

War

What is War?

- Definitions of war

- Organized violence between political entities (Barkawi, Ch. 14)

- Political entity with

- Leadership

- Purpose for the violence: e.g., territory, resources, ideology, religion

- Resources to organize violence: human and material means

- ➔ Q: How about some border conflicts between states?

- E.g., India-Pakistan (2020-21), India-China (2021)

- Singer and Small (1982)

- Sustained combat with substantial fatalities

- “We must define war in terms of violence. Not only is war impossible without violence, but we consider the taking of human life the primary and dominant characteristic of war.”

- A war is any violent conflict with at least 1,000 battle-related deaths per year.

- <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/12/14/asia/india-china-border-tensions-video-intl-hnk/index.html>

What is War?

- Types of war

- Depending on the type of entity
: International (interstate) war and civil (intrastate) war
 - International war: A war between two or more states.
 - Civil war: A war between a state's government and rebel group within a state.

- Depending on the purpose

- : Total war and limited war

- Total war: A war occurs when a nation or political group fights for political survival
- Limited war: War for goals less than political survival (wars for conflict zones or access to markets, etc.)

Changing Characteristics of War

- Features of traditional war
 - Armed conflict between states
- Organized army, navy, and air force
- Norms and rules regulating armed conflict (declaration of war, declaration of neutrality, peace treaty etc.)



US President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs a declaration of war against Nazi Germany on 11 December 1941.



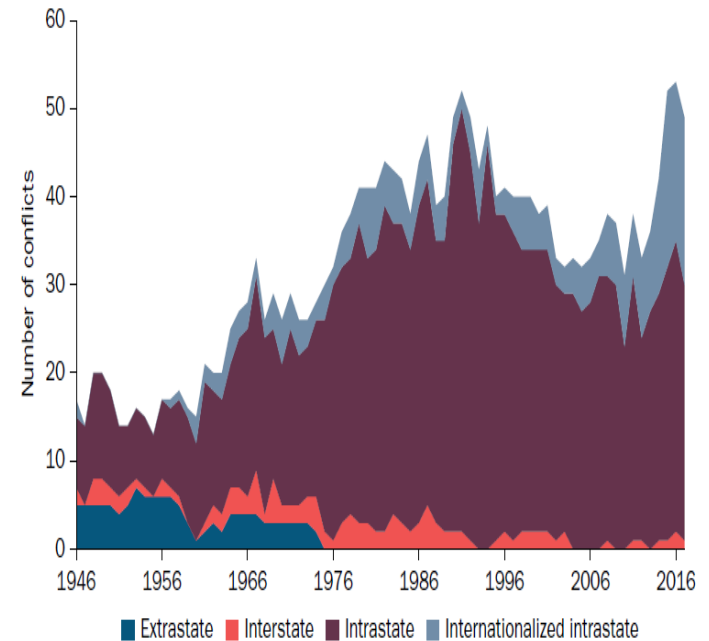
Adolf Hitler announcing the German declaration of war against the United States on 11 December 1941.

- Features of modern war
 - Less of interstate wars and more of civil (intrastate) wars
 - Distinction between civilians and military is blurred
 - Less formality
 - Identity issues become important
 - More brutal than past wars

Trend in Modern War: Dominant Civil War

More than 90% of wars have been civil wars after the Cold War ended

- Overwhelming number of civil wars in the post-Cold War era
 - Grievance: making people complain (Collier and Hoeffler 2004)
 - High inequality
 - Lack of political rights
 - Ethnic and religious division
 - Opportunity: making people want to build a rebel organization (Collier and Hoeffler 2004)
 - Financing sources: Natural resources, diasporas, neighboring countries
 - Recruiting: Income and unemployment
 - Weak state power



Trend in Modern War: Decreasing Interstate War

More than 90% of wars have been civil wars after the Cold War ended

- Factors that reduce wars between states
 - Spread of democracy
 - UN after the Cold War
 - Development of weapons technology including nuclear weapons



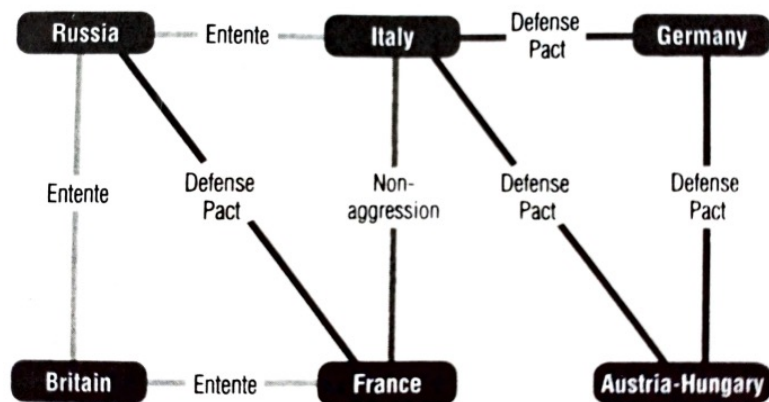
Causes of War

- Internal characteristics of state
 - Liberalism: Democratic peace
 - Autocratic/totalitarian states are more likely to be militaristic and have a stronger tendency to go to war
 - Due to absence of mechanism of direct accountability
 - Democratic states are more likely to resolve clash of interest through non-violent means

Causes of War

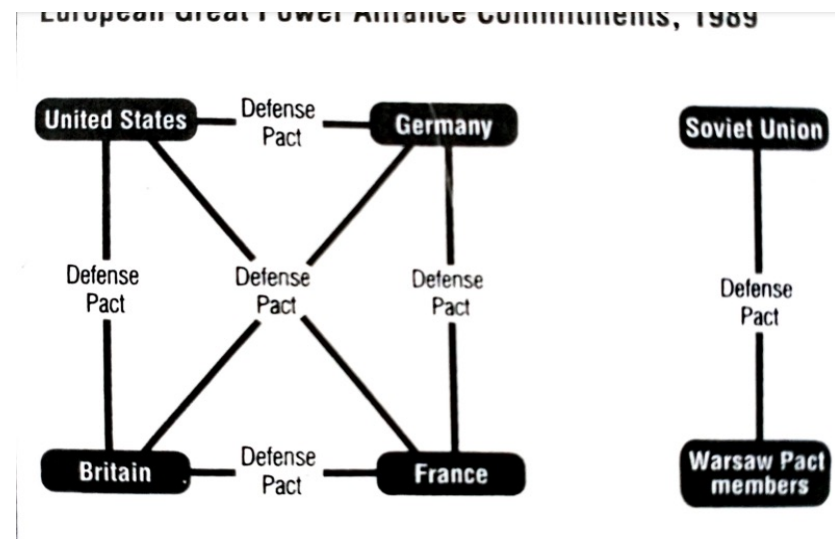
- International structural and systematic pressure
 - Neorealism: Distribution of power among major states determines the characteristic of the international system
 - Polarity and uncertainty

European Great Power Alliance Commitments, 1914



Causes of War

- International structural and systematic pressure
 - Neorealism: Distribution of power among major states determines the characteristic of the international system
 - Polarity and uncertainty



Causes of War

- Capitalist International Order (Marxism)
 - In the capitalist world, states seek additional territory for raw materials, markets for product and capital
 - States compete for colonies

Causes of War

- A.F.K. Organski's Power Transition Theory

- International system is hierarchical

- 2 elements to explain war

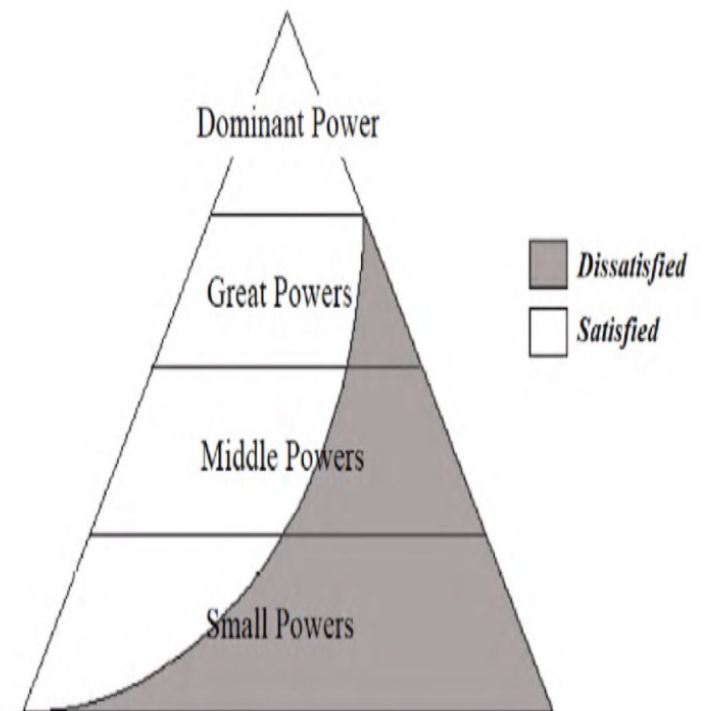
- (1) Power

- Small states: least powerful and have almost no influence in international affairs
 - Dominant state (hegemon): most powerful and establish [international order](#)

- (2) (Dis)satisfaction with the dominant state

- States that are vs. states that are not satisfied with [the current international order](#)

Dangerous vs. non-dangerous power transition period?
e.g., UK-Germany (prior to WWI) vs. UK-US (around WWII)



Causes of War

- Fearon's rational choice theory of war
 - Puzzle: Why do rational states go to war instead of bargaining?
 - States' competition over power, resources, security, wealth, etc.
 - Methods of getting what they want: War vs. bargaining
 - War is costly and risky: Loss of lives and property and potential decrease in benefit
 - ➔ States sometimes are unable to bargain and go to war. Why?
- Fearon's 3 elements of war
 - Information problem: Each has its own information about power and willingness and has an incentive to misrepresent private information
 - Commitment problem: Under anarchy, states are not sure whether the other will comply if I comply given that there is no authority to enforce the deal
 - Issue indivisibility