

War and Peace

VAK 08-351-3-MA-IR-A3, Master International Relations

TUE 10-13h, Room: **FVG M 2010**

In this seminar, we will work on questions of war and peace, which are foundational for the discipline of International Relations. After having gone through core arguments and empirical insights on war and peace in the 20th century, we will put a focus on the topic on the historically structuring “events” of World War Two. This shall include an excursion to Berlin during which we will visit two museums on World War Two, the “Alliierten-Museum” of Western allies and the “Museum Karlshorst”, originally the Museum of the Soviet Forces in Germany. There are basically three groups of themes we will deal with in this seminar: causes of war, what happens in war, and consequences of war. World War Two will be a primary case in this seminar, but in sessions, discussions and term papers other cases can of course be dealt with.

What you need to do:

Participation in seminar sessions is expected. Non-attendance of more than three sessions can lead to extra oral examination to make sure that content has been learned.

Participation in the excursion is mandatory, as it will replace four sessions. Students can only replace it by short paper on related topics (see below).

In class, mandatory reading might be split along a division of labor between two groups:

Group A: Akhtar – Kocherzhat

Group B: Leaf - Zander

Please note: Check your workload for this semester beforehand. If you feel that taking this seminar is too much this semester, you will have the opportunity to take an alternative seminar on questions of war and peace in future semesters.

We will work with several forms of student contributions in this seminar:

- **Research note:** a 1.000 word paper on one of the keywords/personalities in the list (see session 10-14); or for those not participating in the excursion, a 3.000 words short paper on one of these topics:
- **Oral presentation:** in groups of max. 3, students present a topic of a session in 20 minutes and produce a handout with essential information on the topic;
- **Term paper:** a topical paper of 5-7.000 words with a research question, using academic literature. This paper is due on March 31 in a printed version.

6 CP: class participation; research note AND participation in oral presentation

9 CP: class participation; (research note OR participation in oral presentation) AND term paper

Session # 1, October 10 **Definitions, numbers, and seminar planning**

This first session is devoted to war and peace definitions, to basic features of war development after 1945, major distinctions of types and to the discussion of the seminar program.

Session # 2, October 17: **War and Peace in IR theories**

The discipline of IR has, according to some observers, the issue of war and peace at its origin. The aftermath of World War One is considered to be its birth period. All major IR theories have something to say about the issue. We will look back at core arguments of realism/neorealism on the one hand, and idealism/liberalism at the other. Apart from these dominant paradigms there are other schools which might be labeled “critical” of which we select a recent, sociological school of thought. What are strengths and weaknesses of these paradigms?

Mandatory reading:

Group A: Oneal/Russett 1999, The Kantian Peace and Malesević 2010, Violence and Modernity

Group B: Luttwak 1999, Let wars be fought; and Malesević 2010, Violence and Modernity

Session # 3, October 24: **Theories of War: Sun Tzu and Clausewitz**

Before there was IR, people already thought about peace and war.

Sun Tzu (544-496) produced – to our knowledge – oldest text on warfare, and Carl von Clausewitz (1780-1831) is the globally most known author on war theory. In this session we will discuss excerpts from the works of these two, locating them in their context of origin and discuss what their current relevance for our understanding of war might be.

Mandatory reading: Sun Tzu (group A); Clausewitz (group B)

The Clausewitz text is available online under <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/1946/1946-h/1946-h.htm#part01> . Please read book one, chapter 1+2

No session on October 31, public holiday

Session # 4, November 7: **War actors: the military and non-state armed groups**

Since Clausewitz, the distinction between the military, a government and the people has been the standard distinction of social actors in war. IN this session, we will look at civil-military relations, the historical development of the military and on more recent forms of “non-state” war actors, their internal functioning and political behavior. What has changed since Clausewitz’ times? Had his distinction ever been historically valid? We start with a presentation on military organization. How is it structured, what forms do we know and how it is delineated from other parts of a society?

Mandatory reading: Schlichte 2012

Further reading: Janowitz 1957

Presenting group: _____

Session # 5, November 14: **What happens in war?**

Social dynamics in war are still a neglected topic. The exception is perhaps the relation of warfare with the economy, as the organization of resources is a key task for any war actor. We will start this session with the discussion of a text that sketches the strategies of armed groups to organize funding for armed combat (Le Billon 2004). In a second part, I suggest to interview a guest on his experiences of social, economic and political change during a civil war in the 1980s.

Mandatory reading: Le Billon 2004, War economies

Presenting group: _____

Session # 6, November 21: **On strategy**

Since Sun Tzu, as will learn, a lot of thinking on wars is about strategy. In this session we will look at main terms and ideas of military strategic thinking, its pitfalls and at historical experiences. Clausewitz might come back in here again.

The group of presenters shall feel free to add a topic of its own choosing. This could be nuclear strategy (Schelling); inherent strategies in war-games (cf. Rubel 2006); or a historical case like Mao's guerilla strategy.

Mandatory Reading: Heuser 2022

Further reading: Heuser 2010: The Evolution of Strategy; Schelling 1966: Strategy in Conflict;

Presenting group: _____

Session # 7, November 28 **How wars end**

Civil wars, it is often argued, are much more difficult to settle than international wars as states offer at least institutional capacities to push settlements through. The truth is more mixed, but there are a few general observations on how wars end, both from the empirical record of warfare in the last decades, but also from single cases. Already with an eye on the excursion to Berlin, we will discuss how and why Second World War ended.

Presenters are free to set their own focus, be it on large-N studies, on a single case or on mediation/negotiation.

Mandatory reading: King 1997, Ending Civil War

Further reading: Hobsbawm, on post 1945; Zartman 1995, Ripe for Resolution

Presenting group: _____

Session # 8, December 5 **Negotiating peace**

We will simulate a real-case of how a civil war ended. Student groups will play the roles of the incumbent government, of an insurgent group, governments of neighboring governments and extra-regional great powers. A group of observers shall note all kinds of things that we will learn about negotiations of ending a war. Instructions will be given just on the morning of this sessions, so no preparation is needed, but all knowledge gathered in this class is of course instrumental.

Observer group: _____

Session # 9, December 12: **The consequences of war**

While everybody agrees that wars are times of rapid social change, it is less clear what changes and in what direction. In preparation of the excursion, we will look at the consequences of World War Two in Europe, with a focus on its social, economic and moral effects. In an additional presentation, other forms of war consequences, also drawing on other cases or regions shall be investigated. In how far do wars shape peace? What are short-term, what long-term effects?

Mandatory reading: Mazower 1998, Dark continent, chapter 7

Further reading: Weiner 2001, WWII and Soviet World; Hobsbawm 1994, Age of Extremes

Presenting group: _____

Session # 10, December 19: **Peace and international institutions**

For a long time, the long afterlife of World War Two had set the conditions and structures of the international system, with the UN-system at its apex. With the waning impact of this war, the institutional setting of international relations is questioned once again. What do the United Nations and regional organizations contribute to global peace? We will discuss this focusing on the UN-system. Presenters are again free to choose a relevant additional topic, e.g. a specific regional organization (ASEAN; Shanghai Organization; AU, OAS, ...) or more theoretical literature.

We will use some space this session for remarks on how to write a term paper.

Mandatory reading: Thakur 2017, Intro and conclusions

Presenting group: _____

Session # 11-14, January 30 and 31: **Excursion to Berlin**

In our first session we decided to have an excursion to Berlin. This excursion will replace four sessions of our seminar. **So students not participating in the excursion will have to write an additional short paper** in order to keep the balance of requirements for 6/9 CP.

Those participating shall prepare a 1-2 pages note on major events or aspects of World War Two or on the role of the war for single individual lives. I name a few such subjects here, but feel free to come up with other suggestions, as I am eager to learn from you when I read your papers.

Leningrad blockade; Pearl Harbor 1941; Warsaw 1944; Brazzaville 1944; Hiroshima 1945;

...

Gerhard Schröder; Vladimir Putin, François Mitterrand; Daniil Granin; Lucius D. Clay; Leopold Senghor; Hannah Arendt; Emmanuel Levinas; Michael Wieck (only German lit.); Josip Broz Tito; Ilse Koch; ...

Those of you not attending the excursion would need to write a short paper (approx.. 3.000 words) on one of these themes (or related ones, agreed upon with me). The guiding question would always be: What do we learn from the case with regard to war and peace more generally?