

POL 160 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
STUDY GUIDE 2

D'Anieri Chs. 5, 8 - 9 plus class lectures

Terms to know:

Democratic peace theory---“simple” model, “dyadic” models. Originated in the theories of Immanuel Kant, “Perpetual Peace”. Simple model e.g. democracies don’t go to war as often as other forms of regime has been largely discredited. Dyadic model e.g. democracies rarely fight other democracies has been largely borne out over time. Possible alternative explanations exist, however. Troubling implication of democratic peace theory—democracies launching wars for “regime change” to prevent further wars---the Bush doctrine in the Middle East.

Types of warfare—total, hegemonic, limited, low intensity raids, civil wars, guerrilla, insurgencies.

Transition from war to peace usually proceeds with most of the following stages: conflict resolution, post war reconciliation, transitional governments often with opposing factions, economic reconstruction, re-evaluation of security concerns, disarmament and demobilization, truth commissions/war crimes tribunals.

International wars are far different in character than civil wars, however, civil wars often “spill over” and become international conflicts. Grievances over territory, form of government, ethnic and religious concerns predominate in civil wars.

Why do states go to war? State level explanations---Realism, Marxism, Liberalism each have some obvious assertions. Realism assumes inevitability of conflict; Liberalism promotes cooperation as an antidote to conflict; Marxism sees everything as economic exploitation and inevitably conflict arises between labor and capital; Constructivism explains individual conflicts with individual observations relevant to the chronology and historical evolutions of nation states and nation state conflicts.

- Rational and Strategic concerns: 1) obvious strategic advantage 2) ideological change or difference 3) power transition 4) cyclical/historical conflict 5) Coercion 6) Deterrence or preemptive strikes
- Underlying causes of war: 1) Nationalism/imperialism 2) Ethnic conflict 3) Religion 4) misperceptions/mistakes
- Issues often fought over: 1) Territory 2) Form/control of government 3) Economic competition –exclusive economic zones, territorial waters 4) Religious and/or ethnic hegemony within a state.

Types of military capability---conventional forces, irregular forces (special operations—Navy “Seals”), weapons of mass destruction (WMD’s) US dominance in conventional warfare perhaps the most striking in human history.

Intelligence capabilities---“spying” US has CIA/NSA---electronic capabilities, cyberwar, human capacity (US weak in that regard), MI6, former? KGB

Collective security---regional agreements, often fail when some parties fail to defend the interests of other participants in the agreements (see pre WW 2 GBR and FRA failing to defend several countries from German expansion—appeasement)

Deterrence theory---the security dilemma. Making yourself more secure by building up defenses which in turn frightens neighbors into potential preemptive strikes. Unprecedented military dominance of the United States in the modern era. Hegemonic stability or invitation to global challenge for supremacy?

Peacekeeping vs. Peace enforcement.

Terrorism---planned attacks usually on civilian populations to demoralize and cause a psychological effect that weakens a nation or group’s morale or will to pursue given policies or regimes. Perpetrated by private actors with little tangible assets to lose in a potential retaliatory strike. Causes? Poverty would seem to be likely, yet many terrorists come from wealthy families/professions. The “typical” terrorist (see Osama bin Laden) is a well educated young professional class male.

Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)---chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons.

Chemical weapons---interfere with bodily integrity, use of gas, nerve agents, usually directed at military targets.

Biological agents—anthrax, smallpox, unleashed against both military and civilian targets.

Nuclear weapons---“fission” --“Splitting the atom”---the atomic bomb---measured in kilotons of power---the original atom bombs dropped on Japan by the US in WW2. Relatively easy to design, difficulty in producing is obtaining/enriching sufficient quantities of uranium or other radioactive material.

--“Fusion”--the next generation of nuclear weapons---the “hydrogen” bomb---easier to find the materials, much more difficult to construct technologically---far more powerful---measured in megatons. US, Russian arsenals are primarily made up of this type of weapon.

EMP—electro magnetic pulse---electronic signal either as a result of a nuclear bomb blast or separate attack—disrupts anything electrical, “shorting out” the electric grid, combustion engines, basically most anything running on conventional power sources.

What is a “tactical” nuclear weapon? Why don’t we discuss those much in the modern world? What is a “ballistic” or “ICBM” missile?

Nonproliferation---trying to prevent other nation states from obtaining the nuclear bomb. The Nuclear “Club”---USA, Russia, China, Great Britain, France. 1998—Pakistan and India announced their a-bomb capability, frightening given their territorial disputes over Kashmir. Israel---reputed to have the weapon, not admitted publicly, North Korea has some capability, but may not be able to launch a weapon over a significant distance. South Africa –renounced the technology.

History of the nuclear age of weaponry---tactics---“MAD” mutually assured destruction, US-USSR Test Ban Treaties, SALT, START. Non Proliferation Treaty monitored by IAEA.

Today, why do states still seek nuclear capability? Why Iran? Will they obtain it? Why do you say that? Could they use it?