

# Peace & Conflict Studies

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## Week 1 – Intro

### Discussion points

- The hegemonic powers which stabilise a balance are only able to do so by perpetuating violence on the frontier
- Peaceful for whom? Peace vs Security?
- Peace as a bottom-up process
- Trade agreements doesn't necessarily motivate states to avoid armed conflict; some rival countries don't have any trade incentives (what does Saudi Arabia have that Iran would possibly want besides hard cash to invest?)
- Bargaining Theory of War (Fearon)
- Military Industrial Complex means that violence pays, regardless of victory or defeat for the US empire. The Peace Dividend was tried and didn't pay enough
- The theft of Surplus labour value is structural violence

### Absence of Violence (*Peace Continuum* Davenport et al., 2018)

They break down negative peace into the following concepts:

- Order
- harmonious relationship
- trust
- reconciliation
- social integration
  - especially after ethnic cleansing
  - Inter-state dependence (EU)
- justice / rule of law (punish & deter rogue actors)
- Conflict resolution institutionalisation
- *socioeconomic opportunity*
- *political freedoms / civil rights*
- *equality / non-discrimination*

The italic points enjoy a reciprocal relationship with human rights. Some of these qualities can be met to establishing “peace” in a limited sense.

However, what do Davenport and co. think violence is? And is it safe to presume that positive peace is theoretically symmetrical to the absence of order?