

CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF WAR: THEN AND NOW (MOSTLY NOW)

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Course Description

This course is a grim, [intellectual] adventure –travelling to many lands at many times to see and explain terrible things. The vehicle on which course participants travel is a particular type of critical analysis –critical structural realism. Using it they explore warfare as it has occurred throughout human history. The relationship between empire and war is explored at some length. Emphasis is upon post World War II conflict. Participants are helped to formulate and strengthen their own intellectual interests in war and peace studies.

Bibliographic Sources

R. Brian Ferguson and Leslie Farragher (1988): *The Anthropology of War: A Bibliography*.

Jeremy Black (2006): *War in European History, 1494-1660: The Essential Bibliography*.

Clifford Rogers (2015): Warfare and Military Organizations. *Oxford Bibliographies*.

<http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780195399301/obo-9780195399301-0056.xml>.

Course Outline

1. Approach

- a. What is critical structural realism?
Reading: S. Reyna (2016): Chapter 2 *Deadly Contradictions*
- b. What is war?
Reading: S. Reyna (1994) ‘A Mode of Domination Approach to Organized Violence’ Chapter 2, *Studying War*;

2. Non-state organized violence

- a. Pre-state -bands, tribes, and chiefdoms

Readings: Elizabeth Marshall Thomas (1994). 'Management of Violence among the Ju/wasi of Nyae Nyae.' Chapter 2, *Studying War*.

Optional: Roy Rappaport (2000): *Pigs for the Ancestors*
R. Brian Ferguson (1995): *Yanomami Warfare*.

b. Contemporary 'new wars'

Reading: Mary Kaldor, *New and Old Wars*; Herfried Münkler, *The New Wars*; S. Reyna, 'Taking Place: "New Wars" versus Global Wars'. *Social Anthropology/Anthropologie Sociale*. 17 (3): 291-317.

3. Invention of War, the State and Empire

a. Theories of war and the invention of the state. Readings: Harry Barnes (1924): Theories of the Origin of the state in classical political philosophy'. *The Monist*; R. Carneiro (1970): 'A theory of the origin of the state'. *Science*.

b. Theories of empire

Readings: V. Lenin (1917): *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism*; Wolfgang Mommsen (1980): *Theories of Imperialism*.

4. Overview –Of Empires and War

Readings: Michael Doyle (1986): *Empires*

5. Ancient and Medieval Empire: 3000 BP – 1400 AD

Reading: John Kautsky (1997): *The Politics of Aristocratic Empires*.

a. Ancient Empire

Optional Reading: Morris, I., & Scheidel, W. (2009). *The Dynamics of Ancient Empires: State power from Assyria to Byzantium*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

b. Middle East

Optional Reading: Karen Barkey (2008): *Empire of Difference: The Ottomans in Comparative Perspective*.

c. China

Optional Reading: Timothy Brook, ed. (2009-2013): *History of Imperial China*.

d. India

Optional Reading: Stephen Dale (2009): *The Muslim Empires of the Ottomans, Safavids, and Mughals*.

e. Europe

Optional Reading: Peter Heather (2010) *Empires and Barbarians: The Fall of Rome and the Rise of Europe*.

6. Modern, Formal Empire: 1492 AD-1945 AD

a. The Iberian Breakthrough

Optional Reading: J.H. Elliott (2006) *Empires of the Atlantic World: Britain and Spain in America, 1492-1830*; Boxer, C.R. (1969). *The Portuguese Seaborne Empire 1415–1825*.

b. The Dutch Revolution

Optional reading: Boxer, C.R. (1965). *The Dutch Seaborne Empire 1600–1800*.

c. Anglo-French Competition

Optional reading: Baumgart, Winfried (1982). *Imperialism: The Idea and Reality of British and French Colonial Expansion, 1880–1914*

d. British Moment

Optional reading: S. Reyna (1997): ‘The Force of Two Logics’, Chapter 1, *Deadly Developments*. Niall Ferguson (2004). *Empire, The rise and demise of the British world order and the lessons for global power*.

e. Late Comers (Germany, Japan, and Italy)

Optional reading: Stern, Fritz. (1979) *Gold and Iron: Bismark, Bleichroder, and the Building of the German Empire*; David James (1951): *The Rise and Fall of the Japanese Empire*.

7. Modern, Informal Empire: 1945AD –Present

a. The New American Empire

Reading: S. Reyna (2016): *Deadly Contradictions*. (entire book)

b. Terrorism

S. Reyna (pre-publication): ‘“Design of Darkness to Appall”: American Exceptionalism’

c. Humanitarian Imperialism

Reading: Jean Bricmont: *Humanitarian Imperialism: Using Human Rights to Sell War*.

8. What is to Be Done?

Capitalist, Socialist, Anarchist Answers