

Syllabus
revised 13 Jan. 2012

**Relations of the Great Powers;
Technology, the Evolution of the Modern State System,
and the Origins of the Global Crisis of World War II**

Spring 2012
INTA 2100A (CRN 25487)
MWF, 9:05-9:55
Location: IC 205

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Office hours: Monday, 15:00-16:00
and by appointment

Introduction:

This course has two main objectives. The first is to explore the interactions between technology and the patterns of relations among states. The second is to familiarize students with the major processes that produced the global crisis of World War II and, consequently, the contemporary international system of the post-W.W.II era.

The course will be taught primarily from a Realist perspective. While several lectures will focus on strategic choices made by the decision makers of states, the main focus of investigation will be on the state per se --- on the state as the actor. The course will explore the way in which the capabilities of states wax and wane relative to the capabilities of other states, the ways in which geographic factors impinge on relative state capabilities, the evolving pattern of rivalry and cooperation among states, i.e., on state systems and the evolution of those systems. When appropriate, advances in technology -- technological revolutions (e.g., the revolution in maritime and gunpowder technologies in the 16th and 17th centuries, and the internal combustion revolution of the 20th century) will be drawn in as important factors shaping the evolution of the great power state system.

In this way, Georgia Tech undergraduates will become familiar with how to think analytically about world politics. They will also become familiar with the history of great power relations that produced the contemporary world.

Textbooks:

Henry Kissinger, Diplomacy, Touchstone, 1994.

Paul Clyde, Burton Beers, The Far East: A History of Western Impacts and Eastern Responses, Waveland Press, 1975.

Akira Iriye, The Origins of the Second World War in Asia and the Pacific, Longman, 1987.

Reserve Readings:

There are twelve or so chapters are also on electronic reserve with the library. These are listed below.

Paul Kennedy, Chapter 1, "Rise of the West," in The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers, New York: Vintage, 1994, p. 3-30.

Bruce Porter, Chapter 2, "War and the Passing of the Medieval Age," in War and the Rise of the State, Free Press, 1994, p. 21-29, 58-61.

Alan McGowan, "The Three-masted Ship," in The Ship, Tiller and Whipstaff; The Development of the Sailing Ship, 1400-1700. London: Her Majesty's Stationary Office, 1982, p. 5-17.

Walter McDougall, "Nerchinsk, 1689," in Let the Sea Make a Noise, A History of the North Pacific from Magellan to MacArthur, Basic Books, 1993, p. 46-54.

Thomas Leonard, "The Beckoning of California Seaports," Chapter 4 in James K. Polk; A Clear and Unquestionable Destiny, SR Books, 2001, p. 125-146.

John Garver, "China," in The Origins of World War Two, Robert Boyce and Joe Maiola, editors, London: Palgrave Macmillan,

Donald Kagan, "The Second World War, 1939-1945," from On the Origins of War and the Preservation of Peace, New York: Anchor Books, p. 334-417

Sebastian Haffner, The Meaning of Hitler, New York: Macmillan, 1979, p78-95

John Garver, "The Sino-Soviet Alliance of 1937-1939," Chapter 2 in, Chinese-Soviet Relations, 1937-1945; The Diplomacy of Chinese Nationalism, Oxford University Press, 1988, p. 1-57.

Williamson Murray, "May 1940: Contingency and fragility of the German RMA," in MacGregor Knox, Williamson Murray, The Dynamics of Military Revolution, 1300-2050, Cambridge, 2001, p. 154-174.

George Lensen, "The Negotiation of the Neutrality act," in The Strange Neutrality; Soviet –Japanese Relations during the Second World War, 1941-1945, Tallahassee: The Diplomatic Press, no date. p. 1-20.

Daniel Yergin, "Japan's road to War," Chapter 16 in The Prize; The Epic Quest for Oil, Money, and Power, Simon Schuster, 1991, p. 305-327.

Alan L. Gropman, "U.S. Production in World War II," Chapter 9, p. 93-106, in Mobilizing U.S. Industry in World War II, McNair Paper # 50, August 1996, Washington, D.C.; Institute for National Strategic Studies.

Accessing the Library Electronic Reserves

The reserve readings listed above are on electronic reserve with the library. To access them go to:

www.library.gatech.edu

Click on "Course Reserves"

You will have to enter a code for this course. It is:

4utb003n

Browse to "International Affairs"

Open "INTA 2210, Garver"

To access the electronic reserve materials you will also need a Georgia Tech Prism ID and password. If you do not have or have forgotten such, you should be able to create one on-line by going to the "help" menu on the left-hand side of the "library.gatech.edu" web-page. If you have problems with reserves, you may call 404-894-7600 at the library and ask for Stephanie. If you need further help creating a password or accessing e-reserves, you may telephone the Library Reference Desk at 4-4530.

Determination of Course Grade

2 mid-term exams @ 25% each:	50 %
Final exam @ 35%	35%
Attendance = 15%	<u>15%</u>
	100

Attendance Policy

Roll will be called quickly at the beginning of class. Or perhaps an attendance roster will be circulated. If you come in after roll call, it is your responsibility to touch base with the instructor after the end of class. If you forget to do this and leave the class, the matter is past and closed.

Absences from class are "excused" (that is, attendance is marked for a particular day even though the student did not in fact attend the class) only for Institute endorsed

events --- ROTC, athletic competitions, and so on --- and illnesses with a clinic/ doctors note. Personal events and activities are not excused. For all excused activities, the student is requested to provide the professor with a document attesting to Georgia Tech's sponsorship or medical care, with the student's name and the exact date of the excused absence under-lined in colored pen. .

Policy on Missed Exams

Missed exams may be made up if and only if the student contacts the professor before the time of the exam to explain why he/she must miss the scheduled exam. Make-up exams may be of a different format than the regular exam --- i.e., essay, rather than multiple choice.

Schedule of Class Lectures and Readings

9 Jan. Concepts that Underpin the Course: civilizations, states, and nations

Reading: Kissinger, chapters 1, 2

18 Jan. State Systems and Technology

Reading:

20 Jan. Pre-Modern East Asia's Sino-centric "Tributary System"

Reading: Clyde and Beers, chapters 2,3

23 Jan: Pre-Modern Europe's "Feudal System" & "Modern' Technologies and the Emergence of the European System of Sovereign States

Reading: Porter, "War and the Passing of the Medieval Age," p. 21-29, 58-61.

25 Jan.: The European Balance of [State] Power System

Reading: Kissinger, 3, 4.

27 Jan.: The "Modern" Maritime Revolution and the Creation of a Global System

Reading: McGowan, "The Three-masted Ship."

30 Jan.: Why Did Europe Pull Ahead?: The Problem of Explaining Europe's Lead and "The European Eruption"

Reading: Kennedy, "Rise of the Western World."

1 Feb.: Russia's Expansion to the Pacific

Reading: McDougall, "Nerchinsk, 1689."

3 Feb.: Origins and Consequences of Japan's Isolation

Reading: Clyde and Beers, 4, 8.

6 Feb.: The U.S. Conquest of Western North America: Creation of the Geopolitical Basis of the U.S. as a Pacific Ocean Power

Reading: Leonard, "The Beckoning of California Seaports."

8 Feb.: The "Opening" of China

Reading: Clyde and Beers, 6.

10 Feb.: The "Opening" of Japan

Reading: Clyde and Beers, 9.

13 Feb.: First Exam (Progress grades due 17 Feb. for 2000-level courses.)

15 Feb.: The Treaty System in China

Reading: Clyde and Beers, 7.

17 Feb.: China's Struggle to Adapt (Modernization as Loss of National Essence)

Reading: Clyde and Beers, 12, 13.

20 Feb.: Japan's Meiji Restoration (Modernization via Revolution from Above)

Reading: Clyde and Beers, 10, 11.

22 Feb.: Japan Becomes an Imperial, and Pre-eminent Asian, Power

Reading: Clyde and Beers, 14, 15.

24 Feb.: The U.S. Becomes an Imperial and Pacific Ocean Power

Reading: none.

Note: The professor will be attending an academic conference on 24 February. Thus, the lecture for this day will be pre-recorded and available for viewing via the library reserve system. I apologize for this inconvenience.

It follows from this that **the regular class will NOT meet on 24 February**.

27 Feb.: German Unification and the European Balance of Power

Reading: Kissinger, 5.

29 Feb.: German Industrialization & Technology, the Growth of German Power, and Bismark's Solution to the "Problem" of German Strength

Reading: Kissinger 6. Kagan, p. 181-297.

2 Mar.: Germany's Quest for "World Power" and the Path to World War I

Reading: Kissinger, 7, 8.

Note: 2 March is the last day a student can drop a class with an automatic "W"

5 Mar.: The Versailles Solution to the Problem of German Strength

Reading: Clyde and Beers, 21. Kissinger, 9, 10.

7 Mar.: Impact of the Great War on the Asian Structure of Power

Reading: Clyde and Beers, 21.

9 Mar.: The Bolshevik Revolution and the Emergence of a Revolutionary, Proletarian State

Reading:

12 Mar.: Weakness at the Center: China's Decline and Its Consequences

Reading: Clyde and Beers, 16. Garver, "China."

14 Mar.: Beginning of the Crisis: Japan's Seizure of Manchuria and the Failure of Collective Security

- Reading: Clyde and Beers, 27. Iriye, 1.
- 16 Mar.: Hitler's Strategic Thinking and Objectives
- Reading: Kissinger, 11. Haffner, The Meaning of Hitler, p. 78-95.
- 26 Mar.: Internal Combustion Engines and the "Blitzkrieg" Revolution in Military Affairs
- Reading: Murray, "May 1940: contingency and fragility of the German RMA."
- 28 Mar.: The Logic and Failure of Appeasement
- Reading: Kagan, 297-417. Kissinger, 12.
- 30 Mar.: 2nd Exam**
- 2 Apr.: Japan's Choice: Multilateralism (the Nine Power Treaty) or Unilateralism (the Co-Prosperity Sphere)
- Reading: Iriye, 2. Clyde and Beers, 23, 26.
- 4 Apr.: China's Struggle for National Independence
- Reading: Garver. "The Sino-Soviet Alliance, 1937-1939."
- 6 Apr.: War and Revolution in China: The Growth of Chinese Communist Power
- Reading: Iriye, 3.
- 9 Apr.: The Soviet Dilemma: Deterrence on Two Fronts
- Reading: Kissinger, 13.
- 11 Apr.: The Soviet-German Non-Aggression Pact
- Reading: Kissinger, 14.
- 13 Apr.: The Japanese-U.S. Search for a Modus Vivendi
- Reading: Iriye, already assigned.
- 16 Apr.: Japan's German Alliance: Deterring U.S. Intervention

Reading: Iriye, 4.

18 Apr.: Japan's Push into Southeast Asia and the U.S. Response; the Escalating
Spiral of Mutual Retaliation

Reading: Iriye, 5. Yergin, "Japan's road to War," p. 305-327.

20 Apr.: U.S. Mobilization for War and the Decision for "Europe First"

Reading: Gropman, "U.S. Production in World War II," p. 93-106.

23 Apr.: Hitler's Decision for War with the USSR and Its Consequences

Reading:

25 Apr.: The Japanese and U.S. Decisions for War

Reading: Iriye, 6.

27 Apr.: The Defeat of the Axis Powers and the Creation of the Contemporary
State System

Final Exam: period 13, Friday, 4 May, 8:00-10:50 a.m.