

## Unravelling Causes of War

(MA level, 6 ECTS credits, module-no. 1546)

Lectureres: Dr. Konstantinos Tsetsos, Tim Teipel

Timing: Blocked seminar on **Friday, January 31**, 2020, 9:00 am – 14:00 pm and on **Friday, February 14**, 2020, 9:00 am – 14:00 pm and on **Friday, February 28**, 9:00 am – 14:00 pm

Learning objectives: The course provides an overview of the most important theories on the causes of war and armed conflict. It will address how conflict is defined, operationalized and coded and discuss various modes of explaining the onset of wars. By utilizing a three-image approach, the course will introduce central theories on interstate war and the use of organized violence and assess the explanatory value of individualistic (1<sup>st</sup> image), state-centric (2<sup>nd</sup> image) and systemic (3<sup>rd</sup> image) approaches on the causes of war. In addition, the course will address intrastate wars, civil wars and non-state actor wars and discuss specific theories that are directed at sub-state conflict onsets. Participants will acquire knowledge about:

- central theoretical and empirical contributions to the scholarly literature on interstate and intrastate conflicts
- issues relating to non-state actor conflicts
- current trends of military conflicts: onsets, conduct and outcomes
- 1<sup>st</sup> image: anthropological, ethological, psychological, sociobiological, individual and group-specific explanations of war
- 2<sup>nd</sup> image: state behavior, rational choice, bureaucratic (governmental) politics and organizational process model, democratic peace, intern-extern conflict theories, international rivalries, imperialism
- 3<sup>rd</sup> image: Int. anarchy, balance of power, hegemonic war theories, power transition theories,
- Civil and small wars: war economies, ethnic conflict and asymmetric conflicts

### **Proof of Performance:**

Term Paper

### **Required Reading:**

*Levy, Jack S./Thompson, William, R. (2010): Causes of War. Oxford.*

### **Recommended reading:**

*Blainey, Geoffrey (1988): The Causes of War. New York, NY.*

*Cashman, Greg* (2000): *What Causes War? An Introduction to Theories of International Conflict*. Boston/Oxford.

*Richardson, Lewis F.* (1960): *Statistics of Deadly Quarrels*. Pittsburgh, PA: Booxwood.

*Wright, Quincy* (1965 [1942]): *A Study of War*. Chicago, IL.

**(Note: literature given in the session is to be considered recommended reading. By reading *Levy, Jack S./Thompson, William, R. (2010): Causes of War*. Oxford students are well prepared to understand these approaches in a broader context)**

### **Session 1: Introduction: Concepts of War**

Sarkees, Meredith Reid/Wayman, Frank Whelon (2010): *Resort to War. A Guide to Inter-State, Extra-State, Intra-State, and Non-State Wars 1816-2007*. Washington, D.C. (chapter I)

*Singer, David J.* (1979) (Ed.): *The Correlates of War: I. Research Origins and Rationale*, New York and London, pp. XIII-35;

*Waltz, Kenneth N.* (1959): *Man, the State, and War*. New York, NY.

### **Session 2: Individual approaches to causes of war**

*Freud, Sigmund* (1933): *Why War?*, in: *Singer, David J./Small, Melvin* (1989): *International War. An Anthology*. Second Edition. Chicago, IL.

*Fabbro, David* (1978): *Peaceful Societies*, in: *Journal of Peace Research*. 15: 1, March 1978, p. 67-83.

### **Session 3: State centric (1) approaches to causes of war**

*Levy, Jack* (1983): *Misperception and the Causes of War: Theoretical Linkages and Analytical Problems*, in: *World Politics*, 36: 1, p. 76-99.

*Layne, Christopher* (1994): *Kant or Can't: The Myth of the Democratic Peace*, in: *International Security*, 19:2, p. 5-49.

### **Session 4: State centric (2) approaches to causes of war**

*Blainey, Geoffrey* (1988): *The Causes of War*. New York, NY.

*Van Evera, Stephen* (1999): *Causes of War. Power and the Roots of Conflict*. New York, NY.

### **Session 5: Systemic approaches to causes of war**

*Gilpin, Robert* (1981): *War and Change in World Politics*. Cambridge, MA.

*Lynn-Jones, Sean M.* (1995): *Offense-Defense Theory and Its Critics*, in: *Security Studies* 4:4, Summer 1995, p. 660-691.

## **Session 6: Empirical study of civil wars**

*Collier, Paul/Hoeffler, Anke* (2004): Greed and Grievance in Civil War, in: Oxford Economic Papers 56, p. 563-95.

Dixon, Jeffrey (2009): What causes civil wars? Integrating quantitative research findings, in: International Studies Review 11, p. 707-735.

Tikuisis Peter, Carment David, Samy Yiagadeesen (2013): Prediction of intrastate conflict using state structural factors and event data, in: Journal of Conflict Resolution 57(3), p. 410-444.