

POL 395

MILITARY INTERVENTIONS

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Spring 2016

Military interventions are the most costly foreign policy tool extant. The purpose of this research seminar is to examine systematically and comparatively why military interventions are launched and what results they produce on the ground. The seminar, in particular, tries to find answers to the following questions: (1) What were the broad policy arguments in favor of or opposed to a particular intervention? (2) Who were the principal players arguing for intervention? (3) What role did international institutions play in the set-up of the intervention? (4) What specific kinds of military force proved particularly useful in the actual intervention? (6) In each case, do we judge the intervention a success or failure, and how do we explain the success or failure?

Military interventions command attention for both theoretical reasons as well as policy purposes. Theoretically, an examination of these interventions may tell us something about broad trends in international politics. They may shed light on such questions as the nature of the international system, the existence of international norms and the role of international institutions. An examination of these interventions is also necessary in light of recent international events such as the emergence of ISIS in the Middle East and Russian annexation of Crimea. What can interventions in the past teach us about dealing with these security challenges? What do they tell us about how to conduct limited wars and the use of modern conventional military power more broadly?

This is a research seminar. All students are required to submit a 18-20pp. research paper at the end of the quarter (12 point font, double spaced, 1 inch margins). Research for these papers should be extensive: it should draw upon books, scholarly articles, and other primary and secondary sources not included in the syllabus. We will schedule one-on-one meetings throughout the quarter to discuss ideas, sources, methods, and the like. Arguments should be supported with evidence and proper citations. Please note that all student work may be analyzed electronically for violations of the university's academic integrity policy and may also be included in a database for the purpose of testing for plagiarized content.

The research paper will count for 70% of your final grade. Class participation will count for 30%. Class attendance is mandatory. Any student who is absent from three or more sessions without documented excuse automatically fails the course. All students are required to do the assigned readings. All recommended readings are voluntary. The professor will serve as discussion leader. One or more students per week will be asked to make a short presentation outlining the key issues raised in the readings. Students will have to submit two assignments in preparation of their final paper and present an outline of their final paper in the last class meeting of the quarter.

SUMMARY OF KEY DATES

- April 11: Submit research question via Canvas
- May 1: Submit literature review
- May 23: In-class presentation
- June 10: Submit research paper via Canvas

CLASS SCHEDULE

M 3/29

INTRODUCTION: WHY INTERVENE? DO INTERVENTIONS WORK?

Stanley Hoffmann, "The Politics and Ethics of Military Intervention," *Survival*, vol. 37, no. 4, Winter 1995-1996, pp. 33-42. (start at "The Intervention Debate" on p. 33 and finish on p.42 "This approach could be called *resolution*.")

Rory Steward and Gerald Knaus, *Can Intervention Work?* (Norton NY, 2011), pp. 12-40

M 4/4

VIETNAM

Yuen Foong Khong, "The Lessons of Korea and the Vietnam Decisions of 1965", in George Breslauer and Philip Tetlock, *Learning in US and Soviet Foreign Policy* (1991), 302-334, 336-344.

Leslie Gelb, "Vietnam: The System Worked," *Foreign Policy* 3 (Summer 1971), 140-67.

Watch "Vietnam in HD" (Documentary) available on Canvas

M 4/11

GULF WAR

Christian Alfonsi, *Circle in the Sand: Why we went back to Iraq* (Double Day Press N.Y., 2006), pp. 50-134 (skim)

James A. Baker, III, *The Politics of Diplomacy, 1989-1992* (G.P. Putnam's Sons N.Y., 1995), pp.275-299

Watch "Gulf War – The Soldiers' Tale" (Documentary)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PTl4ACxn3T4>

M 4/18

SOMALIA AND RWANDA

Jon Western, "Sources of Humanitarian Intervention," *International Security*, Vol. 26, No. 4, Spring 2002, pp. 112-142.

Stephen R. Shalom, "Gravy Train: Feeding the Pentagon by Feeding Somalia," *Z Magazine*, February 1993

Alan J. Kuperman, *The Limits of Humanitarian Intervention: Genocide in Rwanda*, (Washington, DC: Brookings, 2001), pp.52-77

Samantha Power, "Bystanders to Genocide: Why the United States Let the Rwandan Tragedy Happen," *The Atlantic Monthly*, September 2001, pp. 84-108.

Watch "The Ghost of Rwanda" (Documentary)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJAuyIRfYIM>

T 4/25

THE BALKANS

Samantha Power, *A Problem from Hell* (Basic Books N.Y., 2002), pp.247-327

Tony Blair, *A Journey* (Arrow Books 2010), pp.223-253

Watch "Kosovo – War in Europe" (Parts 1-4) (Documentary)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kt7XIV32SRE>

M 5/2

IRAQ

George Packer, *Assassin's Gate: America in Iraq* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux N.Y, 2005), pp. 15-38, 60-65, 95-99, 110-128, 144-148, 189-200, 381-391

Chaim Kaufmann, "Threat inflation and the failure of the marketplace of ideas: The selling of the Iraq war." *International Security* 29.1 (2004): 5-48.

Watch BBC Documentary: The Iraq War
http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x1ih8sc_the-iraq-war-regime-change-documentary-2013-bbc-saddam-s-weapons-of-mass-destruction-240p_news

Watch Rachel Maddow: Why We Did It (Documentary)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I2UCXot7zRg>

M 5/9

DARFUR AND ITS ENVIRONMENT

Asteris Huliaras, "Evangelists, oil companies, and terrorists: the Bush administration's policy towards Sudan," *Orbis* 50.4 (2006): 709-724.

Jason Zengerle, "Student Aid," *The New Republic* (March 20, 2006)
<http://www.newrepublic.com/article/politics/student-aid>

David Lanz "Save Darfur: a movement and its discontents." *African Affairs* (2009)

Recommended:

Mahmood Mamdani, 2009. *Saviors and Survivors - Darfur, Politics, and the War on Terror* (New York: Random House, 2009).

Samantha Power, Dying in Darfur: Can the Ethnic Cleansing in Sudan be stopped? *The New Yorker*, August 30, 2004,
<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2004/08/30/dying-in-darfur>

M 5/16

LIBYA AND SYRIA [tbd]

NYT Series on Libya:

- Hillary Clinton, 'Smart Power' and a Dictator's Fall'
- A New Libya, With 'Very Little Time Left'
- In Their Own Words: The Libya Tragedy

STRATFOR Special Series: Europe's Libya Intervention, March 24, 2011

Anne-Marie Slaughter, "How to Halt the Butchery in Syria," *The New York Times*, Feb. 23, 2012.

Paul Staniland, "Should We Intervene in Syria? A Response to Anne-Marie Slaughter," *The Monkey Cage*, February 25, 2012.

Recommended:

Aidan Hehir, "The Permanence of Inconsistency: Libya, the Security Council, and the Responsibility to Protect." *International Security* 38.1 (2013): 137-159.

M 5/23

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS