

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).