Regional Conflicts: Between War and Peace

This Seminar will discuss the origins of regional conflicts and the sources of regional wars with special emphasis on the role of the state and of nationalism. The class will focus on two key factors: state strength and national congruence and their effects on war and peace. The class will examine strategies for advancing peace including great-power and international engagement; partition vs. preservation of the state; state-building and nation-building; democratization and other factors. The theory will provide a background for examination of regional war and peace in the Middle East, South America, the Third World, the Balkans and Eastern and Western Europe.

Requirements:

1. Active participation in classes, based on discussion of the bibliography (part of which is marked as only recommended).

2. A very brief class presentation based on the bibliography and/or the final report; and/or occasional simulations of regional war and peace situations.

3. Writing a short final report (no more than 5 pages) based on the seminar discussions and the bibliography. The paper must be submitted a week after the end of the semester.
Background/Resource book available for purchase:


**Week 1: War and Peace in the post-Cold War/Post 9/11 Era**

Samuel Huntington, "The clash of civilizations." *Foreign Affairs* (Summer 1993), vol. 72, no. 3.


John Mearsheimer, "Back to the future: instability in Europe after the Cold War" *International Security*, vol. 15, no. 1, (Summer 1990), pp. 5-56.


**Recommended:**


**Week 2: Globalization, Regional Systems and Regional Conflicts**


**Recommended:**


**Week 3**

**Explaining War and Peace: Levels of Analysis and Schools of Thought**


Or:


**Recommended:**


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**Week 4**

**Patterns of Conflict Management and Types of Regional War and Peace Outcomes**


**Recommended:**


**Week 5**

The Great Powers and Regional Conflicts


**Recommended:**


**Week 6**

Alternative Explanations of Regional War and Peace


This chapter was published originally in the journal *Survival* (1993).


Miller, Benjamin *States, Nations and Great Powers: The Sources of Regional War and Peace* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007), Ch. 2, pp. 53-81; and Ch. 3, pp. 82-128.

Or:


Or:


Recommended:


-- the paper was also published as a chapter in the book: Rick Fawn, ed., _Globalizing the Regional, Regionalizing the Global_ (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009).

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**Week 7**

**Regional War and Peace in the Middle East**

Miller, Benjamin _States, Nations and Great Powers: The Sources of Regional War and Peace_ (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007), Ch. 4, pp. 129-204.


Kumaraswamy, P. R. 2006. 'Who am I? The Identity Crisis in the Middle East.' _Middle East Review of International Affairs_ 10(1):63-73.
**Recommended:**


**Week 8**

**The Great Powers and Middle East Conflicts**

Miller, Benjamin *States, Nations and Great Powers: The Sources of Regional War and Peace* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007), Ch. 5, pp. 224-255.


**Recommended:**


**Weeks 9-10**

**War and Peace in The Balkans, South Asia and South America**

Miller, Benjamin *States, Nations and Great Powers: The Sources of Regional War and Peace* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007), Ch. 6-7, pp. 256-336.


**Recommended:**


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**Week 11**

**War and Peace in Europe**

Miller, Benjamin *States, Nations and Great Powers: The Sources of Regional War and Peace* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007), Ch. 8, 337-368.


**Europe vs. the Middle East**: Benjamin Miller, “Contrasting Explanations for Peace: Realism vs. Liberalism in Europe and the Middle East.” *Contemporary Security Policy*, volume 31, no. 1 (April 2010), pp. 134-164.

**Recommended:**


Csergo and Goldgier (March 2004). "Nationalist Strategies and European Integration.” *Perspectives on Politics*.

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**Weeks 12-13**

**Regional Peacemaking**

Miller, Benjamin *States, Nations and Great Powers: The Sources of Regional War and Peace* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007), Ch. 9, 369-422.


**Recommended:**


**Week 14: Students’ Presentations of their Seminar Papers**