

The Geography of War

Guntram Herb
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Course Description

Whether it is military maps employed in the defense of the Han Dynasty in the second century B.C. or the logistic support for cruise missiles in the Gulf War, geography has always been associated with war and the exercise of power. The course will examine how geography and geographers were involved in the propagation, justification, and administration of territorial conquest and control.

Students will be actively involved in unraveling the story of geography and war through the preparation of a museum style exhibition on World War II, the Vietnam war, the Persian Gulf war, the Bosnian conflict, and International Terrorism. The students' findings will be presented in an illustrated guidebook and in a series of large panels filled with maps, photos, and text. Following the opening reception at the end of the semester, the exhibition panels will be kept on public display in the hallway of the fifth floor of Warner Science during the 1997 Winter and Spring terms.

Course Reading

A coursepack is for sale at the bookstore.
Historical Atlas of the World Rand McNally, 1995 (recommended)
Reserve readings are available at Starr Library

Course Requirements

1) Attendance & Class Participation (10%):

Students are expected to attend every class meeting. Readings will complement the lectures and will be discussed in class. So its essential that you do the assigned readings before class. From time to time, I will give an unannounced quiz to make sure everybody keeps up with the readings The honor code applies to all exams and assignments.

2) Midterm (20%) & Final Exam (25%):

I will give you a clear idea of the format and content of the exams in advance.

3) Paper and Presentation: "Key issues in Military Geography" (15%)

During lecture meetings 1-3 students will present a report to the class on a specific issue in military geography (e.g. amphibious operations, submarine warfare, etc). The report should introduce the issue, discuss its relevance, and provide a concrete example. You have complete freedom in choosing your examples; it can be from any time period or location. The report should consist of a 5-minute presentation (with visuals) and a concise 1-page write-up which will be included in the glossary of the guidebook. In addition, each of the students is asked to submit a 5-page paper including bibliographic references and an illustration/map) which presents one of the examples in detail. All assignments are due the day of the presentation.

4) Contribution to "The Geography of War" Exhibition (30%):

The exhibition focuses on the relationship between geography and war in the following six conflict situations: World War II in Europe, WW II in the Pacific, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, the Bosnian War, and a contemporary international

terrorist attack. The theme will be addressed from two angles: 1) ideology, i.e. how wars are justified to the public, such as the fight against Fascism in World War II. In this case, the focus is geography and public opinion: e.g., geopolitical concepts, maps. 2) strategy, i.e. how campaigns are carried out, such as the use of guerrilla warfare by the Viet Cong. Here, the focus is on geography and the conduct of war:

e.g. environmental obstacles, technology.

The findings are to be evaluated within a temporal or geographic context students who choose a specific war in another time period or in another region of the world to see whether there are general lessons to be learned from 'their' war. There will be six major groups carrying out the research; one for each conflict. Each group will be subdivided into an ideology section and a strategy section. Each section will prepare a poster and an accompanying text. The poster should contain images with captions (they will be exhibited in Warner Science Hall); the text should be a coherent and concise 20-page essay with references and bibliography. The entire group will also prepare a 1-2 page summation which will tie together the work of its two sections. The summation will be used as a general exhibition caption to introduce each of the six major conflicts. Posters and papers are due on the day of presentation. Late posters and papers will not be accepted.

Class Schedule

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION

Mon 9/9/96 The facts: Course organization and requirements.

Wed 9/11/96 What is the connection? Geography and warfare.
O'Sullivan, P. & J. W. Miller, *The Geography of Warfare*, ch.1, 5, 6.

Fri 9/13/96 Of Maps and Men: Geographers and their tools.
Geography of Warfare, ch.2
Henrikson, A.K. "The Power and Politics of Maps"

WEEK 2: THE NATURE OF THE GAME: WAR AND THE ORGANIZATION OF POLITICAL POWER

Mon 9/16/96 Who has the power? Territory, sovereignty, and international law..
Murphy, A.B. "International Law and the Sovereign State"

Wed 9/18/96 On deadly ground: The changing geography of war.
O'Loughlin, J. and H. van der Wusten, "The Political Geography of War and Peace"

Fri 9/20/96 The "Geography of War Project": Inaugural meeting.
Hall, D. "A geographical approach to propaganda"
Anderson, E. "The Operational Environment."
Howard, M. "The Dimensions of Strategy"

WEEKS 3-4. KNOWLEDGE IS POWER: GEOGRAPHY SUPPLIES THE FACTS

Mon 9/23/96 When did it all start? Early links between geography and power.
Gould, P. The old roots of geographic curiosity."
Shepherd, W. *Herodotus: The Persian War*, pp. 6-11.
Rawlinson, G. & H. Bowden, *The Histories of Herodotus*, pp. 96-103.
Page, T. et al, *The Geography of Strabo*, vol.1, pp.153-59, 235, 493.

Wed 9/25/96 Filling in the blanks: Geography and the Age of Exploration.
Cormack, L. B. "The Fashioning of an Empire."

Fri 9/27/96 Everybody wants a piece of the pie: Geography and empire.
Stoddart, D. R. "Geography and War: The 'New Geography' and the 'New Army' in England, 1899-1914.

Sandner, G and M. Rossler, "Geography and Empire in Germany."

Mon 9/13/96 The "Geography of War Project": Introduction to Computer assisted cartography and design.

Wed 10/2/96 The hour of the experts: Geography and boundaries.
Kirby, A. "What Did You Do in the War, Daddy?"
AFTERNOON FIELD TRIP TO REVOLUTIONARYWAR SITE (12:10-5:00pm)

Fri 10/4/96 The cutting edge: technological advances, geography, and war.
Roberts, S. and R. Schein, "Earth Shattering. Global Imagery and GIS."

WEEKS 5-6. LAWS OF NATURE: GEOGRAPHIC THEORY AND THE JUSTIFICATION OF WAR

Mon 10/7/96 We are all created equal!? Civilization and climate or the specter of environmental determinism.

Rothenberg, T. "Voyeurs of Imperialism: *The National Geographic Magazine* before WWII."
Huntington, E. "Regions and Seasons of Mental Activity."

Wed 10/9/96 Straight for the heart: British geopolitics.
Parker, G. "Halford Mackinder and the World Outlook."

Fri 10/11/96 Quest for *Lebensraum*: German geopolitics.
Bassin, M. "Race contra space: the conflict between German *Geopolitik* and National Socialism."

Mon 10/14/96 From sea to shining sea: Geography and US expansionism.
Westcott, A. "Mahan on Naval Warfare. Selections..."

Wed 10/16/96 Under the nuclear umbrella: Post WWII geopolitics
Hepple, L. W. "The revival of geopolitics."
Hepple, L. "Geopolitics, generals, and the state in Brazil."

Fri 10/18/96 NO CLASS - MIDTERM RECESS

WEEKS 7-8. DON'T STEP OVER THIS LINE: GEOGRAPHY AND THE EXERCISE OF CONTROL

Mon 10/21/96 MIDTERM EXAM

Wed 10/23/96 No shades of gray: Apartheid or the idea of racial territories.
Jackson, P. "Geography, race, and racism."

Fri 10/25/96 Nazis in Space: The German Occupation of Poland
Burleigh, M. *Germany Turns Eastwards*, chap. 5

Mon 10/28/96 Technology is key: The British Empire.
Headrick, D. R. *The Tools of Empire*, pp.150-91.

Wed 10/30/96 Order on the land: Monuments, maps, and magistrates (I).
Edney, M. "The Patronage of Science and the Creation of Imperial Space."

Fri 11/1 /96 Order on the land: Monuments, maps, and magistrates (II).
Lowenthal, D. "European and English Landscapes as National Symbols . "

WEEKS 9-13. FROM GLOBAL TO LOCAL: GEOGRAPHY AND WAR IN THE 20TH CENTURY

Mon 1/14/96 The last global war? An introduction to WWII
Watt, D.C. "1939 revisited: on theories of the origins of wars."
Barnhart, M. "The Origins of the Second World War in Asia and the Pacific: Synthesis Impossible?"

Wed 1/16/96 "Geography of War Project" Presentation: World WarII -- Europe.

Fri 11/18/96 "Geography of War Project" Presentation: World War II --The Pacific Theater.

Mon 11/11/96 From Indochine to Nam: An introduction to the Vietnam war.
Miller, R. H. "Vietnam: folly, quagmire or inevitability?"

Wed 11 /13/96 "Geography of War Project" Presentation: The Vietnam war.

Fri 11 /15/96 Flammable! The Middle East powder keg: Iran, Iraq, and the Gulf War
Leng, R. "Epilogue: The 1990-91 Crisis in the Persian Gulf."
Knightley, P. "Imperial Legacy."
Frankel, G. "Lines in the Sand."
Yergin, D. "Oil: The Strategic Prize."

Mon 11 /18/96 "Geography of War Project" Presentation: The Gulf War.

Wed 11/20/96 Century-old animosities? The disintegration of Yugoslavia.
GUEST LECTURE by Prof. Malcom Cutchin
Burg, S. L. "Why Yugoslavia Fell Apart."
Lewis, F. "Reassembling Yugoslavia."

Fri 11/22/96 "Geography of War Project" Presentation: The Bosnian war.

Tue 11/26/96 Will the killing ever end? Ethnic cleansing & peaceful co-existence."
Video presentation: Dreaming a nation--the Kurds.
Bell-Fialkoff, "A brief history of ethnic cleansing."

Wed 11/27/96 NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING RECESS

Fri 11/29/96 NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING RECESS

Mon 12/2/96 Out of the ordinary? Guerrilla warfare, terrorism, and drug trafficking.
Morrison, D. "Police Action."
Long, D. *The Anatomy of Terrorism*, ch. 6 (Strategy, Tactics, and Victims).

Wed 12/4/96 "Geography of War Project" Presentation: International Terrorism

Fri 12/6/96 Can geography also support peace? Summary and Outlook.
Chopra, J. "The space of peace-maintenance."
Leng, R. "Interstate Crisis Behavior, 1816-1980: Realism versus Reciprocity," chapter 9 (Summary and Conclusion)

TAKE HOME FINAL EXAM is handed out.