

### Assignment #3

#### HIST 3162 “War and Society in the Twentieth Century”

Due Date: Please submit essays to Mina Lee in class on April 29, 2019

Answer one essay. Your essay should be about 2,500 words in length.

#### Question 1:

Write an essay that examines the arguments for war made in these three documents, each of which lays out a rationale for the use of force to protect American interests. In your essay, discuss and explain the rhetorical case each president makes, and pay special attention to the language, to the metaphors and analogies, and to the moral position each leader adopts. (The NSS of 2002 is not the text of a speech, but is the official statement of US foreign policy at that time. You can consider as a statement by President George Bush.)

In your essay, do more than summarize each document. Develop your own argument about how American leaders mobilize the nation in time of war. That argument should be clear in the opening paragraph of your essay.

- *Woodrow Wilson, War Message to Congress, 1917:*  
[https://wwi.lib.byu.edu/index.php/Wilson's War Message to Congress](https://wwi.lib.byu.edu/index.php/Wilson's_War_Message_to_Congress)
- *Lyndon Johnson, Speech at Johns Hopkins University, 1965:* <https://millercenter.org/the-presidency/presidential-speeches/april-7-1965-address-johns-hopkins-university> [click on VIEW TRANSCRIPT]
- *George Bush, National Security Strategy of the United States, 2002:*  
<https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/63562.pdf>

#### Question 2:

What were the principal legal arguments made by Justice Department officials in 2002 for approving a program of “enhanced interrogation techniques”? And what are the principal arguments against using such techniques? In your essay, you should refer to the four documents that have been placed on Collab in the Resources tab, in a file called “documents on interrogation.” One recommendation: watch the PBS “Frontline” documentary “Secrets, Politics and Torture” for background:  
<https://www.pbs.org/video/frontline-secrets-politics-and-torture/>

In your essay, try to lay out the legal reasoning in the key Justice Department memos for why enhanced interrogation was allowable by US law. Then compare that reasoning with the counter-arguments made in the essays you have read by Zelikow and Hitchcock.

As always, your essay should have an argument of its own. What conclusions do you draw from this debate? Is one side more persuasive than the other? Why?

*You may use parenthetical citations in your essay. You do not need to do any outside reading to write these essays.*