

**WAR STUDIES:**  
**UNDERSTANDING MODERN WAR AND WARFARE**

**Dario Battistella**

Professor of Political Science

[d.battistella@sciencespobordeaux.fr](mailto:d.battistella@sciencespobordeaux.fr)

<https://dariobattistella.fr/>

The course 'WAR STUDIES: UNDERSTANDING MODERN WAR AND WARFARE' combines two sub-disciplines of IR – Security Studies and Strategic Studies – in order to pursue two objectives.

It first aims at explaining the causes of the international wars occurring in the contemporary international order. It also sheds light on the methods and modalities used to wage these wars and the political and normative environment within which they are embedded.

In doing so, the course focuses on the traditional military dimension of security, thus postulating an underlying continuity of today's world with earlier eras. The underlying cognitive interest is nevertheless critical of the dominating discourses held by politicians and recommendations made by experts.

1. War and Warfare: Theoretical and Historical Preliminaries

I. War is Like Love - It Always Finds A Way

2. Nuclear Proliferation: the War that Did Not – Yet? – Take Place

3. US-China: the Next Major War?

4. Israel-Palestine: a Never-Ending (State of) War

5. 'Desert Storm', 'Iraqi Freedom': from a Defensive War to a Sinister War

6. Democratic Wars: the Wars that Are – Recurrently! – Launched

II. War is Like Football - At The End, the West Always Wins

7. Democratic Victories: the Culture of Carnage

8. Professional Armies and Corporate Warriors: Wars Without the People

9. Missiles to Drones to Robots: Big Brother is Killing You

10. Politics and Media: Blame-Shifting and Over-Selling

11. Global Terrorism: Democracies' Achilles' Heel?

12. What Have We Learned?

### Selective Bibliography

- Baylis (John), Wirtz (James) & Gray (Colin) (eds.), *Strategy in the Contemporary World: Introduction to Strategic Studies*, Oxford, Oxford UP, 2015, 5<sup>th</sup> edition
- Blainey (Geoffrey), *The Causes of War*, New York, Free Press, 1988, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition
- Cashman (Greg) & Robinson (Leonard), *An Introduction to the Causes of War: Patterns of Interstate Conflict from World War I to Iraq*, Lanham, Rowman & Littlefield, 2007
- Clausewitz (Carl von), *On War (1816-1827)*
- Diehl (Paul) (ed.), *War. Four Volume Set*, London, Sage, 2005
- Freedman (Lawrence), *The Future of War: A History*, London, Penguin, 2018
- Hironika (Ann), *Tokens of Power: Rethinking War*, Cambridge, Cambridge UP, 2017
- Holsti (Kalevi), *Peace and War: Armed Conflicts and International Order 1648-1989*, Cambridge, Cambridge UP, 1991
- Jordan (David) *et al.*, *Understanding Modern Warfare*, Cambridge, Cambridge UP, 2016, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition
- Kaldor (Mary), *New and Old Wars: Organized Violence in A Global Era*, Stanford, Stanford UP, 2012, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition
- Levy (Jack) & Thompson (Kenneth), *Causes of War*, Oxford, Wiley-Blackwell, 2010
- Lynn (John), *Battle: A History of Combat and Culture*, Boulder, Westview, 2004, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition
- McNeill William), *The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Force, and Society Since A.D. 1000*, Chicago, The UP of Chicago, 1982
- Rotberg (Robert) & Rabb (Theodore) (eds.), *The Origin and Prevention of Major Wars*, Cambridge, Cambridge UP, 1989
- SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute), *Yearbook 2017: Armaments, Disarmament and International Security*, Oxford, Oxford UP, 2017
- Strachan (Hew) & Scheipers (Sybille) (eds.), *The Changing Character of War*, Oxford, Oxford UP, 2011
- Van Creveld (Martin), *Technology and War: From 2000 B.C. to the Present*, New York, Free Press, 1989
- Van Creveld (Martin), *The Transformation of War*, New York, Free Press, 1991
- Vasquez (John) & Henehan (Mary) (eds.), *The Scientific Study of Peace and War*, Lanham, Lexington Books, 1992
- Väyrynen (Raimo) (ed.), *The Waning of Major War: Theories and Debates*, London, Routledge, 2006
- Waltz (Kenneth), *Man, the State, and War*, New York, Columbia UP, 1959
- Wright (Quincy), *A Study of War*, Chicago, The UP of Chicago, 1965, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition