

EXPLORING GLOBAL CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE
POLITICAL SCIENCE 3596
Fall 2016

Professor: Dr. Ann Griffiths
Office: Room 355A, Hicks Building
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

After the Cold War ended, more and more of the world adopted liberalism/capitalism, and many people speculated that we would see an unprecedented era of global peace. And, indeed, for a while this seemed to be the case. Yet conflict and violence continue, both between states and within states. What factors – at the system, state, institutional and individual levels – cause conflict and violence? How has conflict and political violence changed over the years in terms of actors, technology, weapons and strategy? What, if any, are the rules about conduct in conflict, and are they followed? What institutions exist to address violence/conflict, and are they effective?

These are a few of the issues and debates that this course will examine. This is not simply a course on current affairs, but it will use current conflicts to illustrate different concepts and to explain the trends, actors, motives and strategies. The objective of the course is to introduce students to the theories of conflict and violence and to examine global actors, institutions, issues and debates through the framework of these theories.

The course is designed as part lecture and part seminar. Students will do some work in groups and are expected to participate in discussions.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course students should:

- be able to describe how war/conflict is defined;
- be able to describe how the study of war/conflict has changed over the years;
- understand systemic, state, institutional and individual causes of conflict;
- be able to differentiate the characteristics of inter-state and intra-state conflict;
- be able to describe how the participants, technologies and strategies of conflict have changed over the years;
- understand the role of institutions and interventions in stopping or preventing conflict.

REQUIRED READINGS

There is no required textbook. Required readings are listed in the section “Class Schedule and Readings” below. (There is also a list of Interesting Supplemental Readings given for most classes – these readings are supplemental.) Some readings are available on Brightspace (as indicated by a **B** below) and other readings are available online. Unless indicated as posted on Brightspace, readings can be found online (google the title or go to the website provided). Students are expected to read the required readings. **If you have problems accessing a reading, please tell the professor.**

PLAGIARISM

Dalhousie University defines plagiarism as “the submission or presentation of the work of another as if it were one’s own.” Penalties for plagiarism can be severe. **Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offence which may lead to loss of credit, suspension or expulsion from the university, or even to the revocation of a degree.** Prior to submitting any paper in a course, all students should read the Policy on Academic Integrity contained in the Dalhousie University Calendar or on the Dalhousie website. Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations.

Dalhousie University subscribes to SafeAssign a computer-based service which checks for originality in submitted papers. Any paper submitted by a student at Dalhousie University may be checked for originality to confirm that the student has not plagiarized from other sources. The Dalhousie Senate has affirmed the right of any professor to require that student papers be submitted in both written and electronic format, and to submit any paper to a check such as that performed by SafeAssign. As a student, you are required to keep an electronic copy of any paper you submit, and the professor may require you to submit that electronic copy on demand. Copies of student papers checked by this process will be retained by SafeAssign.

It is essential that there be correct attribution of authorities/sources from which facts, statistics and exact words and opinions have been derived. If you are uncertain about how or when to use citations, the professor would be happy to explain.

CELLPHONES

Use of cellphones and social media in class is strongly discouraged. Texting, tweeting or otherwise using social media is distracting you, fellow students and the professor.

STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Students with disabilities are encouraged to register as quickly as possible at the Student Accessibility Services (SAS) office if they wish to receive academic accommodation. To do so, students can phone (902-494-2836), email (access@dal.ca), or visit www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca. All forms are now available on the website. Please note that the onus is on the student, not on the professor, to make the arrangements to write exams at the SAS office.

STUDYING SKILLS PROGRAMS AT DALHOUSIE

Dalhousie has created the Studying for Success Program to help students become more effective learners. There are workshops and/or individual study skills sessions for help with time management, critical reading, note taking, preparing for exams, etc. For more information, visit the Academic Support page on the Dalhousie website (www.dal.ca/sfs).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. CLASS PRESENTATION (20%) (Monday, 17 October 2016)

Students will be **divided into groups in class on 19 September** and given the full details of the assignment. The assignment will involve **presenting a topic in class on 17 October**. Students will be assigned a group in class, but will meet outside class time to complete the assignment. The assignment will be presented as a group. Half (50%) of the grade will be from assessments of fellow students – students will assess their own group and other groups. **It is important to be in class on 19 September so that students can be placed in a group, and on 17 October so that the group can make a presentation in class.**

2. CRITICAL ARTICLE REVIEW (20%) (due before 4:30, Friday, 4 November 2016)

Students will select one of the readings listed below and write a 1,200-2,000 word (4-6 double-spaced pages) *critical* article review. Note that a critical review means that you read the article with a questioning mind and examine the merits/shortcomings of its argument and assumptions rather than summarizing it. A handout on how to write critical reviews is available on Brightspace.

Michael G. Findley, James A. Piazza and Joseph K. Young, “Games Rivals Play: Terrorism in International Rivalries,” *The Journal of Politics*, Vol. 74, No. 1 (January 2012), pp. 235-248 [B]

or

Charles J. Dunlap, Jr., “How We Lost the High-Tech War of 2020: A Warning for the Future,” *Small Wars Journal*, Vol. 6, No. 2 (19 February 2010), pp. 20-24 [B]

or

Jonathan Freedland, “Welcome to the Age of Trump,” *The Guardian*, 19 May 2016, online

3. ESSAY (30%) (due before 4:30, Friday, 25 November 2016)

Students will write an essay on a topic provided by the professor. The essay will be 2,500 to 3,000 words or 8-10 pages double-spaced. Students are expected to submit a hard copy, but to keep an electronic version just in case. **Late essays will be penalized at 2% per day.**

A selection of topics is attached at the end of this syllabus and will be posted on Brightspace. Students are expected to make an argument – that is, the essay should not just describe or summarize but make an argument about the topic or issue. This essay is designed to be a research paper so students should consult a number of academic sources and include a bibliography. Full citations are expected – preferably footnotes or endnotes.

ESSAY EVALUATION METHODS

The essay will be marked based on a combination of two broad criteria. The first criterion is the cognitive element. This means the intellectual thinking that is displayed in the assignment; in other words, the ideas and the evidence that the student presents, and the ability to explain, analyse and interpret information and provide evidence that promotes an argument. The second criterion is the mechanical element. This means that students will be assessed for their writing ability, effective organization of the assignment, use of language, correctness of grammar and spelling, and use of quotations, references and citations.

4. FINAL EXAM (30%) (As scheduled by the Registrar)

The final exam will be scheduled by the Registrar during the exam period of **8-18 December 2016**. **Do not make plans to leave Halifax until the exam schedule has been posted.** Students are expected to be at the exam in the time scheduled – unless they can provide an acceptable written doctor's note. The exam will include material from lectures, readings and discussion in class. The format will be explained by the professor in class.

Assignment	Due Date	Worth
Group Assignment: Class Presentation	17 October 2016	20%
Critical Review	Friday , 4 November 2016	20%
Term Essay	Friday , 25 November 2016	30%
Final Exam	as scheduled by the Registrar 8-18 December 2016	30%

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS

CLASS 1: INTRODUCTION

(12 September 2016)

CLASS 2: CONTEXT

(19 September 2016)

Erik Melander, "Organized Violence in the World: An Assessment by the Uppsala Conflict Data Program," Uppsala Conflict Data Program, UCDP Paper No. 9, 2015, pp. 1-9 [B]

Steven Pinker, Bradley A. Thayer, Jack Levy and William R. Thompson, "The Forum: The Decline of War," *International Studies Quarterly*, 2013, pp. 396-419 [B]

Meredith Reid Sarkees, "The COW Typology of War: Defining and Categorizing Wars (Version 4 of the Data)," no date, pp. 1-32 [B]

Meredith Reid Sarkees, Frank Whelon Wayman and J. David Singer, "Inter-State, Intra-State and Extra-State Wars," *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 47 (2003), pp. 49-70 [B]

Interesting Supplemental Readings

Stephen Blank, "Powerful Changes in the Structure of Our World are Unrolling: Three Recent Reports," Canadian Global Affairs Institute (CGAI), August 2016

Council on Foreign Relations, Global Conflict Tracker, <http://www.cfr.org/global/global-conflict-tracker/p32137#!/>

CLASS 3: THEORIES ABOUT WHY HUMANS FIGHT #1: SYSTEM LEVEL

(26 September 2016)

Jack S. Levy and William R. Thompson, "Chapter 2: System-Level Theories," pp. 28-54, in *Causes of War*, John Wiley & Sons, 2010 [B][NOTE: the entire book is here, you will be required to read selected chapters in other classes]

Benoit Hardy-Chartrand, "China-Japan Relations and the Politics of Threat," *On Track*, the Conference of Defence Associations Institute, Summer 2016, pp. 10-15 [google title, the whole issue of *On Track* will come up, scroll down to p. 10]

Veit Medick, et al., "Russia's Superpower Play: Putin Bets Big on Aggressive Syria Policy," *Spiegel*, 13 October 2015 [google title, or go to www.spiegel.de/international/world/putin-continues-aggressive-foreign-policy-in-syria-a-1057379.html]

B. Zhang, "Xi Jinping's 'Pragmatic' Offensive Realism and China's Rise," *Global Asia*, 2014 [B]

Interesting Supplemental Readings

Keren Yarhi-Milo, "In the Eye of the Beholder: How Leaders and Intelligence Communities Assess the Intentions of Adversaries," *International Security*, Vol. 38, No. 1 (Summer 2013), pp. 7-51

Walter Russell Mead, "The Return of Geopolitics," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 93, Issue 3 (May 2014), pp. 69-79

G. John Ikenberry, "The Illusion of Geopolitics," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 93, Issue 3 (May 2014), pp. 80-90

Robert Kagan, "Allure of Normalcy: What Our Tired Country Still Owes the World," *The New Republic*, May 2014

CLASS 4 – THEORIES ABOUT WHY HUMANS FIGHT #2: STATE, ORGANIZATIONAL AND INDIVIDUAL LEVELS

(3 October 2016)

Jack S. Levy and William R. Thompson, "Chapter 4: The State and Societal Level," pp. 83-129, "Chapter 5: Decision-Making: The Individual Level," pp. 128-161, and "Chapter 6: Decision Making: The Organizational Level," pp. 162-185, in *Causes of War*, John Wiley & Sons, 2010 [B] [NOTE: the book is located in the file for Class 3]

Luc De Keyser, "Is It in Man's Nature to Wage War?" Stratfor, Global Affairs, 3 August 2016, pp. 1-3 [google title, or go to <https://www.stratfor.com/weekly/it-mans-nature-wage-war>]

Keith Gessen, "What if Putin were Nice?" *Politico*, 23 February 2015 [B]

Interesting Supplemental Readings

Graham Allison, *Essence of Decision*, 1971

Allan Dafoe, Jonathan Renshon and Paul Huth, "Reputation and Status as Motives for War," *Annual Review of Political Science*, Vol. 17, No. 1 (2014), pp. 371-393

Robert Kagan, "This is How Fascism Comes to America," *The Washington Post*, 18 May 2016

Amy Knight, "Finally, We Know about the Moscow Bombings," *The New York Review* (review of John B. Dunlop, *The Moscow Bombings of September 1999*), 22 November 2012

Jack S. Levy and William R. Thompson, "Chapter 3: The Dyadic Interactions of States," pp. 55-82, in *Causes of War*, John Wiley & Sons, 2010

NO CLASS 10 OCTOBER 2016. THANKSGIVING

CLASS 5: CATALYSTS OF CONFLICT? [GROUP PRESENTATIONS]

(17 October 2016)

NO REQUIRED READINGS

Interesting Supplemental Readings

Karen Armstrong, "The Myth of Religious Violence," *The Guardian*, 25 September 2014

Jon Barnett and W. Neil Adger, "Climate Change, Human Security and Violent Conflict," *Political Geography*, Vol. 26 (2007), pp. 639-655

Thomas F. Homer-Dixon, "Environmental Scarcities and Violent Conflict: Evidence from Cases," *International Security*, Vol. 19, No. 1 (Summer 1994), pp. 5-40

International Crisis Group, "Executive Summary and Introduction," in *Fight or Flight: The Desperate Plight of Iraq's 'Generation 2000'*, Middle East and North Africa Report No. 169, 8 August 2016

Patrick Kanyangara, "Conflict in the Great Lakes Region: Root Causes, Dynamics and Effects," *Conflict Trends*, Issue 1 (5 May 2016), pp. 3-11

Aye Obo, "Environmental Degradation, Climate Change and Conflict: The Lake Chad Basin Area," *Medium.com*, 25 October 2015, pp. 1-5

CLASS 6: 'TRADITIONAL' WAR: INTER-STATE WARFARE

(24 October 2016)

Stuart A. Bremer, "Dangerous Dyads: Conditions Affecting the Likelihood of Interstate War, 1816-1965," *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 36, No. 2 (1992), pp. 309-341 [B]

Charles J. Dunlap, Jr., "How We Lost the High-Tech War of 2020: A Warning for the Future," *Small Wars Journal*, Vol. 6, No. 2 (19 February 2010), pp. 20-24 [B]

Christopher Kolenda, Rachael Reid, Chris Rogers, Marte Retzius, "Executive Summary and Introduction," *The Strategic Costs of Civilian Harm*, Open Society Foundation, June 2016 [B]

Jonathan Masters, "Backgrounder: The North Atlantic Treaty Organization," Council on Foreign Relations, 17 February 2016, available at <http://www.cfr.org/nato/north-atlantic-treaty-organization-nato/p28287>

Interesting Supplemental Readings

Daniel Brunstetter and Megan Braun, "The Implications of Drones on the Just War Tradition," *Ethics and International Affairs*, Vol. 25, No. 3 (2011), pp. 337-358

Robert Farley, "Asia's Greatest Fear: A US-China War," *The National Interest*, 4 June 2014

Human Rights Watch, "Russia/Syria: Widespread New Cluster Munition Use," 28 July 2016

Alistair Roberts, "The Nation-State: Not Dead Yet," *The Wilson Quarterly*, 2015

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Military Expenditures Databases

CLASS 7: TECHNOLOGY AND WARFARE

(31 October 2016)

Vincent Bernard, "Editorial: Science Cannot be Placed above its Consequences," in *New Technologies and Warfare, International Review of the Red Cross*, Vol. 94, No. 886 (Summer 2012), pp. 457-466 [go to <https://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/international-review/review-886-new-technologies-warfare/review-886-all.pdf>] [NOTE: only the Editorial is required reading]

Sarah Kreps and Micah Zenko, "The Next Drone Wars," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 93, Issue 2 (March-April 2014), pp. 68-79 [B]

Tobias Feakin, "Developing a Proportionate Response to a Cyber Incident," Cyber Brief, Council on Foreign Relations, August 2015, pp. 1-6 [go to www.cfr.org/cybersecurity/developing-proportionate-response-cyber-incident/p36927]

Interesting Supplemental Readings

Benjamin Brake, "Strategic Risks of Ambiguity in Cyberspace," Contingency Planning Memo No. 24, Council on Foreign Relations, May 2015

Daniel Byman, "Why Drones Work: The Case for Washington's Weapon of Choice," and Audrey Kurth Cronin, "Why Drones Fail: When Tactics Drive Strategy," *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2013

Robert Graham, "How Terrorists Use Encryption," *CTC Sentinel*, Combating Terrorism Center, West Point, Vol. 9, Issue 6 (June 2016), pp. 20-25

Thomas Rid and Ben Buchanan, "Attributing Cyber Attacks," *The Journal of Strategic Studies*, Vol. 38, Nos. 1-2 (2015), pp. 4-37

Frederik Rosen and John Karlsrud, "The MONUSCO Unmanned Aerial Vehicles: Opportunities and Challenges," *Conflict Trends*, Issue 4 (2014), pp. 42-48

Jeff Stein and Jonathan Broder, "Can America Win a War?" *Newsweek*, 30 April 2015

FALL STUDY BREAK: NO CLASSES WEEK OF 7-11 NOVEMBER 2016

CLASS 8: CONFLICT *WITHIN* STATES – 21ST CENTURY WARFARE?

(14 November 2016)

Jack S. Levy and William R. Thompson, “Chapter 7: Civil War,” pp. 186-223, in *Causes of War*, John Wiley & Sons, 2010 [B] [NOTE: the book is included in the file for Class 3]

Max Boot, “The Evolution of Irregular War,” *Foreign Affairs*, 5 February 2013 [go to www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/138824/max-boot/the-evolution-of-irregular-war]

Stéphane Dosse, “The Rise of Intrastate Wars: New Threats and New Methods,” *Small Wars Journal*, 25 August 2010, pp. 1-6 [B]

Vince Tumminello, “A Primer on Counterinsurgent Warfare,” *Small Wars Journal*, 5 August 2016, pp. 1-13 [B]

Interesting Supplemental Readings

Mao Zedong, “On Guerrilla Warfare,” 1937

William Reno, “Explaining Patterns of Violence in Collapsed States,” *Contemporary Security Policy*, Vol. 30, No. 2 (2009), pp. 356-374

Stephen Biddle and Jacob Shapiro, “America Can’t Do Much About ISIS,” *The Atlantic/Defense One*, 20 April 2016

Brett Boudreau, “Preparing for Contemporary Operations in a Strategic Communications World,” Policy Update, Canadian Global Affairs Institute, July 2016

Karl Eikenberry, “The Limits of Counterinsurgency Doctrine in Afghanistan,” *Foreign Affairs*, 2013

CLASS 9: NON-STATE ACTORS #1: TERRORISM

(21 November 2016)

Alex P. Schmid, “The Revised Academic Consensus Definition of Terrorism,” *Perspectives on Terrorism*, Vol. 6, No. 2 (May 2012), pp. 158-159 [B]

David C. Rapoport, “The Four Waves of Rebel Terror and September 11,” *Anthropoetica*, Vol. 8, No. 1 (Spring/Summer 2002), pp. 1-28 [B]

Carl Bildt, “The Fourth Jihadist Wave,” Project Syndicate, 22 April 2016, pp. 1-3 [google title]

Institute for Economics and Peace, “Executive Summary,” *Global Terrorism Index 2015*, 2015 [B]

Audrey Kurth Cronin, "The 'War on Terrorism': What does it Mean to Win?" *The Journal of Strategic Studies*, Vol. 37, No. 2 (2014), pp. 174-197 [B]

Interesting Supplemental Readings

Haroro J. Ingram and Craig Whiteside, "Unexamined Consequences: Leadership Decapitation and the Rise of ISIL," *On Track*, CDAI, Summer 2016, pp. 38-42

Alasia Ibfuro Joy, "Demystifying Extremism in Nigeria: Understanding the Dynamics of Boko Haram," *Conflict Trends*, Issue 3, 2015

Jonathan Powell, "How to Talk to Terrorists," *The Guardian*, 7 October 2014

Richard Shimooka, "Daesh at Its Zenith? The Challenge of What Happens Next," *On Track*, Conference of Defence Associations Institute (CDAI), Summer 2016, pp. 30-33

Clint Watts, "Deciphering Competition between al-Qa'ida and the Islamic State," *CTC Sentinel*, Combating Terrorism Center, July 2016, pp. 1-6

CLASS 10: NON-STATE ACTORS #2: OTHER ACTORS

(28 November 2016)

Robert Muggah, "Terrorism is on the Rise – But There's a Bigger Threat We're Not Talking About," Canadian Global Affairs Institute, 27 April 2016 [go to www.cgai.ca/opedapril272016b]

Keith Krause and Jennifer Milliken, "Introduction: The Challenge of Non-State Armed Groups," *Contemporary Security Policy*, Vol. 30, No. 2 (2009), pp. 202-220 [B]

Wendy Isaacs-Martin, "The Motivations of Warlords and the Role of Militias in the Central African Republic," *Conflict Trends*, Issue 4, 2015 [go to www.accord.org.za/conflict-trends/the-motivations-of-warlords-and-the-role-of-militias-in-the-central-african-republic/]

Peter W. Singer, "Outsourcing War," *Foreign Affairs*, March 2005 [don't google title, go to <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2005-03-01/outsourcing-war>]

Orlando J. Perez, "Gang Violence and Insecurity in Contemporary Central America," *Journal of the Society for Latin American Studies*, Vol. 32, Issue 1 (March 2013), pp. 217-234 [B]

Interesting Supplemental Readings

Patricio Asfura-Heim and Ralph H. Espach, "The Rise of Mexico's Self-Defense Forces," *Foreign Affairs*, Council on Foreign Relations, 11 June 2013

Marcus Hedahl, "Unaccountable: The Current State of Private Military and Security Companies," *Criminal Justice Ethics*, Vol. 31, No. 3 (December 2012), pp. 175-192

International Crisis Group, “Executive Summary,” *Easy Prey: Criminal Violence and Central American Migration*, Latin America Report No. 57, 28 July 2016

“Mexico: First Statement from the Self-Defense Group of Aquila, Michoacán,” 21 January 2014, *Warrior Publications* (Warning: statement contains a graphic photo)

CLASS 11: ENDING/PREVENTING CONFLICT: INSTITUTIONS AND INTERVENTIONS

(5 December 2016)

Anke Hoeffler, Marta Reynal-Querol, “Measuring the Costs of Conflict,” ConflictRecovery.org, 2003 [B]

Charter of the United Nations, “Chapter V: The Security Council,” “Chapter VI: Pacific Settlement of Disputes,” and “Chapter VII: Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression” [go to www.un.org/en/documents/charter/]

Report of the Secretary-General, United Nations, General Assembly/Security Council, “A Vital and Enduring Commitment: Implementing the Responsibility to Protect,” 13 July 2015 [B]

International Crisis Group, “Seizing the Moment: From Early Warning to Early Action,” Special Report No. 2, 23 June 2016 [B]

Permanent Court of Arbitration, “The South China Sea Arbitration (The Republic of the Philippines v. The People’s Republic of China), The Hague, 12 July 2016 [B]

Interesting Supplemental Readings

Zach Dorfman, “The Progressive’s Paradox,” OpenCanada.org, 7 June 2016

A. Walter Dorn, “Executive Summary: Smart Peacekeeping: Toward Tech-Enabled UN Operations,” International Peace Institute, Providing for Peacekeeping No. 15, July 2016

Nick Grono, “The Deterrent Effect of the ICC on the Commission of International Crimes by International Leaders,” International Crisis Group, 5 October 2012

Chris McGreal, “What’s the Point of Peacekeepers When They Don’t Keep the Peace?” *The Guardian*, 17 September 2015

Institute for Economics and Peace, “The Economic Cost of Violence Containment: A Comprehensive Assessment of the Global Cost of Violence,” 2014 or 2015

CLASS 12: LAST THOUGHTS/REVIEW

(6 December 2016) [note that this class is on a Tuesday!!]

There are no Required Readings for this class!

Essay Topics

Due **Friday**, 25 November 2016 (Worth 30%)

The essay should be 2,500 to 3,000 words or 8-10 pages double-spaced. You are expected to submit a hard copy, but you are required to keep an electronic version just in case. **Late essays will be penalized at 2% per day (weekends are considered one day and penalized 2%).**

You are expected to make an argument – that is, the essay should not just describe or summarize but make an argument about the topic or issue (**in other words, try to convince the professor of something**). Use your introduction to set out your argument – try using the phrase This essay/I will argue that.... (If you are uncertain how to make an argument, feel free to ask the professor.)

This is a research paper so you should consult five to 10 academic sources and include a bibliography (which should be single-spaced and in alphabetical order according to the last name of the author/editor). Full citations are expected – preferably footnotes or endnotes.

Write an essay on one of the following topics.

1. Does the United Nations Security Council do a good job of its primary mission – i.e., promoting global peace and security?
2. In June 2016 some US State Department officials leaked a memo – referred to as the Dissent Memo on Syria – arguing that the United States must take military action to end the conflict in Syria. Do you think this is a good idea?
3. Is terrorism in recent years different from the terrorism that occurred in the 1960s and 1970s? How? (Think about actors, tactics, motives/goals, technology, geographic location.)
4. If a group/state has better technology, it will win wars/conflicts it enters. Do you agree? Why/why not?
5. If a state is not providing security to its citizens, then forming ‘self-defence groups’ is a good solution. Do you agree? Why/why not?
6. Do targeted assassinations carried out by drones contravene international law/just war doctrine?
7. Populism seems to be increasing in the West. Will this lead to increased conflict within and between states?
8. Some people argue that China is a revisionist state, and therefore a danger to global peace. Do you agree? Why/why not?
9. A lot of people have compared the American war in Afghanistan with the American war in Vietnam. Is this a valid comparison? Why/why not?
10. Outsourcing military efforts is a great idea. Do you agree? Why/why not?
11. Is it a failure of *governance* that leads to civil war? i.e., do failed states lead to civil war, or do civil wars lead to failed states?

Have fun and I look forward to reading what you write.