

Course Requirements

Participation in the seminar comprises 25% of your grade. The short paper counts for another 25% of your grade, while the final paper counts for 50%.

The readings are available in the shared Dropbox folder: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/296zxvr00zjf8zp/AAA3blktMT9hZ5xLIgUW9oL7a?dl=0>.

I understand that students sometimes are faced with urgent situations, either of a personal or academic nature { e.g., a reading is not available or cannot be found } and in those cases, of course I welcome e-mails. Otherwise, I strongly prefer students show up for office hours also held on Zoom.

Books

The following books will be required reading this semester. I recommend you buy your books through Amazon.

- Kalevi J. Holsti, *Peace and War: Armed Conflicts and international Order, 1648-1989*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996.
http://www.amazon.com/Peace-War-Conflicts-International-1648-1989/dp/0521399297/ref=sr_1_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1440441268&sr=1-2&keywords=Kalevi+Holsti
- Jordan Branch, *The Cartographic State: Maps, Territory, and the Origins of Sovereignty*. Cambridge University Press, 2014.
<https://www.amazon.com/Cartographic-State-Territory-Sovereignty-International/dp/1107499720>

I may add one of these to the syllabus as the discussions and class develops:

- Charles S. Maier, *Once Within Borders: Territories of Power, Wealth, and Belonging since 1500*. Harvard University Press, 2016. https://www.amazon.com/Once-Within-Borders-Territories-Belonging/dp/0674059786/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1484772623&sr=1-1&keywords=once+within+borders
- James C. Scott, *The Art of Not Being Governed*, New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2009.
http://www.amazon.com/Art-Not-Being-Governed-Anarchist/dp/0300169175/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1314814705&sr=1-1

Academic Integrity

Be familiar with the University's policies on academic integrity and disciplinary action <http://www.rochester.edu/living/urhere/handbook/discipline2.html#XII+>. Violators of University regulations on academic integrity will be dealt with promptly, which means that your grade will suffer, and I will forward your case to the Chair of the College Board on Academic Honesty, on which I served.

Course Outline

Wednesday February 3

Class Introduction and Outline

Wednesday February 10

1. The State of the Discipline

- James D. Fearon. 1995. "Rationalist Explanations for War," *International Organization*, 49(3) (Summer): 379-414.
- Andrew Moravcsik. 1997. "Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics," *International Organization*, 51(4) (Autumn): 513-553.
- Kenneth A. Schultz and Hein Goemans. 2019. "Aims, Claims and the Bargaining Model," *International Theory*, 11(3) (November): 344-374.
- Hein Goemans and Paul Hensel. 2021. "Contentious Issues," Chapter 1 in *What do we know about war?*, Routledge. 4th edition, forthcoming.

Wednesday February 17

2. A Historical Overview of International Conflict

- Kalevi J. Holsti, *Peace and War: Armed Conflicts and international Order, 1648-1989*. New York: Cambridge University Press. 1996.

Wednesday February 24

3. The Territorial International Order

- Jordan Branch, 2014. *The Cartographic State: Maps, Territory, and the Origins of Sovereignty*. Cambridge University Press.
- Beth Simmons and Hein Goemans. 2021. "Built on Borders: Tensions with the Institution Liberalism (Thought It) Left Behind". Forthcoming in *International Organization*, 75(2).

Wednesday March 3

4. Nationalism?

- Patrick J. Geary, 2003. *The Myth of Nations; the medieval origins of Europe*, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Ernest Gellner, 1983. *Nations and Nationalism*. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press. Chapters 1, 3 and 4.

- Benedict Anderson, 2006. *Imagined Communities*, New York: Verso, New Edition. Chapter 10, "Census, Map, Museum":163{186.
- Andrew Bertoli, 2017. "Nationalism and Conflict: Lessons from International Sports." *International Studies Quarterly* **61**(4), 835{849.¹

Wednesday March 10

5. Nationalism, Ethnicity, Civilizations?

- Alexander B. Murphy, 1990. "Historical Justifications for Territorial Claims." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*. **80**(4), pp. 531{548.
- Alexander B. Murphy. 2002. "National Claims to Territory in the Modern State System: Geographical Considerations," in *Geopolitics*, **7**(2) (Autumn), pp. 193{214
- Scott F. Abramson and David B. Carter, 2016. "The Historical Origins of Territorial Disputes," *American Political Science Review* **110**(4), November: 675{698
- Hein Goemans and Kenneth A. Schultz, 2017. "The Politics of Territorial Claims: A Geospatial Approach Applied to Africa," *International Organization, International Organization* **71**(1), Winter: 31{64.

Wednesday March 17

6. Religion?

- Ron E. Hassner, 2009. *War on Sacred Grounds*, Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

Wednesday March 24

7. Loot?

- Peter Liberman, 1998. *Does Conquest Pay?* Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Wednesday March 31

8. Territory?

- Hein Goemans, Andi Zhou, Joel Selway and Michael Weintraub, 2021. "Maps to Die For!". Unpublished Manuscript, University of Rochester.

¹You might be interested in a follow-up paper, Andrew Bertoli and George Yin, "Nationalism and Trade: Evidence for a Large Natural Experiment Involving the World Cup." Unpublished manuscript. 16 December 2018.

- Paul R. Hensel, Sara McLaughlin Mitchell, Thomas E. Sowers II and Clayton L. Thyne. 2008. "Bones of Contention: Comparing Territorial, Maritime and River Issues." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 52

Wednesday May 5

13. **Factors that restrain conflict? {"Progress"**

- Steven Pinker, 2011. *The Better Angels of our Nature*. New York, NY: Viking.

Questions to consider in formulating and evaluating social science research

1. *What is the central question?*

- Why is it important (theoretically, substantively)?
- What is being explained (what is the dependent variable and how does it vary)?
- How does this phenomenon present a puzzle?

2. *What is the central answer?*

- What is doing the explaining (what are the independent variables and how do they vary)?
- What are the hypotheses, i.e., what is the relationship between independent and dependent variables, what kind of change in the independent variable causes what kind of change in the dependent variable?
- What are the causal mechanisms, i.e., why are the independent and dependent variables so related?
- How do the independent variables relate to each other?
- What assumptions does your theory make?
- Is the theory falsifiable in concept?
- What does this explanation add to our understanding of the question?

3. *What are the possible alternative explanations?*

- What assumptions are you making about the direction of causality?
- What other explanations might there be for the phenomenon of study, and to what degree do they conflict with the central answer?
- Could the hypothesized relationships have occurred by chance?

4. *Why are the possible alternative explanations wrong?*

- What is the logical structure of the alternative explanations (compare 2)?
- What is the empirical evidence?

5.

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