

HIST 5213
War, Violence, and Modernity

Instructor: Ingo Trauschweizer
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Office Hours: Tu 3-4, W 2-3, or by appointment (+graduate discussion, TBD, 4th Fl. Bentley Annex)
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1. General Outline:

This course is an upper-level elective – open to graduate students - that will explore the correlation of war, violence organized and controlled by the state or unbounded and uncontrolled, and modernity. Specifically, it will consider the relationship of state and society with regard to war and domestic order from the end of the Middle Ages (roughly the mid-fifteenth century) to the present. We will focus primarily on the West, i.e., Europe and North America, although comparisons to other regions and cultures will be introduced where appropriate. We will assess the assumption that “war made the state and the state made war” and consider to what extent our understanding of modernity (political, social, technological, and even cultural) has been shaped by war and by advances in the military realm. We will investigate whether Europe and the United States developed along similar lines toward a modern state. Finally, we will consider the rise of the state’s monopoly of significant violence from the sixteenth century, its solidification in the eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth centuries, and its erosion in recent times.

2. Graduate Course:

HIST 3213 is complemented by a readings colloquium for graduate students (HIST 5213). Graduate students are expected to attend lecture and discussion meetings and required to attend an additional one-hour meeting each week to discuss their readings. The main objective of HIST 5213 is to introduce recent notable contributions to military historiography, broadly defined, and discuss major themes in modern history.

We will meet for about an hour each week (TBD).

Please submit all written assignments by e-mail to trauschw@ohio.edu.

Grade components:

- a. mid-term and final (take-home essay exams meant to help you prepare for comprehensive exams): 50% (final cancels out mid-term in case of improvement; otherwise the two exam grades will be averaged)
- b. participation: 25%
- c. 2 book reviews: 25% (2-3 pages, your choice of books from the reading list; due at beginning of discussion; same rule on improvement)

Reading Schedule for History Graduate Students (field prep):

Books are on reserve. Chapters, articles, and reviews are posted on Blackboard.

Week 1 (W, 01/17): Dawn of the Modern Age?

Geoffrey Parker, *The Military Revolution: Military Innovation and the Rise of the West, 1500-1800*. Second edition. Cambridge University Press, 1996
Geoffrey Parker, "Crisis and Catastrophe: The Global Crisis of the Seventeenth Century Reconsidered," *American Historical Review*, Vol. 113, No. 4 (Oct. 2008), pp. 1053-1079.

Recommended (for comps reading): Azar Gat, *War in Human Civilization* (2006); John Keegan, *The Face of Battle* (1976); Ian Morris, *War! What Is It Good For?* (2014)

Week 2 (01/24): Gunpowder Revolution?

Kenneth Chase, *Firearms: A Global History to 1700*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003 and Steven Gunn, David Grummitt, and Hans Cools, "War and the State in Early Modern Europe: Widening the Debate," *War in History*, Vol. 15, No. 4 (2008), pp. 371-388

Recommended: Gabor Agoston, *Guns for the Sultan* (2005); Tonio Andrade, *The Gunpowder Age* (2016); Charles Tilly, *Coercion, Capital, and European States, AD 990-1990* (1990)

Week 3 (01/31): War, Technology, and Modern Society

William H. McNeill, *The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Forces, and Society since A.D. 1000*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982.

Recommended: Michael Adas, *Machines as the Measure of Man* (1989); Alex Roland, *War and Technology* (2016); Paul Scharre, *Army of None* (2018); P. W. Singer, *Wired for War* (2009)

Week 4 (02/07): Global Wars and Globalization

Linda Colley, *The Gun, the Ship, and the Pen: War, Constitutions, and the Making of the Modern World*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2021.

Recommended: Tonio Andrade, *Lost Colony: The Untold Story of China's First Great Victory Over the West* (2011); John Darwin, *After Tamerlane* (2007); Marie Favereau, *The Horde: How the Mongols Changed the World* (2021); Toby Green, *A Fistful of Shells* (2019); Ross Hassig, *Mexico and the Spanish Conquest* (1993); Geoffrey Plank, *Atlantic Wars: From the Fifteenth Century to the Age of Revolutions* (2020); Richard Reid, *Warfare in African History* (2012)

Week 5 (02/14): When Did "Total Wars" Begin?

David A. Bell, *The First Total War: Napoleon's Europe and the Birth of Warfare as We Know It*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2007 and Peter H. Wilson, "Was the Thirty Years War a

‘Total War?’,” in: *Civilians and War in Europe, 1618-1815*, eds. Erica Charters, Eve Rosenhaft, and Hannah Smith. Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2012, 21-35.

Recommended: Michael A. Broers, *Napoleon: Soldier of Destiny* (2014); Alexander Mikaberidze, *The Napoleonic Wars: a Global History* (2020); Gunther Rothenberg, *The Art of Warfare in the Age of Napoleon* (1978); Brendan Simms, *Three Victories and a Defeat* (2007); Andrew Wheatcroft, *The Enemy at the Gate* (2009); Peter H. Wilson, *The Thirty Years War* (2009)

Week 6 (02/21): War and Modernization

Stephen Platt, *Autumn in the Heavenly Kingdom: China, the West, and the Epic Story of the Taiping Civil War*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2012.

Recommended: Zeinab Abul Magd, *Militarizing the Nation* (2017); Edward Drea, *Japan’s Imperial Army* (2009); Khaled Fahmy, *All the Pasha’s Men* (1997); Stephen Platt, *Imperial Twilight* (2018)

Week 7 (02/28): New Imperialism and the Descent into Darkness?

Isabel V. Hull, *Absolute Destruction: Military Culture and the Practices of War in Imperial Germany*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2005.

Recommended: Richard M. Connaughton, *Rising Sun and Tumbling Bear* (rev. ed., 2004); Istvan Deak, *Beyond Nationalism* (1990); Andre Gerolymatos, *The Balkan Wars* (2002); Isabel Hull, *A Scrap of Paper* (2014)

Week 8 (03/07): World War I

Alexander Watson, *Ring of Steel: Germany and Austria-Hungary in World War I*. New York: Basic Books, 2014.

Recommended: Jörn Leonhard, *Pandora’s Box* (2018); John H. Morrow, Jr., *The Great War: An Imperial History* (2004); Michael Neiberg, *Fighting the Great War: A Global History* (2005); Eugene Rogan, *The Fall of the Ottomans: The Great War in the Middle East* (2015); David Stone, *The Russian Army in the Great War* (2015); Norman Stone, *The Eastern Front, 1914-1917* (1975)

Take-home mid-term handed out in class

Week 9: No class; spring break

Week 10 (03/21): Strategy, Military Innovation and the Interwar Years

Michael Geyer, “German Strategy in the Age of Machine Warfare, 1914-1945,” in: *Makers of Modern Strategy from Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age*, ed. Peter Paret. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1986, 527-595.

(mid-term due on Friday; noon, e-mail)

Recommended: Michael Barnhart, *Japan Prepares for Total War* (1988); Robert Citino, *The German Way of War* (2005); David French, *Raising Churchill's Army* (2000); Eugenia Kiessling, *Arming Against Hitler* (1996); David Stone, *Hammer and Rifle* (2000)

Week 11 (03/28): World War II: Waging Global War

Adam Tooze, *The Wages of Destruction: The Making and Breaking of the Nazi Economy*. New York: Viking, 2007.

Recommended: Christopher Bayly and Tim Harper, *Forgotten Armies* (2005); Robert Citino, *Death of the Wehrmacht* (2007); Evan Mawdsley, *The War for the Seas* (2019); Sean McMeekin, *Stalin's War* (2021); Mark Peattie, Edward Drea, and Hans van der Ven, eds., *The Battle for China* (2011)

Week 12 (04/04): World War II: Winning Global War

James Sparrow, *Warfare State: World War II Americans and the Age of Big Government*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011 and Aaron L. Friedberg, "Why Didn't the U.S. Become a Garrison State?" *International Security*, Vol. 16, No. 4 (1992), 109-142.

Recommended: Stephen Bourque, *Beyond the Beach* (2018); Robert Citino, *The Wehrmacht's Last Stand* (2017); Richard B. Frank, *Downfall* (1999); David Glantz and Jonathan House, *When Titans Clashed* (rev. ed., 2015); Paul A.C. Koistinen, *Arsenal of World War II* (2004)

Week 13 (04/11): Militarization and the Cold War

James Sheehan, *The Monopoly of Violence: Why Europeans Hate Going to War*. Houghton Mifflin, 2007 and Richard Kohn, "The Danger of Militarization in an Endless 'War' on Terror," *The Journal of Military History*, Vol. 73, No. 1 (2009), 177-208.

Recommended: Frederic Bozo, *Two Strategies for Europe* (2000); David Edgerton, *Warfare State* (2005); Christopher Goscha, "A 'Total War' of Decolonization? Social Mobilization and State Building in Communist Vietnam (1949-54)," *War and Society*, Vol. 31, No. 2 (2012), 136-172); Baruch Kimmerling, *Clash of Identities* (2008).

Week 14 (04/18): New Wars?

Herfried Münkler, *The New Wars*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2005 and Mary Dudziak, *War Time: An Idea, Its History, Its Consequences*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Recommended: David French, *The British Way of Counter-Insurgency* (2011); Mary Kaldor, *New and Old Wars* (rev. ed., 2013); Carter Malkasian, *War Comes to Garmser* (2013); Peter Mansoor, *The Surge* (2013); Emma Sky, *The Unraveling* (2015)

Week 15 (04/25): Lessons of History and the Twenty-first Century

Rupert Smith, *The Utility of Force: The Art of War in the Modern World*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2007.

Recommended: Fred Kaplan, *The Insurgents* (2013); David Kilcullen, *Out of the Mountains* (2014) and *Blood Year* (2015); Sean McFate, *The New Rules of War* (2019); Emile Simpson, *War from the Ground Up* (2012)

Take-home final handed out in class (due date Tu, May 1, 6 pm, by e-mail)

Course Schedule and Assignments for HIST 3213:

Week 1: Introduction
Readings: **Morris**, Introduction and Chapter 1
Tu, 01/16 Introduction: Themes and Definitions
Th, 01/18 Ancient Rome vs. “the Wasteland?”

Week 2: War in Western and World civilizations
Readings: **Morris**, chapters 2 and 3
William H. McNeill, “The Era of Chinese Predominance, 1000-1500” (Ch. 2 of *The Pursuit of Power*).
Tu, 01/23 Western Civilization and Productive War? [read: Morris, 2]
Th, 01/25 World History and Counterproductive War? [Morris, 3; McNeill]
First Blackboard posts due Tu and Th, 9 am

Week 3: The Military Revolution – Europe Transformed?
Readings: Clifford **Rogers**, “The Military Revolution in History and Historiography” and Geoffrey **Parker**, “In Defense of the Military Revolution,” both in: *The Military Revolution Debate*, ed. Clifford Rogers (1995).
William H. **McNeill**, “The Business of War” (Chapter 3 of *The Pursuit of Power*)
Steven **Gunn**, David Grummitt, and Hans Cools, “War and the State in Early Modern Europe: Widening the Debate,” *War in History*, Vol. 15, No. 4 (2008), pp. 371-388.
Tu, 01/30 A Military Revolution? [Rogers; Parker; McNeill]
Th, 02/01 War and the State? [McNeill; Gunn et al.]
Second Blackboard post due Tu and Th, 9 am

Week 4: War and Revolutions
Readings: **Morris**, chapter 4
John **Grenier**, *The First Way of War: American War Making at the Frontier, 1607-1814*, pp. 1-15.
Stephen Peter **Rosen**, “Blood Brothers: The Dual Origins of American Bellicosity,” *The American Interest* (July-August 2009).
Tu, 02/06 War and Violence in North America [Grenier; Rosen]
Th, 02/08 The Seven Years’ War and Four Revolutions [Morris, 4]
Third Blackboard post due Tu and Th, 9 am

Week 5: Toward Total War (I)?
Readings: Philip G. **Dwyer**, “Review Article: Total War or Traditional War,” *The International History Review*, Vol. 31, No.1 (March 2009), pp. 72-84.
Michael **Broers**, “The Concept of ‘Total War’ in the Revolutionary Napoleonic Period,” *War in History*, Vol. 15, No. 3 (2008), pp. 247-268.
Max **Boot**, “The First Industrial Revolution,” in: *War Made New: Weapons, Warriors, and the Making of the Modern World* (2006).
Tu, 02/13 French Revolution and Napoleon’s Empire [Dwyer, Broers]
Th, 02/15 Industrial Revolution [Boot]

Sat, 02/17 **1st reading response paper: War and State Formation (5 pages) – noon**
(SafeAssign on Blackboard)

Week 6: Toward Total War (II)?
Readings: Mark **Neely**, “Was the Civil War a Total War?” and James **McPherson**, “From Limited War to Total War in America,” in: *On the Road to Total War* (1997).
Robert M. **Utley**, “Total War on the American Indian Frontier” and
Glenn Anthony **May**, “Was the Philippine-American War a ‘Total War?’” in:
Anticipating Total War: The German and American Experiences, 1871-1914
(1999).

Tu, 02/20 The American Civil War [Neely; McPherson]
Th, 02/22 Total War on Colonial Frontiers? [Utley; May]
Fourth Blackboard posts due Tu and Th, 9 am

Week 7: The Age of the World Wars (I)
Readings: **Morris**, chapter 5 (begin: 235-255)
William **James**, “The Moral Equivalent of War.”
Tu, 02/27 World War I: Origins and Preparedness [James]
Th, 03/01 World War I: Nature and Course [Morris, 5]
Fifth Blackboard posts due Tu and Th, 9 am

Week 8: The Age of the World Wars (II)
Readings: **Morris**, chapter 5 (continue: 255-271)
Stig **Förster**, “Introduction,” in: *Great War, Total War*.
Christopher **Capozzola**, “The Only Badge Needed is Your Patriotic Fervor:
Vigilance, Coercion, and the Law in World War I America,” *Journal of American*
History, Vol. 88, No. 4 (March 2002), pp. 1354-1382.
Tu, 03/06 Effects of World War I [Forster, Capozzola]
Th, 03/08 Toward World War II [Morris, 5]
Sixth Blackboard posts due Tu and Th, 9 am

Week 9: Spring Break

Week 10: The Age of the World Wars (III)
Readings: Gerhard **Weinberg**, “Total War: The Global Dimensions of Conflict” and Hew
Strachan, “Total War: The Conduct of War, 1939-1945,” in: *A World at Total*
War: Global Conflict and the Politics of Destruction, 1937-1945 (2005).
Tu, 03/20 World War II: Global War [Weinberg]
Th, 03/22 World War II: Total War [Strachan]
Seventh Blackboard posts due Tu and Th, 9 am

Week 11: The Age of the World Wars (IV)
Readings: **Morris**, chapter 5 (complete)
Richard **Frank**, “Ending the Pacific War: Harry Truman and the Decision to Drop
the Bomb,” in: *Footnotes*, April 2009.
Robert **Jackson**’s opening statement at the Nuremberg War Crimes Trial

Tu, 03/27 World War II: Defeating Germany and Japan [Frank; Morris]
Th, 03/29 Total War, Genocide, and War Crimes [Jackson]
Sat 03/31 **2nd reading response paper: Total War (5 pages)—due noon (SafeAssign on Blackboard)**

Week 12: The Monopoly of Violence (I)
Readings: **Morris**, chapter 6
Kaldor (begin reading)
Churchill speech on the “Iron Curtain” (full length as well as excerpt)
Dwight D. **Eisenhower**, “Farewell Address” (1961).
Frantz **Fanon**, “On Violence,” in: *The Wretched of the Earth*.
Tu, 04/03 The Cold War: East v. West [Churchill and Eisenhower speeches; Morris]
Th, 04/05 The Cold War: Decolonization [Fanon]
Eighth Blackboard posts due Tu and Th, 9 am

Week 13: The Monopoly of Violence (II)
Readings: **Kaldor** (continue reading)
David **Petraeus**, “Lessons of History and Lessons of Vietnam” *Parameters* 1986.
Francis **Fukuyama**, “The End of History?” *The National Interest*, Summer 1989.
Tu, 04/10 The Vietnam War and Its Lessons [Petraeus]
Th, 04/12 The End of History? [Fukuyama]
Ninth Blackboard posts due Tu and Th, 9 am

Week 14: The Monopoly of Violence (III)
Readings: **Kaldor** (complete)
Tu, 04/17 What are New Wars? [Kaldor]
Th, 04/19 What is a War on Terror? [Kaldor]
Tenth Blackboard posts due, Tu and Th, 9 am

Week 15: Past, Present, and Future
Readings: **Morris**, chapter 7
Richard H. **Kohn**, “The Danger of Militarization in an Endless ‘War’ on Terrorism,” *The Journal of Military History* 2009.
Tu, 04/24 Empire and the Warfare State in the 21st Century [Kohn]
Th, 04/26 Retrospective and Review [Morris]
3rd reading response paper due Tu, 05/01, noon (SafeAssign on Blackboard)