

Fall 2013

GOVT 303

THE EVOLUTION OF WAR

Instructor: Peter Rutland, email: prutland@wesleyan.edu
Office PAC 203 office hours T, Th 10.30-12.00

Teaching Assistant: Andrew Trexler (atrexler@wesleyan.edu)

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

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 *A Social History of the Machine Gun*
- * movie [Sanders of the River](#) (1935) esp the end mins. 1.17-1.26

Supplementary:

James O. Gump *The Dust Rose Like Smoke: the Subjugation of Zulu and Sioux*
Sven Lindqvist *Exterminate All the Brutes*
Adam Hochschild *King Leopold's Ghost*
Douglas Porch ['French colonial warfare'](#) in Peter Paret (ed) *Makers of Modern Strategy*, 376-407

Movies: *Saunders of the River, Zulu, Burn!, Battle of Algiers,*

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] [Strategy](#)
- * Sun Tzu [The Art of War](#)

Supplementary:

Carl von Clausewitz *On War*
Ralph Sawyer *Sun Tzu: The Art of War*
Peter Paret (ed) [Makers of Modern Strategy](#)
www.sonshi.com Sun Tzu fan website
<http://www.clausewitz.com/> Clausewitz fan website

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 *The Face of Battle*, on the Somme, 207-285
- * Robert O'Connell *Of Arms and Men*, 241-270
- * William James ['The moral equivalent of war'](#) (1906)
- * movie [All Quiet on the Western Front](#) (1930), 4 mn clip

Supplementary:

Jonathan Bailey 'The First World War and the birth of modern warfare,'
ch. 8 in Knox & Murray (eds) *The Dynamics of Military...*
William McNeill *The Pursuit of Power*, 307-61
Movie: *All Quiet on the Western Front*

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]
Richard O'Connell
Günter Grass

[‘The Good War’](#) (reviews of Studs Terkel’s *The Good War Of Arms and Men*, 270-95
[‘How I spent the war,’](#) *New Yorker*, 4 June 2007

Supplementary:
Morris Janowitz
& Edward Shils
Williamson Murray
Dave Grossman
Richard Holmes
Movies:

[‘Cohesion and disintegration in the Wehrmacht,’](#) in *Center and Periphery*, 280-315
‘May 1940,’ ch. 9 in Knox and Murray, *Dynamics...*
On Killing: the Psychological Cost of Learning to Kill in War
Acts of War: The Behavior of Men in Battle
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...*

Supplementary:
 Joshua Goldstein *War and Gender: How Gender Shapes the War System*
 Jean Elshtain *Women and War*
 Miriam Cooke & Angela Woollacott (eds) *Gendering War Talk*
 Caroline Moser *Victims, Perpetrators or Actors? Gender, Armed*
 Conflict and Political Violence

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
- * William Broyles [‘Why men love war,’](#) *Esquire*, November 1994.
- * [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.

- * Eliot Cohen [‘A revolution in warfare,’](#) *Foreign Affairs* (March 1996)

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.

- * Kenneth Cain [‘The legacy of Black Hawk down,’](#) *New York Times* 3 Oct 2003
- * 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](#)
- * Jounreyman Pictures [‘Generation Kill – Iraq,’](#) (8 mins video) Aug 2004
- * 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]

Memoirs: Anthony Swofford *Jarhead: A Marine’s Chronicle of the Gulf War* (on 1991 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 Connetta [‘An undisciplined defense: Understanding US defense spending,’](#) PDA Report, Jan 2010
Movies: *Jarhead, Three Kings, The Hurt Locker, Zero Dark Thirty*

Nov 21

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*

Nov 26-Dec 6

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Dec 12

TERM PAPER DUE (4.00 pm)