

## SOCS 617

## WAR AND SOCIETY

Instructor: Peter Rutland, email: prutland@wesleyan.edu

Office hours Tues, 5.00-6.00 in PAC 203 x 2483

### ASSESSMENT: Out of 100 points

- 1) Two short papers, 4-5 pages in length (incl. notes), to be submitted by email as attached Word file by 8.00 pm on Oct 9 and Oct 30. These papers should critically evaluate one of the readings, or one of the topics. [15 points each]
- 2) Research paper, 10-15 pages long (incl. notes). A list of possible topics will be circulated. You can also propose your own topic, subject to instructor approval. A 1-2 page outline to be submitted to the instructor on Nov 20, and the final version by 8.00 pm on Dec 12. [45 points]
- 3) A 10 minute class presentation based on the research paper, or something else altogether. A sign-up sheet will be circulated at the second meeting. [15 points]
- 4) Class participation and extra credit reports. [10 points]

### READINGS

The following are the core texts which you might consider buying:

Barbara Ehrenreich	<i>Blood Rites: Origins and History of the Passions of War</i>
Robert L. O'Connell	<i>Of Arms and Men</i> (available as ebook though Olin)
Charles Tilly	<i>Coercion, Capital and European States</i>
John Keegan	<i>The Face of Battle</i>
John Ellis	<i>The Social History of the Machine Gun</i>
A.C. Grayling	<i>Among the Dead Cities. The History and Moral Legacy of the WWII Bombing of Civilians in Germany and Japan</i>
Anonymous	<i>A Woman in Berlin</i>

All these books are on 24 hour reserve at Olin.

Required reading is marked with an asterisk.\* The supplementary readings are strictly optional.

All the articles listed below are available on Wesfiles, through hyperlinks in the syllabus (some of them are links direct to websites). I only use Moodle for posting grades.

Absence from three classes without prior notification to the instructor will be considered withdrawal from the class and may result in a failing grade. Appeals for late submissions must have documented reasons.

Plagiarism i.e. using material not written by yourself and without clear identification of the source is not tolerated.

Sept 11

## WHY DO MEN FIGHT WARS?

A discussion of Barbara Ehrenreich's book. What role does warfare play in structuring social relations and particularly gender relations? Is warfare a biological/anthropological necessity?

Barbara Ehrenreich *Blood Rites: Origins and History of the Passions of War*

Supplementary:

Frans B.M. De Waal '[We're all Machiavellians](#),' *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 23 Sep. 05

Robert O'Connell *Of Arms and Men*, 3-83

Sept 18

## (a) FEUDAL WARFARE

Warfare was pivotal to the emergence of the feudal order in Europe. What new technologies were key to the rise of the knight? Why did this social formation emerge in West Europe? What was the role of *money* and of *honor* in feudal warfare? How is feudal warfare recycled for today's wars?

John Keegan *The Face of Battle*, 78-116 on Agincourt

Robert O'Connell *Of Arms and Men*, 84-107

Peter Burkhalter '[Popular misconceptions of medieval warfare](#),' *History Compass*, 5: 2, 2007, 507-24

Supplementary:

Clifford Rogers 'As if a new sun had arisen: England's 14<sup>th</sup> century RMA,' ch. 2 in M. Knox and W. Murray (eds), *The Dynamics of Military Revolution*

William McNeill *The Pursuit of Power*, 1-63

Lynn White '[The stirrup](#),' *Medieval Technology & Social Change* 1-38  
Movies *Henry V*, *The Messenger*

## (b) THE GUNPOWDER REVOLUTION (1450-1700)

How was gunpowder used in medieval battles and sieges? Why did it undermine the feudal order in Europe (but not in Japan)? What were the characteristics of the professional armies that emerged in early modern Europe? How were European armies able to conquer the Americas?

Robert O'Connell *Of Arms and Men*, 108-66

Supplementary:

John A. Lynn '[Forging the Western army in 17<sup>th</sup> century France](#),' ch. 3 in Knox and Murray (eds.) *The Dynamics ...*

William McNeill *The Pursuit of Power*, 63-184

Sept 25

## WAR AND THE CAPITALIST STATE

Tilly examines the interplay between new forms of warfare and the rise of the capitalist state.

Charles Tilly *Coercion, Capital and European States*

Supplementary:

Charles Tilly '[War making and state making as organized crime](#),' in Peter Evans et al (eds) *Bringing the State Back In* (1985)

William McNeill *The Pursuit of Power*

Bruce Porter *War and the Rise of the State*

**Oct 2**

**(a) THE NAPOLEONIC WARS**

Napoleon revolutionized warfare – but without any particular technological breakthrough. Napoleon’s way of war reflected political change: the rise of nationalism.

John Keegan  
Robert O’Connell

*The Face of Battle*, Waterloo 117-206  
*Of Arms and Men*, 167-88

*Supplementary:*  
Macgregor Knox

‘[Mass politics and nationalism: the French revolution](#),’  
ch. 4 in Knox and Murray (eds.) *The Dynamic of Military...*  
*The Pursuit of Power*, 185-222  
*Waterloo*

William McNeill  
Movie

**(b) CLAUSEWITZ vs SUN TZU**

Clausewitz turned Napoleonic doctrines of war into a ‘science’ of military affairs that dominated military thinking through World War Two. Contrast his writing with the ancient Chinese classic Sun Tzu’s *Art of War*. Both are required reading for US army officers.

[Blackboard File]  
Sun Tzu  
*Supplementary:*  
Carl von Clausewitz  
Ralph Sawyer  
Peter Paret (ed)  
www.sonshi.com  
http://www.clausewitz.com/

[Strategy](#)  
[The Art of War](#)  
*On War*  
*Sun Tzu: The Art of War*  
[Makers of Modern Strategy](#)  
Sun Tzu fan website  
Clausewitz fan website

**Oct 9**

**FIRST SHORT PAPER DUE (8.00 pm)**

**Oct 9**

**THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR**

The Civil War was the first modern war. What were the technological innovations in guns and in logistics that made possible the invention of “total war”? What were the respective strategies of the North and South – how did they hope to win? What motivated the troops on both sides?

Mark Grimsley  
Mark Grimsley

‘[Social dimensions of the Civil War](#)’, FPRI, June 2007  
‘[Surviving military revolution](#): the US civil war,’ ch. 5 in  
M. Knox and W. Murray (eds) *Dynamics Military Revolution*

*Supplementary:*  
William McNeill  
James McPherson  
Jay Luvaas  
Movies:

*The Pursuit of Power*, 223-61  
*What They Fought For 1861-1865*  
*The Military Legacy of the Civil War*, 1-51  
*The Red Badge of Courage; Glory*

**Oct 16**

**FALL BREAK – NO CLASS**

Oct 23

## COLONIAL WARS

How come small groups of Europeans were able to conquer entire continents?  
How did colonial war differ from European warfare?

John Ellis *A Social History of the Machine Gun*

*Supplementary:*  
James O. Gump *The Dust Rose Like Smoke: the Subjugation of Zulu and Sioux*  
Sven Lindqvist *Exterminate All the Brutes*  
Adam Hochschild *King Leopold's Ghost*  
Douglass Porch [‘French colonial warfare’](#) in Peter Paret (ed) *Makers of Modern Strategy*, 376-407

Movies: *Saunders of the River, Zulu, Burn!, Battle of Algiers,*

Oct 30

## SECOND SHORT PAPER DUE (8.00 pm)

Nov 6

### (a) THE FIRST WORLD WAR

The First World War saw new technologies that brought maximum destruction to the battlefield and an unprecedented mobilization of resources on the Home Front: economic, human and cultural. What was it like to be a soldier in this war?

John Keegan *The Face of Battle, on the Somme*, 207-285  
Robert O'Connell *Of Arms and Men*, 241-270  
William James [‘The moral equivalent of war’](#) (1906)

*Supplementary:*  
Jonathan Bailey *‘The First World War and the birth of modern warfare,’*  
ch. 8 in Knox & Murray (eds) *The Dynamics of Military...  
The Pursuit of Power*, 307-61

William McNeill  
Movie: *All Quiet on the Western Front*

### (b) THE SECOND WORLD WAR

What were the technological innovations that made ground combat in WW2 so different from WW1? Why were the Nazis so successful in conquering Europe? Why did they fail to defeat the Soviet Union? Could democracies persuade their citizens to fight in total war?

[Blackboard File]  
Richard O'Connell [‘The Good War’](#) (reviews of Studs Terkel's *The Good War*)  
Günter Grass *Of Arms and Men*, 270-95  
[‘How I spent the war,’](#) *New Yorker*, 4 June 2007

*Supplementary:*  
Morris Janowitz & Edward Shils [‘Cohesion and disintegration in the Wehrmacht,’](#) in *Center and Periphery*, 280-315  
Williamson Murray *‘May 1940,’* ch. 9 in Knox and Murray, *Dynamics...  
On Killing: the Psychological Cost of Learning to Kill in War*  
Dave Grossman *Acts of War: The Behavior of Men in Battle*  
Richard Holmes  
Movies: *Cross of Iron, Das Boot, Battle of Britain*

Nov 13

**(a) THE WAR IN THE AIR**

WW2 saw the large-scale victimization of civilians as both a by-product and a goal of total war. Was the Allied use of terror bombing morally justifiable? Where does this leave the theory of 'just war'?

- A.C. Grayling *Among the Dead Cities. The History and Moral Legacy of WWII Bombing of Civilians in Germany and Japan*  
BBC Timewatch [Bombing Germany](#) (2001)
- Supplementary:*  
Brian Orend [‘War,’ Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#) (on ‘Just War’)  
W.G. Sebald [On the Natural History of Destruction](#)  
Sven Lindqvist *History of Bombing*  
Charles Messenger [‘The influence of technology on air power 1919-45,’](#) 93-112 in Ronald Haycock et al (eds.) *Men, Machines and War*  
David MacIsaac [‘The Air Power theorists,’](#) in Peter Paret (ed), [Makers..](#)

[Modern Strategy](#)

**(b) GENDER AND WAR**

What roles do women play in wartime? Why are they usually excluded from combat?

- Anonymous [A Woman in Berlin](#) [Movie](#) version
- Supplementary:*  
Joshua Goldstein *War and Gender: How Gender Shapes the War System*  
Jean Elshtain *Women and War*  
Miriam Cooke & Angela Woollacott (eds) *Gendering War Talk*  
Caroline Moser *Victims, Perpetrators or Actors? Gender, Armed*  
& Fiona Clark *Conflict and Political Violence*

Nov 20

**TERM PAPER OUTLINE DUE (8.00 pm)**

Nov 20

**VIETNAM**

Could the US have won the Vietnam War? How did it change the American way of waging war?

- Le Ly Hayslip [When Heaven and Earth Changed Places](#), 194-215  
William Broyles [‘Why men love war,’](#) *Esquire*, November 1994.  
[Blackboard File] [‘Why were we in Vietnam?’](#) (*New York Times* articles)
- Supplementary:*  
Bill McCloud *What Should We Tell Our Children About Vietnam?*  
Samuel Hynes *The Soldier’s Tale*, ch. 5  
Stanley Karnow *Vietnam: a History*  
Movies: *The Anderson Platoon, Platoon, Apocalypse Now*

NOV 27 and Dec 4

**CURRENT TOPICS**

The last two meetings of the class will be devoted to student presentations on topics of interest.

**DEC 12**

**TERM PAPER DUE (8.00 pm)**

## SOME IDEAS FOR TOPICS FOR THE FINAL WEEKS

### THE MILITARY REVOLUTION OF THE 1990s

The 1991 Gulf War and 1999 Kosovo war saw the US deploy new technologies that some believed would change the face of war: precision weapons, information warfare, the electronic battlefield. Funnily enough this vision captivated, for a while, both militarists and left-wing critics of war.

James Der Derian	<i>Virtuous War</i>
Bruce Berkowitz	<i>The New Face of War</i>
Chris Hables Gray	<i>Postmodern War. The New Politics of Conflict</i>
Jean Baudrillard	<i>The Gulf War Did Not Take Place</i>
Martin Van Crefeld	<i>The Transformation of War</i>
Peter W. Singer	<i>Corporate Warriors: The Rise of the Privatized Military Industry</i>

### THE HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTIONS OF THE 1990s

At the same time, we saw a surge in civil wars waged by non-state groups. Humanitarian interventions such as Somalia (1993), Rwanda (1994), Bosnia (1995), and Kosovo (1999) posed acute moral, political and military dilemmas for US forces.

Mary Kaldor	<i>New and Old Wars</i>
William Reno	<i>Warlord Politics and African States</i>
Peter W. Singer	<i>Children at War</i>
Mark Huband	<i>The Liberian Civil War</i>
Mark Bowden	<i>Black Hawk Down: A Story of Modern War</i> (Somalia 1993)
Thomas Hammes	<i>The Sling and the Stone: On War in the 21st Century</i>
Wesley K. Clark	<i>Bosnia, Kosovo and the Future of Modern Conflict</i>
Max Boot	<i>The Savage Wars of Peace</i>
Jan Willem Honig	<i>Srebrenica: Record of a War Crime</i> (Bosnia 1995)
Movies:	<i>Black Hawk Down, Before the Rain, Savior,</i>

### THE US AT WAR: IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

How did the US military adapting to the strains of waging counter-insurgency wars in Iraq and Afghanistan? How have changes in media technology affected the way Americans view war?

Peter Maass	<a href="#">‘Professor Nagl’s war,’</a> <i>New York Times</i> , 11 Jan. 2004
Evan Wright	<i>Generation Kill</i> , <a href="#">ch. 1</a>
Brian Mockenhaupt	<a href="#">‘The army we have,’</a> <i>Atlantic</i> , June 2007
Richard Morin	<a href="#">‘Gen Y goes AWOL,’</a> <i>Washington Post</i> , April 8, 2001
T.X. Hammes	<a href="#">‘The way to win a guerrilla war,’</a> <i>Wash. Post</i> , 26 Nov 2006
Lawrence Wright	<a href="#">‘Captives,’</a> <i>New Yorker</i> 9 Nov 2009 [on the 2008 Gaza war]

Memoirs:	Anthony Swofford	<i>Jarhead: A Marine’s Chronicle of the Gulf War</i> (on 1991 war)
	Nathaniel Fick	<i>One Bullet Away: The Making of a Marine Officer</i>
	Sean Naylor	<i>Not a Good Day to Die: The Story of Operation Anaconda</i>
	Rick Atkinson	<i>In the Company of Soldiers</i>
	Sebastian Junger	<i>War</i>

Analysis: John Nagl *Learning to Eat Soup with a Knife, Counterinsurgency Lessons from Malaya and Vietnam*  
 Anthony Cordesman *Iraq War: Strategy, Tactics, and Military Lessons*  
 George Packer *The Assassin's Gate*  
 Andrew Bacevich *The New American Militarism*  
 Carl Connetta 'An undisciplined defense: Understanding US defense spending,' PDA Report, Jan 2010  
 Movies: *Jarhead, Three Kings, The Hurt Locker, War*

## WOMEN IN THE US MILITARY

Susan Faludi 'The Naked Citadel,' *The New Yorker*, 5 November 1994  
 Stephanie Guttman *The Kinder, Gentler Military*  
 Kayla Williams *Love My Rifle More than You*  
 Helen Benedict *Lonely Soldier: the Private War of Women Serving in Iraq*  
 Movies: *Private Benjamin, G.I. Jane*

## THE MORALITY OF WAR

Rick Saltus 'Prescription for war,' *Boston Globe*, 21 Sep 1998  
 Chris Hedges *What Every Person Should Know About War*  
 Chris Hedges *War is a Force That Gives Us Meaning*  
 James Hillman *A Terrible Love of War*  
 Martin Cook *The Moral Warrior*  
 Susan Sontag *Regarding The Pain of Others*  
 Sam Keen *Faces of the Enemy*  
 David Perlmutter *Visions of War. Picturing Warfare from the Stone Age to Cyber Age*  
 Steven Pinker *The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined*