Write-up Outline

1. Why is Wagner important to study?

We selected the Wagner Group as a matter of importance because it represents one of the world's most influential private military security contractors. Acting as an arm of Russia’s geopolitical goals, the Wagner Group remains a consistent actor is numerous states across three different continents. Yet, the identity and classification of the Wagner Group remains largely unexamined across the academic literature. The Wagner Group creates a hole in the literature on how we understand the role of PMSCs by sovereign states. The Central African Republic represents a critical case study to understand the Wagner Group’s relationship with Russia and an African state on the continent with their greatest influence. For the past decade, Russia has increasingly used the Wagner Group to establish government relations in CAR and to collect illicit market resources. Yet, the Wagner Group is responsible for multiple atrocities and failures in duty, leading us to ask…..

1. Research question and interestingness
2. Lit review
   1. Journal articles
      1. Only one article really covering Wagner in-depth
         1. (Marten, 2019)
            1. Research question: Why is Russia using the Wagner group without “legalizing its existence or role?” (abs)
            2. Case-study research
            3. Main argument: Wagner is often used in the same way that other states use PMCs, “corrupt informal networks tied to the Russian regime have also used it in ways that are not typical of other strong states and that potentially undermine Russian security interests” (abs). Moscow uses Wagner in the way we expect, i.e., for purposes of plausible deniability, but this purpose likely no longer works because of how much Wagner has been in the news. Instead, Marten argues, Putin uses Wagner because their technical illegal status inside of Russia allows him to control the group and impose state sanctions if they do not listen to him.
            4. Mentions constructivism, saying Russia should legalize PMCs and sign the Montreaux document to reinforce its membership in the great power club that uses PMCs legally
            5. Sovereignty implications
   2. Policy articles
3. Major points (from whiteboard)
4. Why is CAR a good case study?