

POLI 143A
War and Society

<http://slantchev.ucsd.edu/courses/ps143a/>

Winter 2018
MWF 11:00a–11:50a
PETER 104

Professor Branislav L. Slantchev
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Office Hours: Wed, 1:00p-2:00p
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DESCRIPTION: This course examines how political groups organize for war, how they fight, and how war affects these groups. We shall develop analytical concepts about the political economy of fiscal and military mobilization and the mutual evolution of taxation, public credit, and war-making. We shall then use these concepts to analyze several prominent great powers spanning four centuries. Although not a history of warfare, the course will examine the progress in military technology and its impact on war-making and society. Although not a sociology of war, the course will examine the organization and composition of military forces, and the impact of warfare on social institutions. We shall pay particular attention to the political institutions that determine the society's ability to prepare for war, sustain a fight, and endure in peace. We shall seek to answer why some societies seem better able to cope with the strains of war-making than others. We shall also attempt to trace the military origins of the modern tax state.

PREREQUISITES: No previous work in political science is expected although some familiarity with international relations and history of war would be helpful. This is an advanced undergraduate course and correspondingly the reading load is not light.

TEACHING ASSISTANTS: One graduate student will assist me in this course:

Abigail Vaughn
vaughn.abigail@gmail.com

REQUIREMENTS: The course requirements consist of a midterm exam (40%) and a final exam (60%). The exams will consist of identification, short-answer, and essay questions, and will be administered in class. The final will be comprehensive. You must pass both exams to receive a passing grade for the course.

MISSED EXAMS. Makeup exams will only be given under valid, documented, and extreme circumstances. If you know you will miss an exam for a legitimate reason, notify me at least a week in advance. E-mail is perfectly acceptable. If you are not able to contact me in advance, you must do so as soon as possible. I am a reasonable person and will work with you to resolve reasonable problems. It is your responsibility to arrange with me to take a makeup exam.

ATTENDANCE. Class attendance will be important for your performance on the exams. Much of the material that we shall cover may either not be in the readings or not be in easily digestible form. Taking notes will help you structure the substance. The lecture notes on the web site are extensive but class presentation should make organization much more straightforward. Some material is just easier to learn when you hear someone explain it, so do not rely on readings only. Do not print out the lecture notes too far in advance because I may update them up to the day before class.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY. You are expected to do your own work. Students caught cheating on exams or plagiarizing their essays will receive a failing grade for the course and will be turned over to the appropriate authority for administrative sanctions.

GRADE APPEALS. You can expect to be graded solely on your academic performance. This includes clarity of thought, knowledge of the material, composition, spelling, and grammar. Students who believe to have received an incorrect grade or a grade based on non-academic criteria should formally appeal it to me. The appeal will consist of a single typed page that identifies the problem and presents a reasoned argument that the grade fits the appeal criteria listed above.

READINGS: The course readings will be drawn from a number of books and articles. The following required book is available for purchase at the bookstore:

- Anderson, M. S. 1988. *War and Society in Europe of the Old Regime, 1618–1789*. Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press.

In addition, we shall read a number of articles, book excerpts, and some primary documents. These are all available on the course website.

SCHEDULE: Topics only. The complete reading schedule is on the course website.

TOPIC 1: Introduction: The Rise of the Fiscal-Military State in Europe

TOPIC 2: Context: International Landscape and the State, 1600–1871

TOPIC 3: Warfare on Land: The Evolution of Army Style

TOPIC 4: Warfare at Sea: The Growth of Navies

TOPIC 5: Military Finance: How States Paid for War

TOPIC 6: Taxation: The Struggle over Assessments

TOPIC 7: Revenue Collection: From Tax Farming to State Bureaucracy

TOPIC 8: War on Credit: Borrowing and Debt Servicing

TOPIC 9: Political Institutions: Representation and Power of the Purse

TOPIC 10: Fiscal and Administrative Efficiency item[February 14] Midterm: in class, closed notes, closed book

TOPIC 11: The Dutch Republic, 1581–1806

TOPIC 12: France, 1598–1815

MARCH 19, 11:30A–2:30P: Final: closed notes, closed book