THE EVOLUTION OF WAR

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ASSESSMENT: Out of 100 points

1) Two short papers, 4-5 pages in length (incl. notes), to be submitted by email as attached Word file by 4.00 pm on Sept 24 and Oct 17. These papers should critically evaluate one of the readings, or one of the topics. [15 points each]

2) Research paper, 10-15 pages long (incl. notes). You can propose your own topic, subject to instructor approval. A 1-2 page outline must be submitted to the instructor on Nov 5, and the final version by 4.00 pm on Dec 12. [40 points]

3) A 10 minute class presentation based on one of the short papers or the research paper or something else altogether. You are encouraged to make the presentation as an i-movie [15 points]

4) Class participation, occasional spot quizzes, and extra credit reports on outside lectures (email me a 1-2 page response paper). [15 points]

READINGS

The following are the core texts which you might consider buying:

Barbara Ehrenreich Blood Rites: Origins and History of the Passions of War
Robert L. O’Connell Of Arms and Men (available as ebook though Olin)
Charles Tilly Coercion, Capital and European States
John Keegan The Face of Battle
John Ellis The Social History of the Machine Gun
A.C. Grayling Among the Dead Cities. The History and Moral Legacy of the WWII Bombing of Civilians in Germany and Japan
Anonymous A Woman in Berlin

All these books are on 24 hour reserve at Olin.

Required reading is marked with an asterisk.* The supplementary readings are strictly optional.

All the articles listed below are available on Wesfiles, through hyperlinks in the syllabus (some of them are links direct to websites). I only use Moodle for posting grades.

Absence from three classes without prior notification to the instructor will be considered withdrawal from the class and may result in a failing grade. Appeals for late submissions must have documented reasons.

Plagiarism i.e. using material not written by yourself and without clear identification of the source is not tolerated.
Sept 3  INTRODUCTION

* Joshua Goldstein & Steven Pinker ‘War is really going out of style,’ NYT 17 Dec 2011
  Steven Pinker  A history of violence  27 Sep 2011

Sept 5  WHY DO MEN FIGHT WARS?

A discussion of Barbara Ehrenreich’s book. What role does warfare play in structuring social relations and particularly gender relations? Is warfare a biological/anthropological necessity?

* Barbara Ehrenreich  Blood Rites: Origins and History of the Passions of War

Supplementary:
Rick Saltus  ‘Prescription for war,’ Boston Globe, 21 Sep 1998
Frans B.M. De Waal  ‘We’re all Machiavellians,’ Chronicle of Higher Education, 23 Sep. 05
Robert O’Connell  Of Arms and Men, 3-83

Sept 10  FEUDAL WARFARE

Warfare was pivotal to the emergence of the feudal order in Europe. What new technologies were key to the rise of the knight? Why did this social formation emerge in West Europe? What was the role of money and of honor in feudal warfare? How is feudal warfare recycled for today’s wars?

* John Keegan  The Face of Battle, 78-116 on Agincourt
* Robert O’Connell  Of Arms and Men, 84-107
* Peter Burkhalter  ‘Popular misconceptions of medieval warfare,’ History Compass, 5: 2, 2007, 507-24

Supplementary:
Clifford Rogers  ‘As if a new sun had arisen: England’s 14th century RMA,’ ch. 2 in M. Knox and W. Murray (eds), The Dynamics of Military Revolution
William McNeill  The Pursuit of Power, 1-63 (also an ebook through Olin)
Lynn White  ‘The stirrup,’ Medieval Technology & Social Change 1-38
Movies  Henry V, The Messenger

Sept 12  THE GUNPOWDER REVOLUTION (1450-1700)

How was gunpowder used in medieval battles and sieges? Why did it undermine the feudal order in Europe (but not in Japan)? What were the characteristics of the professional armies that emerged in early modern Europe? How were European armies able to conquer the Americas?

* Robert O’Connell  Of Arms and Men, 108-66

Supplementary:
John A. Lynn  ‘Forging the Western army in 17th century France,’ ch. 3 in Knox and Murray (eds.) The Dynamics ...
William McNeill  The Pursuit of Power, 63-184 (ebook through Olin)
Sept 17  WAR AND THE CAPITALIST STATE

Tilly examines the interplay between new forms of warfare and the rise of the capitalist state.

* Charles Tilly  Coercion, Capital and European States

Supplementary:
Charles Tilly  ‘War making and state making as organized crime,’ in Peter Evans et al (eds) Bringing the State Back In (1985)
William McNeill  The Pursuit of Power
Bruce Porter  War and the Rise of the State

Sept 19  THE NAPOLEONIC WARS

Napoleon revolutionized warfare – but without any particular technological breakthrough. Napoleon’s way of war reflected political change: the rise of nationalism.

* John Keegan  The Face of Battle, Waterloo 117-206
* Robert O’Connell  Of Arms and Men, 167-88
* Movie  Battle of Waterloo (1970), mins 1.10-1.25

Supplementary:
Macgregor Knox  ‘Mass politics and nationalism: the French revolution,’ ch. 4 in Knox and Murray (eds.) The Dynamic of Military...
William McNeill  The Pursuit of Power, 185-222

Sept 24  FIRST SHORT PAPER DUE (4.00 pm)

This short, 4-5 page paper should critically engage with one of the readings or one of the topics discussed to date. You should develop your own argument in opposition to or in support of the author’s approach.

Sept 24-26  THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

The Civil War was the first modern war. What were the technological innovations in guns and in logistics that made possible the invention of “total war”? What were the respective strategies of the North and South – how did they hope to win? What motivated the troops on both sides?

* Mark Grimsley  ‘Social dimensions of the Civil War’, FPRI, June 2007
* Mark Grimsley  ‘Surviving military revolution: the US civil war,’ ch. 5 in M. Knox and W. Murray (eds) Dynamics Military Revolution
* movie  The Red Badge of Courage (1951) 7 min clip

Supplementary:
William McNeill  The Pursuit of Power, 223-61
James McPherson  What They Fought For 1861-1865
Jay Luvaas  The Military Legacy of the Civil War, 1-51
Oct 1  
**COLONIAL WARS**

How come small groups of Europeans were able to conquer entire continents?  
How did colonial war differ from European warfare?

* John Ellis  
* movie  

_Supplementary:

James O. Gump  
Sven Lindqyist  
Adam Hochschild  
Douglas Porch  

_Movies:_  

_Supplementary:_

**Movies:**  

Oct 3  
**CLAUSEWITZ vs SUN TZU**

Clausewitz turned Napoleonic doctrines of war into a ‘science’ of military affairs that dominated military thinking through World War Two. Contrast his writing with the ancient Chinese classic Sun Tzu’s _Art of War_. Both are required reading for US army officers.

* [Blackboard File]  
* Sun Tzu  

_Supplementary:_

Carl von Clausewitz  
Ralph Sawyer  
Peter Paret (ed)  
www.sonshi.com  
http://www.clausewitz.com/  

Oct 8  
**THE FIRST WORLD WAR**

The First World War saw new technologies that brought maximum destruction to the battlefield and an unprecedented mobilization of resources on the Home Front: economic, human and cultural. What was it like to be a soldier in this war?

* John Keegan  
* Robert O'Connell  
* William James  
* movie  

_Supplementary:_

Jonathan Bailey  
William McNeill  

_Movie:_  

Oct 10  
**i-movie training** in Fisk Hall Language lab
Oct 15

THE SECOND WORLD WAR

(a) Combat on land

What were the technological innovations that made ground combat in WW2 so different from WW1? Why were the Nazis so successful in conquering Europe? Why did they fail to defeat the Soviet Union? Could democracies persuade their citizens to fight in total war?

[Blackboard File] ‘The Good War’ (reviews of Studs Terkel’s The Good War)
Richard O’Connell Of Arms and Men, 270-95
Günter Grass ‘How I spent the war,’ New Yorker, 4 June 2007

Supplementary:
Morris Janowitz & Edward Shils ‘Cohesion and disintegration in the Wehrmacht,’ in Center and Periphery, 280-315
Williamson Murray ‘May 1940,’ ch. 9 in Knox and Murray, Dynamics...
Dave Grossman On Killing: the Psychological Cost of Learning to Kill in War
Richard Holmes Acts of War: The Behavior of Men in Battle
Movies: Cross of Iron, Das Boot, Battle of Britain

Oct 17

SECOND SHORT PAPER DUE (4.00 pm)
A second critical response paper, 4-5 pages, on a topic covered since the first paper.

Oct 17

THE SECOND WORLD WAR

(b) The war in the air

WW2 saw the large-scale victimization of civilians as both a by-product and a goal of total war. Was the Allied use of terror bombing morally justifiable? Where does this leave the theory of ‘just war’?

* A.C. Grayling Among the Dead Cities. The History and Moral Legacy of WWII Bombing of Civilians in Germany and Japan
* BBC Timewatch Bombing Germany (2001)

Supplementary:
Brian Orend ‘War,’ Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (on ‘Just War’)
W.G. Sebald On the Natural History of Destruction
Sven Lindqvist History of Bombing
Charles Messenger ‘The influence of technology on air power 1919-45,’ 93-112 in Ronald Haycock et al (eds.) Men, Machines and War
David MacIsaac ‘The Air Power theorists,’ in Peter Paret (ed), Makers ...
Modern Strategy

Oct 22-24

NO CLASS – FALL BREAK

Oct 29

THE SECOND WORLD WAR

(c) Gender and war

What roles do women play in wartime? Why are they usually excluded from combat?

* Anonymous A Woman in Berlin, Movie version Continued…
Oct 31-Nov 5   VIETNAM

Could the US have won the Vietnam War? How did it change the American way of waging war?

* French Broadcast System ‘The Anderson Platoon,’ (video 1968) esp. 34-54 mins
* Le Ly Hayslip When Heaven and Earth Changed Places, 194-215
* [Blackboard File] ‘Why were we in Vietnam?’ (New York Times articles)

Supplementary:
movie Battle of Algiers (1965) esp mins 10.00-18.00
Bill McCloud What Should We Tell Our Children About Vietnam?
Samuel Hynes The Soldier’s Tale, ch. 5
Stanley Karnow Vietnam: a History
Movies: The Anderson Platoon, Platoon, Apocalypse Now

Nov 5   TERM PAPER OUTLINE DUE (4.00 pm)

Nov 7   THE MILITARY REVOLUTION OF THE 1990s

The 1991 Gulf War and 1999 Kosovo war saw the US deploy new technologies that some believed would change the face of war: precision weapons, information warfare, the electronic battlefield. Funnily enough this vision captivated, for a while, both militarists and left-wing critics of war.


Supplementary
Gregory Gause International Relations of the Persian Gulf, ch. 4
James Der Derian Virtuous War
Bruce Berkowitz The New Face of War
Chris Hables Gray Postmodern War. The New Politics of Conflict
Jean Baudrillard The Gulf War Did Not Take Place
Martin Van Crefeld The Transformation of War
Peter W. Singer Corporate Warriors: The Rise of the Privatized Military Industry
Nov 12  THE HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTIONS OF THE 1990s

At the same time, we saw a surge in civil wars waged by non-state groups. Humanitarian interventions such as Somalia (1993), Rwanda (1994), Bosnia (1995), and Kosovo (1999) posed acute moral, political and military dilemmas for US forces.

* Michael Mandelbaum  ‘Foreign policy as social work,’ Foreign Affairs, Jan 1996
* Movie  Black Hawk Down (2001), eg mins 55-1.10

Supplementary:
Mary Kaldor  New and Old Wars
William Reno  Warlord Politics and African States
Mark Bowden  Black Hawk Down: A Story of Modern War (Somalia 1993)
Max Boot  The Savage Wars of Peace
Movies:  Black Hawk Down, Before the Rain, Savior,

Nov 14-19  THE US AT WAR: IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

How did the US military adapting to the strains of waging counter-insurgency wars in Iraq and Afghanistan?

* Peter Maass  ‘Professor Nagl’s war,’ New York Times, 11 Jan 2004
* Evan Wright  Generation Kill, ch. 1
* Brian Mockenhaupt  ‘The army we have,’ Atlantic, June 2007

Supplementary
BBC  The Iraq War (2013)
Richard Morin  ‘Gen Y goes AWOL,’ Washington Post, 8 Apr 2001
T.X. Hammes  ‘The way to win a guerrilla war,’ Wash. Post, 26 Nov 2006
Lawrence Wright  ‘Captives,’ New Yorker 9 Nov 2009 [on the 2008 Gaza war]

Nathaniel Fick  One Bullet Away: The Making of a Marine Officer
Sean Naylor  Not a Good Day to Die: The Story of Operation Anaconda
Rick Atkinson  In the Company of Soldiers
Sebastian Junger  War

Analysis:  John Nagl  Learning to Eat Soup with a Knife, Counterinsurgency Lessons from Malaya and Vietnam
Thomas Hammes  The Sling and the Stone: On War in the 21st Century
Anthony Cordesman  Iraq War: Strategy, Tactics, and Military Lessons
George Packer  The Assassin’s Gate
Andrew Bacevich  The New American Militarism
Carl Conetta  ‘An undisciplined defense: Understanding US defense spending,’ PDA Report, Jan 2010

Movies:  Jarhead, Three Kings, The Hurt Locker, Zero Dark Thirty
WAR AND PUBLIC OPINION

How have changes in technology affected the way Americans view war?

* Susan Sontag  ‘Looking at war,’ New Yorker, 9 Dec 2002
* Peter Singer  ‘Do drones undermine democracy?,’ 21 Jan 2012

Supplementary
PBS Nova  ‘The rise of the drones,’ 23 Jan 2013 (video)
Susan Sontag  Regarding The Pain of Others
Chris Hedges  What Every Person Should Know About War
Chris Hedges  War is a Force That Gives Us Meaning
James Hillman  A Terrible Love of War
Martin Cook  The Moral Warrior

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

TERM PAPER DUE (4.00 pm)