

Government 50—Nuclear Weapons
Summer 2006
Dartmouth College
Instructor: Professor Dan Reiter
MWF 10:00-11:05, X Hour Th 12:00-12:50 pm; Silsby 213
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This class is a survey of nuclear weapons. Topics covered include the history of the development of the atomic bomb, the decisions to bomb Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the political effects of nuclear weapons, nuclear crises during the Cold War, norms and nuclear weapons, nuclear deterrence, nuclear proliferation, nuclear terrorism, current American nuclear strategy, and counterproliferation policies such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Bush Doctrine.

The class has a mixed lecture/discussion format. There is reading assigned for each class meeting. Each student must do the reading assigned for that day. All of the books listed below are available for purchase.

Books available for purchase:

- Allison, Graham, *Nuclear Terrorism: The Ultimate Preventable Catastrophe* (New York: Times Books, 2004).
- Frank, Richard B., *Downfall: The End of the Imperial Japanese Empire* (New York: Random House, 1999).
- Fursenko, Aleksandr and Timothy Naftali, *“One Hell of a Gamble”: Khrushchev, Castro, and Kennedy 1958-1964* (New York: Norton, 1997).
- Jervis, Robert, *Meaning of the Nuclear Revolution* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1989).
- Sagan, Scott D. and Kenneth N. Waltz, *The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: A Debate Renewed* (New York: Norton, 2003), second edition.

Other readings are available either through Blackboard, can be downloaded from a publicly available website, or can be downloaded from the online library catalog.

Each student’s semester grade consists of the following:

- Midterm exam: 20%
- Final exam: 35%
- Class participation/attendance: 10%
- 15-20 page research paper: 35%

Attendance Policies

Students are expected to be in class every day. Per the Dartmouth student handbook (<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~deancoll/documents/handbook/rules-regs/class-absence.html>), there are no excused absences for college sanctioned events like athletic competitions. However, if a student informs the instructor well in advance of an expected absence because of a college-sanctioned event, the instructor will likely count it as excused. Absences due to illness or extraordinary circumstances such as family crisis are likely to be excused, although if a student expects such an absence to be excused, he or she needs to contact the instructor immediately before or after the absence. If a student has eight or more unexcused absences, he or she will receive a 0 for his/her participation grade.

Other Issues

Do not bring cell phones to class. If you do bring a cell phone to class, turn it off. If a student's cell phone rings during class, that student may be ejected from class for the remainder of that day. I will be leaving Hanover on August 28, but will be reachable via email after that date at dreiter@emory.edu. When I have finished grading final exams and papers, I will mail them back to Lisa Wallace of the Department of Government office staff. If you wish, you can pick up your final exam or paper from her in September.

*book available for purchase

June 23-- Overview of Course

June 26— The Science of a Nuclear Weapon

Bertrand Goldschmidt, *The Atomic Adventure: Its Political and Technical Aspects*, Peter Beer, trans., second ed. (Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1964), 1-43, 70-73. Available on Blackboard.

June 28—Conventional Bombing in World War II

Robert A. Pape, *Bombing to Win: Air Power and Coercion in War* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1996), 59-66, 69-79, 254-313. Available on Blackboard.

June 30, July 3—Hiroshima and Nagasaki

*Richard B. Frank, *Downfall: The End of the Imperial Japanese Empire* (New York: Random House, 1999), 252-360.

Tsuyoshi Hasegawa, *Racing the Enemy: Stalin, Truman, and the Surrender of Japan* (Cambridge: Harvard, 2005), 290-303. Available on Blackboard.

Gar Alperovitz, "Hiroshima: Historians Reassess," *Foreign Policy* no 99 (Summer 1995): 15-34. Available electronically through library catalog.

Richard Rhodes, *Making of the Atomic Bomb* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1986), 712-736. Available on Blackboard.

Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars: A Moral Argument with Historical Illustrations*, third edition (New York: Basic Books, 2000), 263-268. Available on Blackboard.

Paul Fussell, *Thank God for the Atomic Bomb and other Essays* (New York: Summit Books, 1988), 13-44. Available on Blackboard.

July 5—Arms Races

Kenneth Oye, "Explaining Cooperation Under Anarchy," *World Politics* 37 (October 1985): 1-24. Available electronically through library catalog.

July 7—Preventive Nuclear War During the Early Cold War

Marc Trachtenberg, *History and Strategy* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1991), 100-152. Available on Blackboard.

July 10—No Class

July 12-13—MAD (July 13 is Special X Hour Class)

*Robert Jervis, *Meaning of the Nuclear Revolution* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1989), 1-73, 136-173.

July 14—Credibility of Commitments

Thomas C. Schelling, *Arms and Influence* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1966), chapters 2-3 (pp. 35-125). Available electronically through library catalog.

July 17--Berlin

Richard K. Betts, *Nuclear Blackmail and the Nuclear Balance* (Washington: Brookings, 1987), 23-31, 83-109. Available on Blackboard.

July 19— Cuban Missile Crisis

*Aleksandr Fursenko and Timothy Naftali, *“One Hell of a Gamble”: Khrushchev, Castro, and Kennedy, 1958-1964* (New York: Norton, 1997), 198-289.

July 21— Nuclear Weapons and the Long Peace and Review for Midterm

John Mueller, “The Essential Irrelevance of Nuclear Weapons: Stability in the Postwar World,” *International Security* 13 (Fall 1988). Available electronically through library catalog.

Robert Jervis, “The Political Effects of Nuclear Weapons: A Comment,” *International Security* 13 (Fall 1988). Available electronically through library catalog.

July 24— Midterm

July 26— Norms Against Nuclear Weapons

Nina Tannenwald, “The Nuclear Taboo: The United States and the Normative Basis of Nuclear Non-Use,” *International Organization* 53 (Summer 1999): 433-468. Available electronically through library catalog.

July 28-- Nuclear Weapons and the United States Today

Keir A. Lieber and Daryl G. Press, “The Rise of U.S. Nuclear Primacy,” *Foreign Affairs* 85 (March/April 2006), 42-54. Available electronically through library catalog.

Charles L. Glaser and Steve Fetter, “Counterforce Revisited: Assessing the Nuclear Posture Review’s New Missions,” *International Security* 30 (Fall 2005): 84-126. Available electronically through library catalog.

July 31— Nuclear Proliferation, Causes

Scott D. Sagan, “Why Do States Build Nuclear Weapons? Three Models in Search of a Bomb,” *International Security* 21 (Winter 1996/97): 54-86. Available electronically through library catalog.

August 2-4— Nuclear Proliferation, Consequences

*Scott D. Sagan and Kenneth N. Waltz, *The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: A Debate Renewed*, 2nd edition (New York: Norton, 2003).

August 7—No Class

August 9-10—Counterproliferation Diplomacy (August 10 is Special X Hour Class)

Ariel Levite, "Never Say Never Again: Nuclear Reversal Revisited," *International Security* 27 (Winter 2002/2003): 59-88. Available electronically through library catalog.

George Bunn, "The Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty: History and Current Problems," *Arms Control Today* 33 (December 2003). Available at http://www.armscontrol.org/act/2003_12/Bunn.asp.

George A. Lopez and David Cortright, "Containing Iraq: Sanctions Worked," *Foreign Affairs* 83 (July/August 2004): 90-103. Available electronically through library catalog.

Bruce Jentleson and Christopher A. Whytock, "Who 'Won' Libya? The Force-Diplomacy Debate and Its Implications for Theory and Policy," *International Security* 30 (Winter 2005/06): 47-86. Available electronically through library catalog.

Waldo Stumpf, "South Africa's Nuclear Weapons Program: From Deterrence to Dismantlement," *Arms Control Today* 25 (December 1995/January 1996): 3-8. Available on Blackboard.

Sherman W. Garnett, "Ukraine's Decision to Join the NPT," *Arms Control Today* 25 (January/February 1995): 7-12. Available on Blackboard.

August 11-14—Nuclear Terrorism

*Graham Allison, *Nuclear Terrorism: The Ultimate Preventable Catastrophe* (New York: Times Books, 2004).

Rough Draft of Paper Due in Class August 14

August 16, 17, 18—Bush Doctrine (August 17 is Special X Hour Class)

Kenneth M. Pollack, "Why Saddam Can't Be Deterred," *New York Times*, September 26, 2002, 29. Available electronically through library catalog.

John J. Mearsheimer and Stephen M. Walt, "An Unnecessary War," *Foreign Policy* no. 134 (January/February 2003): 50-59. Available electronically through library catalog.

John Lewis Gaddis, *Surprise, Security, and the American Experience* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2004), 69-113. Available on Blackboard.

James Fallows, "Will Iran Be Next?" *Atlantic* (December 2004). Available electronically through library catalog.

- Scott Stossel, "North Korea: The War Game" *Atlantic* (July-August 2005). Available electronically through library catalog.
- Dan Reiter, *Preventive War and Its Alternatives: The Lessons of History* (Carlisle, PA: Strategic Studies Institute, 2006). Available at <http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?pubID=651>.
- National Security Strategy of the United States of America*, "Prevent Our Enemies from Threatening Us, Our Allies, and Our Friends with Weapons of Mass Destruction," September 17, 2002. Available at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/nsc/nss5.html>.
- Jeremy Tamsett, "The Israeli Bombing of Osiraq Reconsidered: Successful Counterproliferation?" *Nonproliferation Review* 11 (Fall/Winter 2004), 70-85. Available on Blackboard.
- Dan Reiter, "Preventive Attacks Against Nuclear Programs and the 'Success' at Osiraq," *Nonproliferation Review* 12 (July 2005), 355-371. Available on Blackboard.

Final Drafts of Paper Due in Class August 18

August 21 (No Class)

August 23-- Review for Final Exam, Catchup

August 27, 11:30 am-2:30 pm—Final Exam