

IR235 International Security: Causes of War

Spring 2016

Maginnes 270

MW 2:35-3:50pm

Department of International Relations

Lehigh University

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What causes war? What do we need to know to prevent war if possible, and prepare for it when necessary? The mission of this course is to use historical and contemporary cases to formulate and test theories on causes of war, as well as to make policy prescriptions.

This course first systematically examines major schools of thoughts on the origins and prevention of war, including systemic level theories of war and peace, domestic and societal sources of conflict, military policy, and ideational and psychological causes of war. The second part of this course applies these theoretical approaches to a series of classic cases of war and conflict in world politics.

Required Readings

Stephen Van Evera, *Causes of War: Power and the Roots of Conflict* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1999)

Stephen Van Evera, *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1997)

Manus I. Midlarsky, ed., *Handbook of War Studies* (Boston: Unwin Hyman, 1989)

Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War* (Penguin, 1972)

All other required readings are available in PDF files on Course Site.

Graded Assignments

Grades will be based on one in-class exam (30%), research report (20%), presentation (10%), final research paper up to 15 double-spaced pages (25%), and class participation (15%). Grades for each graded assignment are given according to its numerical proportion indicated in the syllabus (i.e. the full score for the in-class exam is 30 points, for the final paper 25 points, and for class participation 15 points). Your final grade will be the sum of the assignment scores, with a possible, marginal adjustment upward using an impressionistic evaluation of your performance improvement toward the latter part of the course.

<i>Grading scale:</i> A	94-100%	A-	90-93%	B+	87-89%
B	83-86%	B-	80-82%	C+	77-79%
C	73-76%	C-	70-72%	D+	67-69%
D	63-66%	D-	60-62%	F	59% and below

Course Information and Policies

Readings

Readings should be done before the classes for which they are assigned. Lectures will not substitute for the readings, nor vice versa. Fulfilling the reading requirements will help your performance in class participation and course assignments.

Class participation and courtesy rules

Attendance at all classes is mandatory. You are also expected to contribute to class discussion actively and intelligently, with explicit engagement with the assigned readings.

Politeness and consideration are expected of everyone in the classroom. If you walk in late you may disrupt the class, and it also means you have failed to participate in part of the class. It is rude and disruptive to be checking email, surfing the web, or messaging when you are supposed to be participating in classroom activities. Use of computers and other electronic devices (i-products, beepers, cell phones, you name it) is generally prohibited in this class unless you have extenuating circumstances, in which case you should communicate with me.

Policy on make-up, and late paper, and extra credit

In principle, make-up exam or extension of paper due date is not permitted for this course. You will receive a "zero" score for a missed exam. Paper submitted within one week after the due date will be downgraded two points per day and, if submitted more than one week late, will not only be downgraded two points per day but also result in a course grade of "incomplete." In case when there is a true emergency, a note from the Office of the Dean of Students with qualified supporting documentation is required, preferably in advance. A makeup exam, if granted, should take place as soon as possible and no later than one week from the exam day.

All students are encouraged to attend at least one session of the China and World Conference organized by the professor at Lehigh University on March 3, 2016. Your attendance will earn you 2% extra credit.

Academic integrity

Cheating will not be tolerated. Do not consult readings, notes, online sources, etc., or your classmates for the close-book in-class exams. For completing the final essay, you are allowed to consult all of the above sources except for your classmates. Do not plagiarize. Plagiarism is when writers use other people's words or ideas but do not give them credit. Do not quote or paraphrase without giving footnotes or endnotes. Do not copy other people's old papers. Do not submit the same paper to multiple courses. Do not copy or buy papers or sections of papers from the web or other sources. Your ideas, your arguments, and the vast majority of your text must be your own. For details, please refer to the [International Relations Department Policy on Intellectual Integrity, Plagiarism, and Documentation](#). Students who cheat on a graded assignment will receive a "zero" score for it, and will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting accommodations, please contact both your instructor and the Office of Academic Support Services, University Center C212 (610-758-4152) as early as possible in the semester. You must have documentation from the Academic Support Services office before accommodations can be granted, and provide at least seven days notification for any requested accommodation.

The Principles of Our Equitable Community:

Lehigh University endorses The Principles of Our Equitable Community (<http://www4.lehigh.edu/diversity/principles>). We expect each member of this class to acknowledge and practice these Principles. Respect for each other and for differing viewpoints is a vital component of the learning environment inside and outside the classroom.

Topic 1: (1/25) Introduction

Jack S. Levy, "The Causes of War and the Conditions of Peace," *Annual Review of Political Science*, 1 (1998)

Stephen Van Evera, *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1997), Chapter 1: pp. 7-48.

Topic 2: (1/27, 2/1, 2/3) Systemic Level Causes of War

Robert Jervis, "Cooperation under the Security Dilemma," *World Politics*, Vol. 30, No. 2, January 1978).

Robert Gilpin, *War and Change in World Politics* (Cambridge University Press, 1981), Chapter 5: 186-210

Manus I. Midlarsky, ed., *Handbook of War Studies* (Boston: Unwin Hyman, 1989):

- Jacek Kugler and A. F. K. Organski, "The Power Transition: A Retrospective and Prospective Evaluation"
- Nazli Choucri and Robert C. North, "Lateral Pressure in International Relations: Concept and Theory"

Topic 3: (2/8, 2/10) State-Society Level Causes of War

Steven Walt, "Revolution and War," *World Politics* 44, No. 3 (1992)

Stanislav Andreski, "On the Peaceful Disposition of Military Dictatorship," *Journal of Strategic Studies* 3, No. 3 (1980)

Manus I. Midlarsky, ed., *Handbook of War Studies*:

- Jack Levy, "The Diversionary Theory of War: A Critique"

Topic 4: (2/15, 2/17) Military Policy and Causes of War

Stephen Van Evera, *Causes of War: Power and Roots of Conflict* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1999), Chapters 3-5

Geoffrey Blainey, *The Causes of War*, 3rd ed. (NY: Free Press, 1988), Chapter 3
“Dreams and Delusions of a Coming War,” pp. 35-56

Topic 5: (2/22, 2/24) Ideational/Psychological/Individual Causes of War I

(national misperception, national-mythmaking, nationalism, media)

Robert Jervis, “Hypotheses on Misperception,” *World Politics*, Vol. 20, No. 3 (April 1968)

Nicholas Kristof, “A Tojo Battles History, for Grandpa and for Japan,” *New York Times*, April 22, 1999

John Mearsheimer and Stephen M. Walt, “The Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy.” *Middle East Policy* 13, No. 3 (Fall 2006): 29-87

David Pearson, “The Media and Government Deception,” *Propaganda Review*, Spring 1989.

Topic 6: (2/29, 3/2) Ideational/Psychological/Individual Causes of War II

(religion, culture, gender, personality, emotions) **(Research report due in class in hard copy on 3/2)**

Robert Spencer, *Islam Unveiled: Disturbing Questions about the World's Fastest-growing Faith* (Encounter Books, 2003), Prologue and Chapter 1: 1-37

Monica Toft, “Getting Religion? The Puzzling Case of Islam and Civil War,” *International Security*, Vol. 31, No. 4 (Spring 2007).

Leopold Bellak, “Why I Fear the Germans” (op-ed), *The New York Times*, April 4, 1990, p. A29; and responses, NYT, May 10, 1990, p. A30.

Dan Byman and Kenneth M. Pollack, “Let Us Now Praise Great Men: Bringing the Statesman Back In,” *International Security* Vol., 25, No. 4 (Spring 2001).

Topic 7: (3/7, 3/9) The Peloponnesian War

Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War* (Penguin, 1972) pp. 35-108, 118-164, 212-223, 400-429, 483-488, 516-538.

No class on 3/14 & 3/16. Spring break.

Topic 8: (3/21, 3/23) What Caused WWI?

Imanuel Geiss, *German Foreign Policy, 1871-1914* (Boston: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1976), pp. vii-ix, 75-83, 106-181, 206-207; the key pages are pp. 121-127, 142-150, 206-207.

Stephen Van Evera, "The Cult of the Offensive and the Origins of First World War," *International Security*, Vol. 9, No. 1, Summer 1984.

Martin Kitchen, *The German Officer Corps, 1890-1914* (Oxford: Clarendon, 1968), Chapters 5 and 6, pp. 96-142.

Topic 9: (3/28, 3/30) WWII

R.R. Palmer and Joel Colton, *A History of the Modern World*, 7th ed. (NY: Knopf, 1991), pp. 798-799, 822-849.

Wolfram Wette, "From Kellog to Hitler (1928-1933). German Public Opinion Concerning the Rejection or Glorification of War," in Wilhelm Deist, ed., *The German Military in the Age of Total War* (Dover: Berg, 1985), pp. 71-99.

Jack Snyder, *Myths of Empire: Domestic Politics and International Ambition*, Chapter 4, "Japan's Bid for Autarky."

Scott Sagan, "The Origins of the Pacific War," in Robert I Rotberg and Theodore K. Rabb, ed., *The Origins and Prevention of Major Wars* (NY: Cambridge University Press, 1988), pp. 323-352.

Topic 10: (4/4, 4/6, 4/11) Arab-Israeli Conflict (Show Documentary film *The Six Day War*)

Avi Shlaim, "The Middle East: Origins of the Arab-Israeli Wars," in Ngaire Woods, ed., *Explaining International Relations Since 1945* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996): 219-236 (skim 219-221, read 221-236)

Michal Ben-Josef Hirsch, "From Taboo to the Negotiable: The Israeli New Historians and the Changing Representation of the Palestinian Refugee Problem," *Perspectives on Politics* 5, No. 2 (June 2007): 241-258

Jeremy Pressman, "Visions in Collision: What Happened at Camp David and Taba?" *International Security*, Vol. 28, No. 2 (Fall 2003): 5-43

4/13 Review and discussion

4/18 In-class exam

Topic 11: (4/20, 4/25) The Cold War; Korean War

Thomas G. Paterson, J. Gary Clifford, and Kenneth Hagan, *American Foreign Relations: A History Since 1895* (Lexington: D.C. Heath, 1995), pp. 315-327, 371-394, 402-417.

Thomas J. Christensen, *Useful Adversaries: Grand Strategy, Domestic Mobilization, and Sino-American Conflict, 1947-1958* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996), Chapter 5.

Christopher Twomey, *The Military Lens: Doctrinal Difference and Deterrence Failure in Sino-American Relations* (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 2010), read Chapter 3, and skim Chapters 4 and 5.

4/27 & 5/2 & 5/4 Student presentations

All final papers due on Monday, 5/9, at 10am, both electronically (upload at Course Site) and in hard copy (drop in my mailbox at IR department headquarter or under my office door)

Suggested cases:

1. Anglo-French Seven Year's War, 1756-1763
2. Italian Wars of Independence, 1848-1870
3. Mexican-American War, 1846-1848
4. Crimean War, 1853-1856
5. Austro-Prussian War of 1866
6. Franco-Prussian War of 1870
7. Second Boer War, 1899-1902
8. Russo-Japanese War, 1904-1905
9. Japanese-Soviet War, 1938-1939
10. French Indochina War, 1946-1954
11. China-India War, 1962
12. America at War in Vietnam, 1965-1973
13. China-Vietnam War, 1979
14. Argentina-Britain War over the Falklands, 1982
15. Iran-Iraq War, 1980-1988
16. Persian Gulf War, 1990-1991
17. Wars in the Former Yugoslavia: Serbia/Bosnia 1992-1995
18. Your choice, with professor's approval