case Study – Iraq War 2003

- Fearon, James D. 1995. “Rationalist Explanations for War.” *International Organization* 49:379-414. (36)
- Kirshner, Jonathan (2007) “A Rationalist Explanation for War?” *Security Studies*
- Pollack, Kenneth M. “Next Stop Baghdad?” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 81 No. 2 (March-April 2002), PP 32-47
- Mearsheimer, John J. and Stephen M. Walt. “An Unnecessary War,” *Foreign Policy*, No. 134 (Jan/Feb 2003), PP 50-59
- Woods, Kevin, James Lacey, and Williamson Murray. “Saddam's Delusions: The View From the Inside,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 85 No. 3 (May/June 2006), PP 2-26
- Case Study: “A Firm And Commensurate Response” U.S. Retaliation for the Bush Assassination Attempt

Week 7: March 1 – 3

Optimism. Case Study – Korean War 1950

- Blainey, Geoffrey, *The Causes of War*, **Chapter 3**
- Case Study: MacArthur – Document Packet – Handed out In Class

Nukes

- Waltz, *The Spread of Nuclear Weapons* in Betts
- Mearshimer, *The Case for a Ukrainian Nuclear Deterrent* - <http://johnmearsheimer.uchicago.edu/pdfs/Mearsheimer,%20Case%20for%20Ukrainian%20Nuclear%20Deterrent.pdf>

Week 8: March 8 – 10 **SPRING BREAK**

Part V: What Does War Look Like and Why?

Week 9: March 15 – 17

War Duration

- Blainey, Geoffrey, *The Causes of War*, **Chapter 10, 13, and 14**
- Bennett, D. S., & Stam, A. (1996). The Duration of Interstate Wars, 1816-1985. *The American Political Science Review*, 90(2), 239-257.
- Goemans, H. E. (2000). Fighting for Survival: The Fate of Leaders and the Duration of War. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 44(5).

War Termination

- Goemans, Hein, War and Punishment: The Causes of War Termination and the First World War, pp 1-13, 22-26

****CLASS CANCELLED MARCH 17****

Week 10: March 22 – 24

March 22 **MIDTERM EXAM**

March 24 **1965 Escalation Simulation**

- **Case Study Material for 1965 Escalation Simulation – Handed out in class**

Part III: Causes of Civil War

Week 11: March 29 – 31

Structural and Proximate Causes of Civil War

- Levy, Jack and William Thompson (2010). *The Causes of War*. West Sussex, Wiley-Blackwell, **PP 186-201**

- Michael Brown, “Ethnic and Internal Conflicts: Causes and Implications,” in Chester A. Crocker et al, eds., *Turbulent Peace: The Challenges of Managing Internal Conflict* (Washington, D.C.: USIP Press, 2001)
- James D. Fearon and David D. Latin. “Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War” *American Political Science Review* 97, 1 (Feb 2003): pp.75-90
- David Galula, *Insurgency and Counterinsurgency* in Betts

Week 12: April 5 – 7

Modernization and Democratization

- Samuel Huntington, *Political Order in Changing Societies* in Betts
- Mansfield, E. and Snyder, J, *Democratization and War* in Betts
- Kaufmann, *Possible and Impossible Solutions to Ethnic and Civil Wars*

Week 13: April 11 – 13

Iraq, Syria, and ISIS

- **Articles – On Blackboard**

Part V: That Which Makes War Less Likely

Week 14: April 23 – 25

The Liberal Peace I – Regime Type, Institutions, and Cooperation

- Blainey, Geoffrey, *The Causes of War*, **Chapter 2**
- Kant, I, *Perpetual Peace* in Betts
- Doyle, *Liberalism and World Politics* in Betts

Psychology: Unconscious Sources of Conflict

- Freud, *Why War* in Betts
- Milgram, *How Good People Do Bad Things* in Betts
- Keegan, John *Why Men Fight* in *History of Warfare* PP 79-98

Week 15: April 28 – 30

TBA