

IR and political violence

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War, peace, and political violence

UC3M, Fall 2023

Why did WWII break out?

DAILY HERALD September 4, 1939.

ON YOUR FEET
FOR HOURS?
Then Don't Forget That
ZAM-BUK
Kensore Pain, Soreness & Cramps

No. 7349

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1939

ONE PENNY

Daily Herald

SAUSAGES GO
BETTER WITH
H-P SAUCE

WAR DECLARED BY BRITAIN AND FRANCE

*We Have Resolved
To Finish It*—PRIME
MINISTER

GREAT BRITAIN DECLARED WAR ON
GERMANY AT 11 O'CLOCK YESTERDAY
MORNING.

Six hours later, at 5 p.m., France declared war.

Britain's resolution to defend Poland against Nazi aggression was described by the newly-formed Ministry of Information in one of its first announcements, as follows:

"At 11.15 this morning (Sunday) Mr. R. Dunbar, Head of the Treaty Department of the Foreign Office, went to the German Embassy, where he was received by Dr. Kordt, the Charge d'Affaires.

"Mr. Dunbar handed to Dr. Kordt a notification that a state of war existed between Great Britain and Germany as from 11 o'clock B.S.T. this morning. This notification constituted the formal declaration of war."

**WAR
CABINET
OF**

Unthinkable
We Should
Refuse The
Challenge

—THE KING
Broadcasting last evening from his study at Buckingham Palace, the King said:—
"IN this grave hour, perhaps the most fatal in our history, I send to every household of my people, both at home and overseas, the message I have spoken with the same depth of feeling for each one of you as if I were able to cross the room and speak to you myself.

For the second time in the lives of most of us we are at war."

Over and over again we have tried to find a peaceful

POLES SMASH WAY INTO E. PRUSSIA

OFFICIALS in Warsaw stated late last night that the Polish army has smashed a way across the Northern border into East Prussia, after driving the Germans from several Polish towns in bitter fighting.

London Hears Its First Raid Warning

LONDON was calm yesterday when it heard its first air raid warning.

This is the official statement issued by the Air Ministry—

At 11.30 a.m. yesterday an aircraft was observed approaching the South Coast.

As its identity could not be readily determined an air-raid warning was

On the Northern Front the Poles are reported to have defeated the German effort to drive a barrier across the upper part of the Corridor. The Germans fell back behind their frontiers.

The Poles say they have broken through the German fortifications as far as the railway terminus of Deutsch Eylau.

One of the most important towns recaptured is stated to be Zbąszyń. Recaptured from the troops still the furious fighting is continuing at Czestochowa and Katowice. German reports that they have captured Katowice are not confirmed.

Warsaw was again raided yesterday by German aircraft. (Continued on Page 2; Earlier

**BLACK-OUT TIME
TO-NIGHT—7.40**

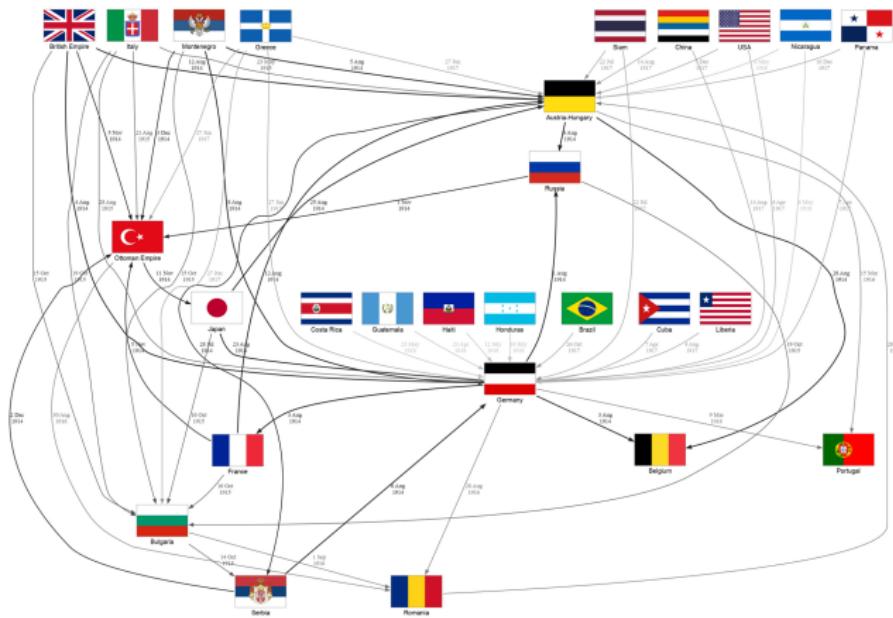
What is international relations?

- Explaining **cooperation** and **conflict** between states
- Traditionally, focus on **war**
- Why war and not other phenomena?

Other ‘topics’ of IR

- International Political Economy
- International Organizations
- Human Rights
- Development studies, foreign policy, ...

DECLARATIONS OF WAR DURING WORLD WAR I



EXTRA! THE  **ONION** **EXTRA!**
Wednesday, August 8, 1990 The Best Source of News In Our Great Republic Price: Two Quarters

WAR DECLARED BY ALL

AUSTRIA DECLARER WAR ON SERBIA DECLARER WAR ON
GERMANY DECLARER WAR ON FRANCE DECLARER WAR ON
TURKEY DECLARER WAR ON RUSSIA DECLARER WAR ON
BULGARIA DECLARER WAR ON BRITAIN

OTTOMAN EMPIRE ALMOST DECLARED WAR ON ITSELF

NATIONS STRUGGLE TO REMEMBER ALLIES



Why the focus on war?

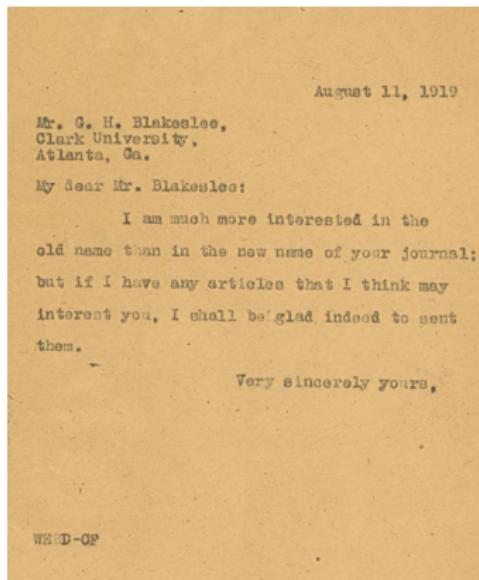


First meeting of the League of Nations, 1920

How the war changed IR

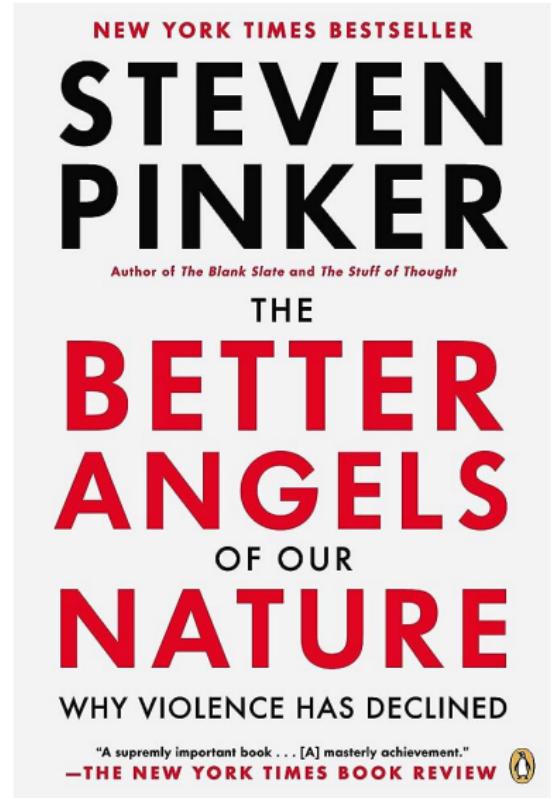
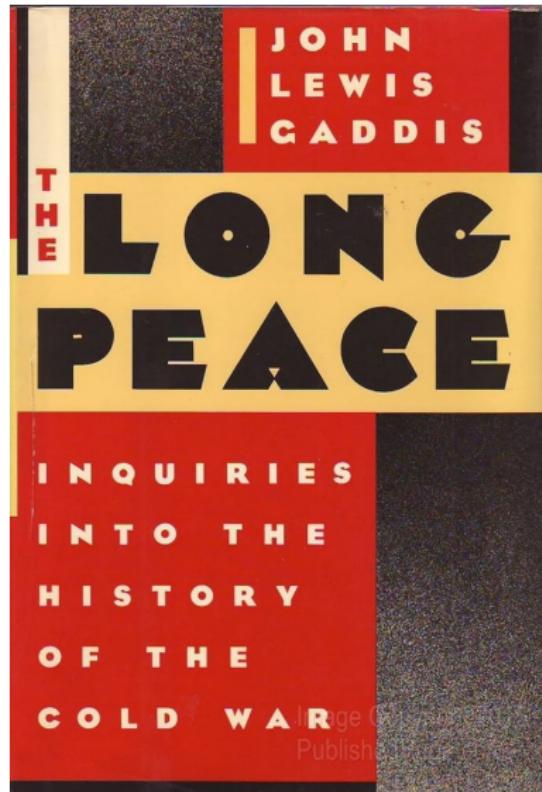
- Efforts to achieve peace in Europe, role of Germany, etc
- IR before WWI: focus on colonialism and race, and on international law
- After the war, more interest and more funding for IR
 - **1919**, Paris Peace Conference and the IR institute and the first IR dept in Aber
 - Goal of IR: create peace after the Great War through the scientific study of the relationships between nations

How the war changed IR

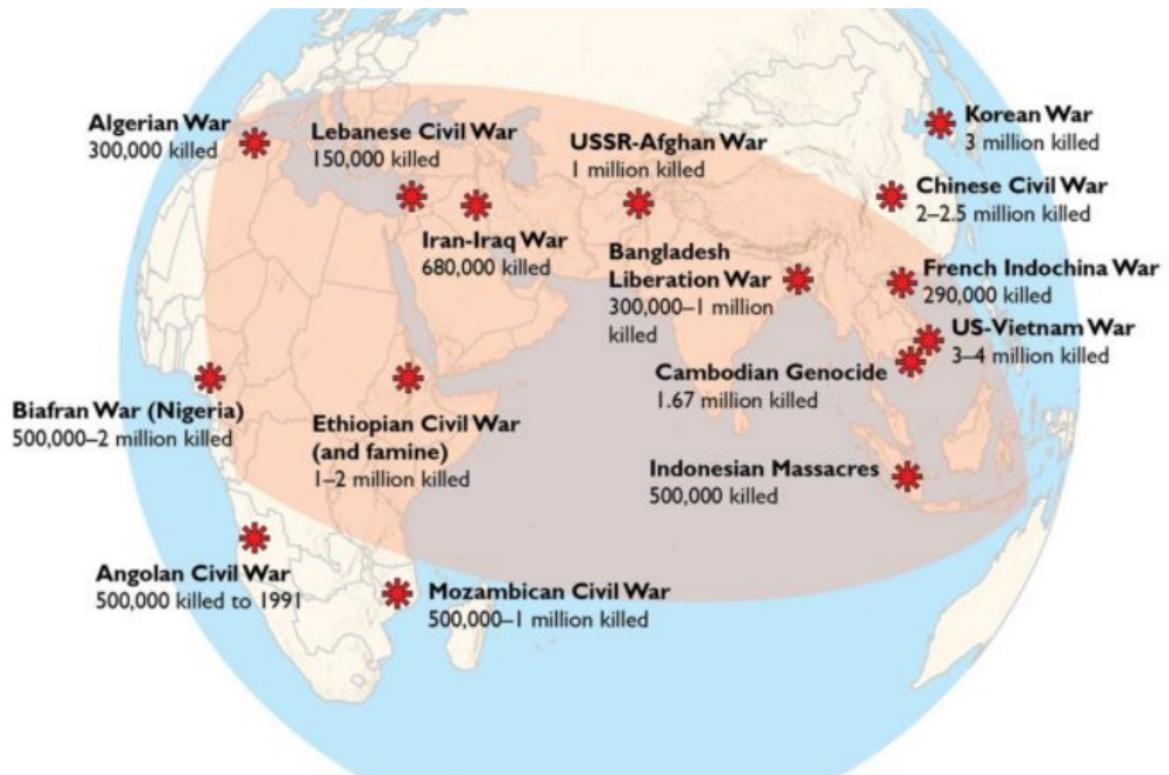


Letter by WEB DuBois after it changed its name (would later become *Foreign Affairs*)

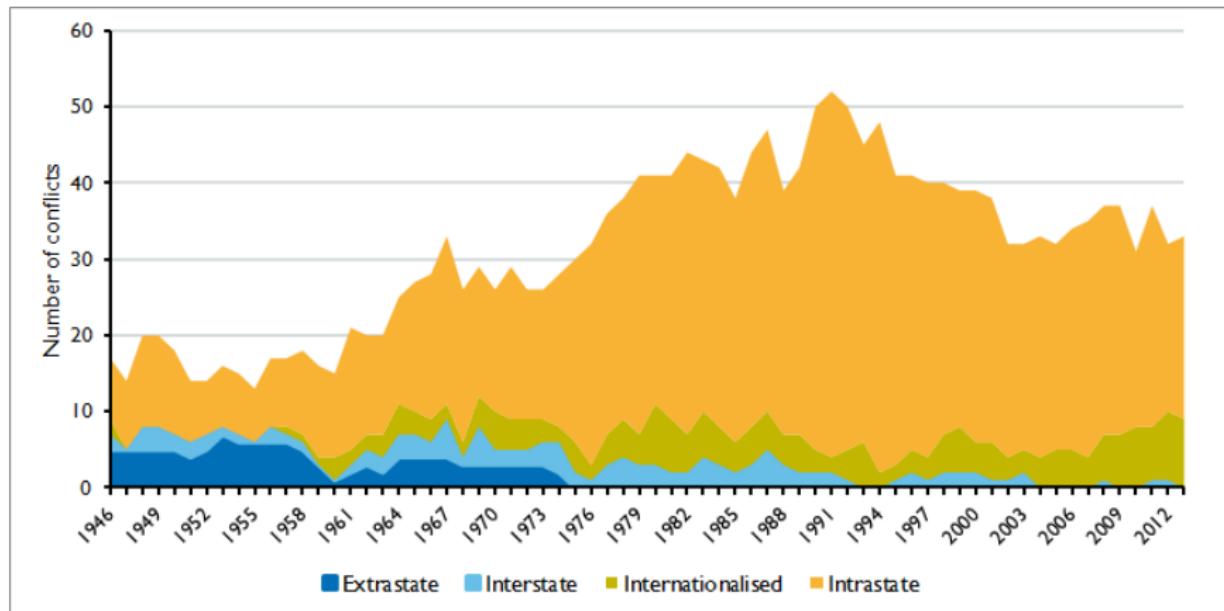
War and IR



War and IR



War and IR



Main perspectives in IR

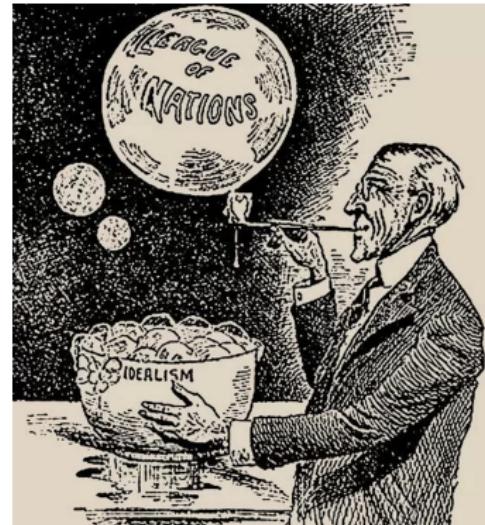
- **Realism**
 - **Liberalism**
 - **Constructivism**
-
- There are others: Marxism, feminism, rationalism, etc
 - Again, usually applied to wars but can also explain many other things, e.g.
 - European integration
 - Spread of Human Rights
 - And actually some are better suited for this things

Early realism

- **Human nature** is what explains international relations
 - You have wars because humans are predisposed to fight wars, kind of
- And the context is **power politics**
 - Political actions are constrained by political and economic power and want to increase it
- Classics: think Machiavelli's Prince (also Thucydides, Hobbes)
- More modern ones: E. H. Carr, Morgenthau (*animus dominandi*), Niebuhr (*sinful nature*), etc

Early liberalism

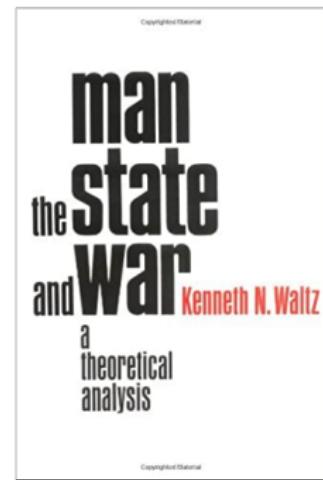
- Also called **liberal idealism**
- Basic idea is that war is **not inevitable** as long as liberal political principles are also present in the international system
- Explains the League of Nations, but also Wilson's Fourteen Points
 - open int'l treaties, open trade, settle colonial struggles, association of nation-states...



Woodrow Wilson

Waltz's neorealism (or structural neorealism)

- Understanding war through different levels of analyses ('images')
- **First image: the man** (aka. individuals)
 - Wars caused by the psychology of political leaders, or human nature (classical realism)
- **Second image: the state**
 - Wars caused by the internal structure of a state (back then, Marxism)
- **Third image: the international system**
 - War explained by the relationships between states: international anarchy
 - Hobbesian view of the international system: no law, no constraints, no "automatic harmony"



Kenneth Waltz
(1957)

Realism

- Basic ideas behind structural realism:
 - Main actors in world politics: sovereign states
 - Context: international anarchy
 - Goal of each state: security, power, wealth
- This perspective understands that war is explained by the *distribution of power* at the international level
- Wars break out because of predatory dynamics, conflict spirals (e.g. security dilemma), or pure preventive wars
- ‘Defensive’ (security) and ‘offensive’ (power) realists

Modern liberalism

- It's not about the game, it's about the players
- Liberals do not accept the pessimism of realism: the international arena is not so Hobbesian, and states are able to cooperate and not fight each other constantly, etc
- **Institutional liberalism** : we need to foster cooperation through *international organizations* and *regime type* (or regime change)
- We'll see next the main arguments for war: democratic peace and capitalist peace

Constructivism

- It's not only about material stuff, you have to pay attention to **ideology** (broadly defined)
- Leaders' self-perceived position and goals, identities, etc are socially constructed
- 'Anarchy is what states make of it' (Alexander Wendt)
- Importance of **norms**

Other approaches

- We'll see some other perspectives applied the explanation of wars, but e.g.:
- **Marxism** does not focus on cooperation vs conflict but rather on how material incentives determine international relations (e.g. dependence theory and North-South relations)
- **Rationalism** emphasizes rational choice theory and its application to state's decisions (think of game theory)
- Others, such as **feminist** or **psychological** IR theories

The Thucydides Trap: Are the U.S. and China Headed for War?

In 12 of 16 past cases in which a rising power has confronted a ruling power, the result has been bloodshed.

By Graham Allison



European integration and consequences?



International Human Rights?



Ríos Montt during trial

Difference between IR and comparative politics

- Comparative politics and IR studying similar topics
- Just different perspectives, often overlapped
- Example of **democratization**
 - Evolution of Polity IV across time
- IR and different types of political violence

Political violence more generally

	Target: State	Target: Non-State
Perpetrator: State	Interstate war	State repression Genocide Ethnic cleansing
Perpetrator: Non-State	Organized crime Mass protests (rebellion) Military coup Political assassination* Civil War Terrorism	