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

Course Outline

1. Approach
   a. What is critical structural realism?
      Reading: S. Reyna (2016): Chapter 2 Deadly Contradictions
   b. What is war?
      Chapter 2, Studying War;

2. Non-state organized violence
   a. Pre-state -bands, tribes, and chiefdoms

Optional: Roy Rappaport (2000): Pigs for the Ancestors

b. Contemporary ‘new wars’


3. Invention of War, the State and Empire

a. Theories of war and the invention of the state.

b. Theories of empire

4. Overview – Of Empires and War
   Readings: Michael Doyle (1986): Empires

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

a. Ancient Empire

b. Middle East

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

d. India

e. Europe

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

   a. The Iberian Breakthrough  

   b. The Dutch Revolution  

   c. Anglo-French Competition  

   d. British Moment  

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

7. **Modern, Informal Empire: 1945AD –Present**

   a. The New American Empire  

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

   c. Humanitarian Imperialism  

8. **What is to Be Done?**

   Capitalist, Socialist, Anarchist Answers