Study Guide #3

You are responsible for all lecture material, in-class videos and the following readings:

Johnson: Prologue, Chapters 1 thru 3 and 10.

Bacevich: Introduction, Chapters 1,3,4,5.

<http://fair.org/home/five-top-papers-run-18-opinion-pieces-praising-syria-strikes-zero-are-critical/>

<http://fair.org/home/the-essential-pundit-take-trump-became-president-by-bombing-syria/>

1. Chalmers Johnson’s theory of American Empire: Ideology, History, Structure

a. Empire: definition, means, goals, militarism and its characteristics.

b. Ideology: American Exceptionalism, Manifest Destiny, Wilsonianism

c. Empire/history: overthrow, decolonization, grand strategy, cold war and rise of military-industrial complex, September 11, Iraq War and the global war on terror.

d. Structure of military-industrial complex: military, contractors, intelligence, universities, private military contractors, congress, think tanks, lobbyists, trade groups.

e. Sorrows of empire: Johnson.

Terms: militarism, force projection, militarists, American Exceptionalism, Manifest Destiny, Spanish American War, Platt Amendment, Atlantic Charter, Nuremberg Tribunals, Grand Strategy, containment, Grand Strategy, Bush Doctrine, Doctrine of Preventive War, Nuclear Posture Review, Nuclear Employment Strategy, JSOC, Patriot Act, National Defense Authorization Act, Imperial Presidency.

2. American Empire: Vietnam

a. Human cost of war: since WWII and Vietnam.

b. Vietnam: “the story”, the Pentagon Papers and the real goal

c. American War: pacification, “hearts and minds,” Vietnamization, consequences.

Terms: body count, French-Indochina War, zippo jobs, strategic hamlets, napalm, agent orange, search and destroy missions, free fire zones, My Lai, saturation bombing. Daniel Ellsberg, Pentagon Papers, Atlantic Charter, Geneva Peace Accords, Viet Cong, Gulf of Tonkin Resolution

3. Bacevich: New American Militarism

a. What are the characteristics of the “new American Militarism”? What are the ways they have become part of American society?

b. What groups, according to Bacevich, have had significant impact shaping the new American militarism? What were the main contributions of each group? Main figure?

c. According to Bacevich, what will be the consequences of the new American militarism?