

## Lecture 2: April 4

- I. The Significance of the WWI case (1914-1918)
  - A. World Historical War\*
    1. Globalization
    2. Totalization – civilian targeting on a massive scale
      - a. The Blockade of Germany
  - B. Path-dependent war (path dependence – present choices, like the war choice in 1914, shaped and constrained future possibilities)
    1. Explaining WWII and the Cold
  - C. Lease- likely war – The puzzle – war in 1914 seems less likely outcome of crisis politics given the logic of structural and institutional explanation of war.
    1. War choice only if benefits > (greater than) costs.
      - a. This is the rational war choice (rational war choice = RWC)
    2. Yet the structure of politics would seem to preclude war given:
      - a. Stable balance of power; 5 = 5
    3. And given institutional mechanisms to resolve crises

\*Illustration of destructiveness – Battle of Verdun in WWI = 606,000 dead

\*Arms buildup since 2008 (to 2018) of 100% or more by major powers in a single region (system)

A. Middle East

B. Eastern Europe

C. Northeastern Asia

\*\*Common factors – enhanced conflict and instability

- A. Middle East – Rise of Iran; Saudi- Israeli Alliance
- B. Eastern Europe—Russia intervention in Crimea, Georgia, and Ukraine
- C. Asia—Rise of China

\*\*\* A. Explanations- structure of domestic factors

- II. Concepts
  - A. System: A geographic region characterized by long-term patterns of conflict and cooperation.
  - B. Anarchy: the absence of a single center of binding decisions in a system.
  - C. Structure: number of units per system fractured by capabilities (typically, population and economic resources).
  - D. This divides systems into major and minor powers (major power = top power rankings with +6) with capacity to initiate systemic war (powers are states).
  - E. The War Choice: The choice of a state to initiate war:
    1. Prerequisites (necessary condition: centralized decision maker like a king, president, party or parliament)

2. War must be CHOSEN, and the choice will tend to be rational in the sense that benefits exceed costs (expected utilities or  $B > C$ ).
- F. Adversaries (enemies and allies—allies may become adversaries or conversely, but alliance depend on the benefits of exceeding costs.
- G. Power resources: Create power in anarchy.

### III. Concepts

- A. Balance of Power: the balance of power resources among adversaries  
Example = military strength
- B. If a system is in balance, there is no rational/incentive for war (example : 5=5)
- C. Imbalances of power can generate war given the logic of rising and declining powers.  
The kind of state can choose war to pre-empt decline or prevent (preempt the rising powers).
- D. In a balance, peace is self-enforcing (automatic).