

SC250 - Perspectives on War/Aggression/Conflict Resolution
Fall 2009; September 22 & 24, Noon to 1:15 p.m.; Devlin 112
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HISTORICAL, SOCIAL, & CULTURAL NATURE OF WAR

I. The Sociological Perspective

A. People Problematic Versus Systems as Problematic

1. Flawed Behavior/People Problematic (Hitler & the Nazis; Arab Terrorism)
2. Social and Cultural Contexts/Systems Problematic (Everett Hughes' "Good People and Dirty Work")
3. Symbolic Nature of Human Behavior and War

II. Similarities in Warfare (Myths About War)

1. "Nobody Likes War"
2. "You Can't Fight War by Rules"
3. War Corrupts Everything It Touches
4. The Fog of War (Clausewitz)
5. The Limitations of Force (War As Art, Not Science - Tzu)

III. Differences Between Wars (Historical Typology of War) - Quincy Wright

1. Primitive - Communal; Particular; Continuous; "Controls" like Animal Conflict
2. Historic - Private/Professional Armies & Partial Goals; Military/Civilian Distinctions; Professional "Controls;" Honor and Duty; Combatant/Non-Combatant; Sanctuary; "Just Wars"
3. Modern - Public & Total; Breakdown of Controls; Communal; Technology of Death; No More Just Wars?
4. "Post-Modern" - Nuclear/Chemical/Biological Threat; Regional; Covert/Overt Conflict; "Weekend Wars;" continuous conflict; unconventional war; Terrorism; Nation-In-Arms/Garrison Warfare State (Huxley's 1984); never ending war
5. Key Factors: Technology, Law, Social Organization, and Opinions and Attitudes

Selected References:

- Bacevich, Andrew (ed.); *The Long War: A New History of U.S. National Security Policy Since WWII* (Columbia University Press, 2007)
- Barnet, Richard; *Roots of War* (Penguin Books, 1984)
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- Clausewitz, General Karl von; *On War* (Princeton University Press, reprint ed., 1989)
- Hedges Chris; *War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning* (Anchor Books, 2003)
- Hillman, James; *A Terrible Love of War* (Penguin Books, 2004)
- Janis, Irving L.; *Groupthink* (Houghton Mifflin, 1982)
- Murphy, Cullen; *Are We Rome? The Fall of an Empire and the Fate of America* (Houghton Mifflin 2007)
- Richardson, Louise; *What Terrorists Want* (Random House, 2006)
- Schell, Jonathan; *The Unconquerable World: Power, Nonviolence and the Will of the People* (Metropolitan Books, 2003)
- Tzu, Sun; *The Art of War* (Oxford University Press, 1963)
- Vagts, Alfred; *A History of Militarism: Civilian and Military* (The Free Press, 1967)
- Wright, Quincy; *A Study of War* (University of Chicago Press, 1942)

Note:

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