Interstate war

Francisco Villamil

War, peace, and political violence

UC3M, Fall 2024

Why did WWII break out?



DAILY HERALD. September 4, 1939.

ON YOUR FEET FOR HOURS ?
Then Don't Forget That
ZAM-BUK
Removes Pain, Soreness & Corns

Daily Herald

SAUSAGES GO BETTER WITH H-P SAUCE

No. 7349 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1939 ONE PENNY

WAR DECLARED BY BRITAIN AND FRANCE

We Have Resolved To Finish It—PRIME MINISTER

GREAT BRITAIN DECLARED WAR ON GERMANY AT 11 O'CLOCK YESTERDAY MORNING.

Six hours later, at 5 p.m., France declared war.

Britain's resolution to defend Poland against Nazi aggression was described by the newly-formed Ministry of Information in one of its first announcements, as follows:—

"At 11.15 this morning (Sunday) Mr. R. Dunbar, Head of the Treaty Department of the Foreign Office, went to the German Embassy, where he was received by Dr. Kordt, the Charge d'Affaires.

"Mr. Dunbar handed to Dr. Kordt a notification that a state of war existed between Great Britain and Germany as from 11 o'clock B.S.T. this morning. This notification constituted the formal declaration of war."

WAR CABINET OF

Unthinkable We Should Refuse The Challenge

—THE KING

Broadcasting last evening from his study at Buckingham Palace, the King said:—

IN this grave hour, perhaps the most fateful in our history, I send to every household of my people, both at home and overseas, this message, spoken with the same depth of feeling for each one of you as if I were able to cross your threshold and speak to you myself.

For the second time in the lives of most of us we are at war.

Over and over again we have tried to find a peaceful

POLES SMASH WAY INTO E. PRUSSIA

OFFICIALS in Warsaw stated late last night that the Polish army has smashed a way across the Northern border into East Prussia, after driving the Germans from several Polish towns in bitter fighting.

On the Northern Front the Poles are reported to have defeated the German effort to drive a barrier across the upper part of the Corridor. The Germans fell back behind their frontiers.

The Poles say they have broken through the German fortifications as far as the railway terminus of Deutsch Eylau.

One of the most important towns recaptured is stated to be Zbaszyn.

Dispatches from the front state that furious fighting is going on at Czestochowa and Katowice. German reports that they have captured Czestochowa are denied.

Warsaw was again raided yesterday by German aircraft.

(Continued on Page 2; Earlier fighting details on Page 16)

London Hears Its First Raid Warning

LONDON was calm yesterday when it heard its first air raid warning.

This is the official statement issued by the Air Ministry:—

At 11.30 a.m. yesterday an aircraft was observed approaching the South Coast.

As its identity could not be readily determined an air-raid warning was

BLACK-OUT TIME TO-NIGHT—7.40

Introduction

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Understanding war



Jacques Callot's *Les Grandes Misères de la guerre* (1633)

Understanding war

- "War is the continuation of politics by other means"



Carl von Clausewitz

(*On war*, 1832)

Understanding war

- "War is the continuation of politics by other means"
- Wars as a rational human phenomenon, against previous Enlightment view of war as a deviation
  - → Even in the 20th century, some still see it that way
- Part of the realist tradition: Thucydides, Machiavelli, Hobbes, etc



Carl von Clausewitz

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IR and war



First meeting of the League of Nations, 1920

Main perspectives in IR

- **Realism**
- **Liberalism**
- **Constructivism**

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- There are others: Marxism, feminism, rationalism, etc
- Again, usually applied to wars but can also explain many other things (e.g. trade agreements, EU integration, climate norms)

Early realism

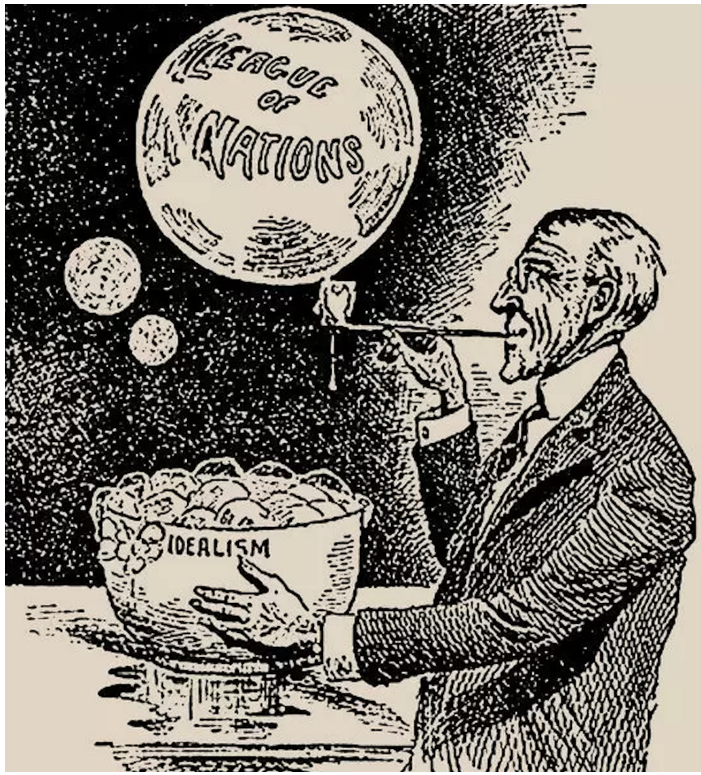
- **Human nature** is what explains international relations
  - → You have wars because humans are predisposed to fight wars, kind of
- And the context is **power politics**
  - → Political actions are constrained by political and economic power and want to increase it

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- And the context is **power politics**
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- Classics: think Machiavelli's Prince (also Thucydides, Hobbes)
- More modern ones: E. H. Carr, Morgenthau (*animus dominandi*), Niebuhr (*sinful nature*), etc

Early liberalism

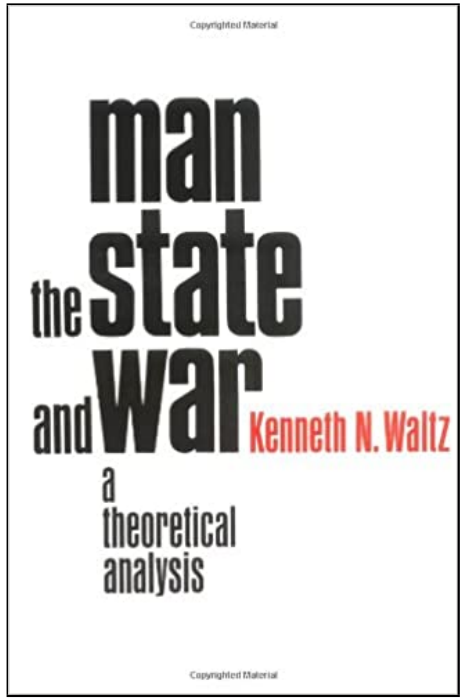
- Also called **liberal idealism**
- Basic idea is that war is **not inevitable** as long as liberal political principles are also present in the international system
- Explains the League of Nations, but also Wilson's Fourteen Points
  - → open int'l treaties, open trade, settle colonial struggles, association of nation-states...



Woodrow Wilson

Waltz's neorealism (or structural neorealism)

- Understanding war through different levels of analyses ('images')

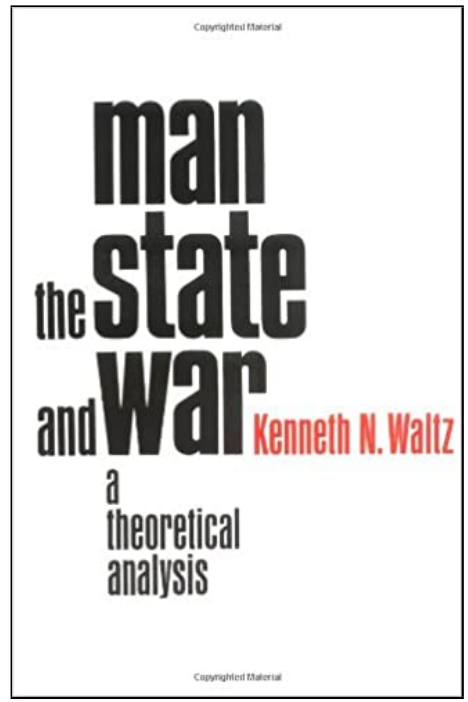


Kenneth Waltz

(1957)

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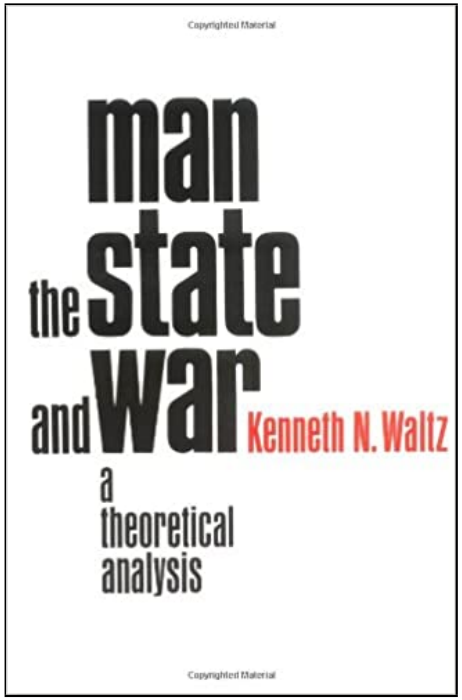


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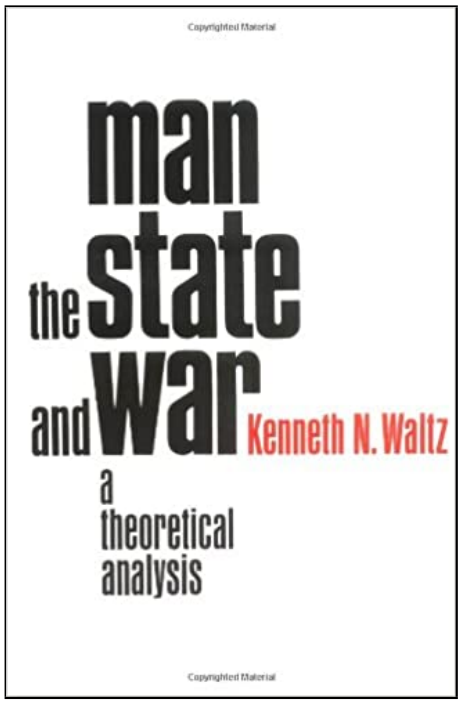


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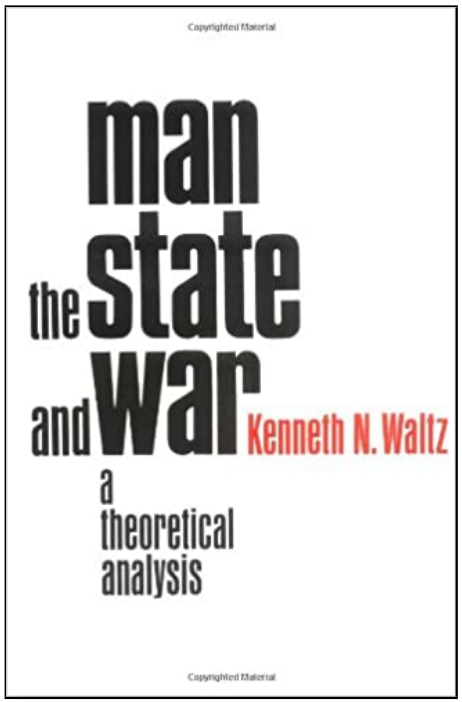


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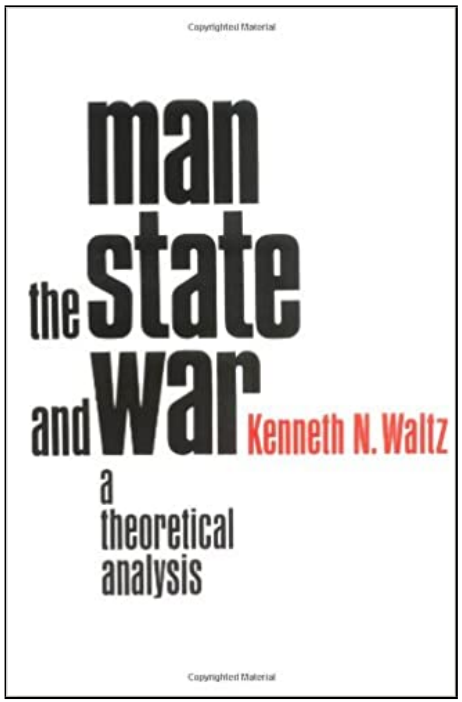


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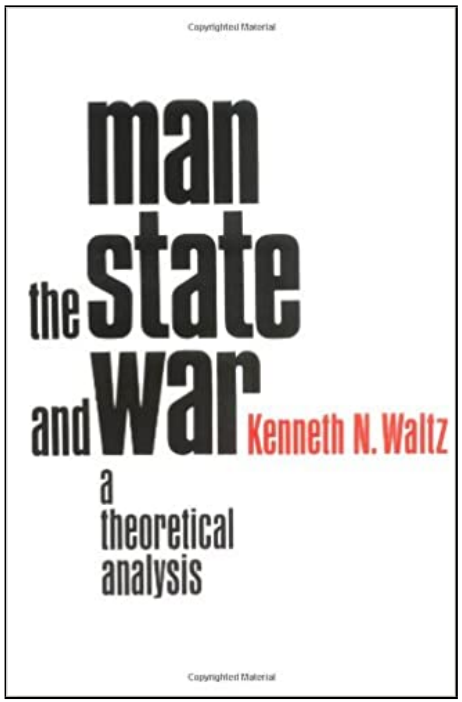


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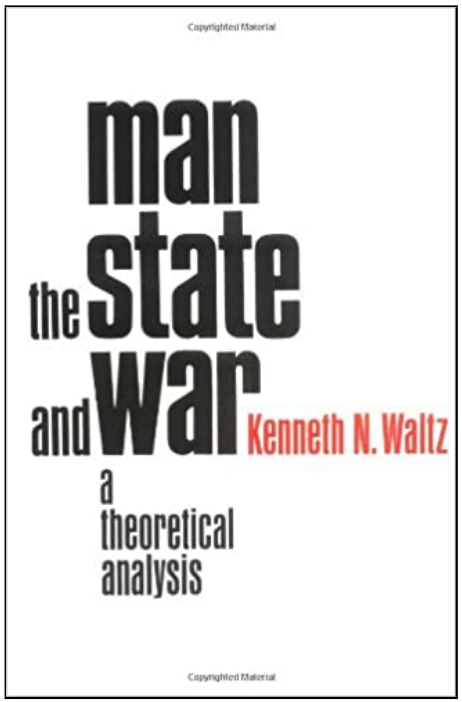


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  - → Hobbesian view of the international system: no law, no constraints, no "automatic harmony"



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- 'Defensive' (security) and 'offensive' (power) realists

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- We'll see next the main arguments for war: democratic peace and capitalist peace

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- Importance of **norms**

Perspectives, theories, and evidence

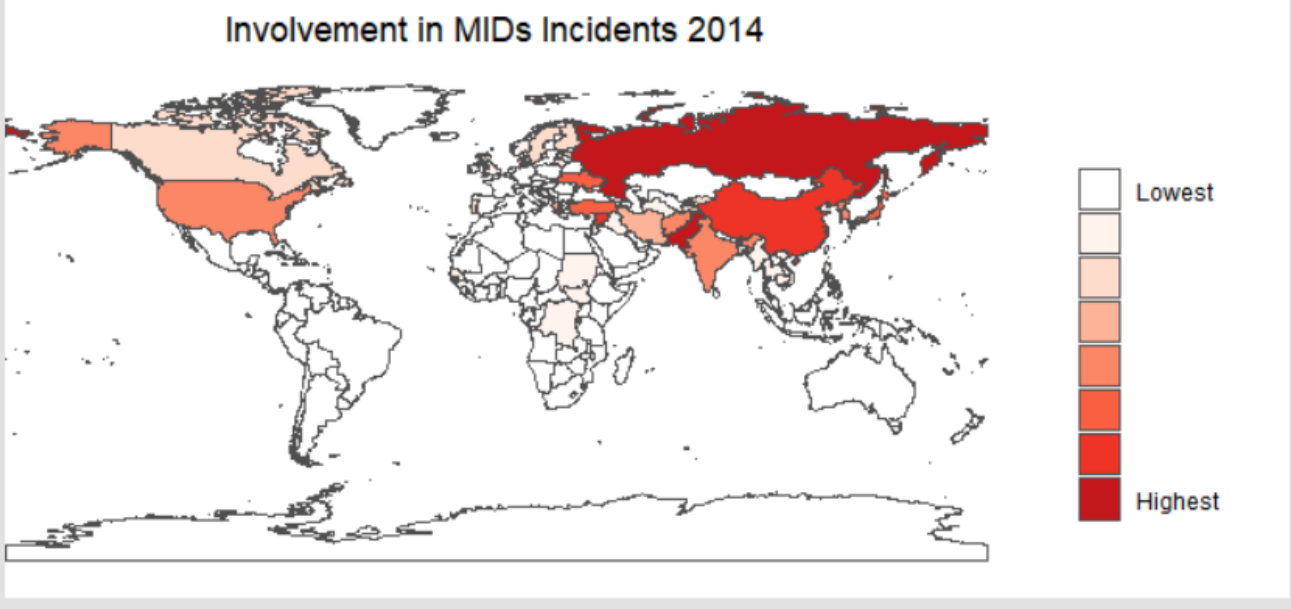
- These are lens to understand war (and IR)
- There are *specific theories* linked to each of them
  - $\rightarrow$ usually linked to practical solutions
- People use data to test different theories

Correlates of War

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Home Data Sets History People Data Hosting News Data Bibliography External Links FAQ Contact Us Events

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About the Correlates of War Project

Welcome to the Correlates of War (COW) project homepage. COW seeks to facilitate the collection,

Recent News

New COW Co-Directors April 18, 2022

NMC 6.0 Data Available July 22, 2021

Dyadic MID 4.02 Data Available June 20, 2021

Dyadic MID 4.01 Data Available February 21, 2021

MID 5.0 Data and Materials Available November 9, 2020

More News...

Correlates of War data project

- COW War Data, 1816 – 2007
- Militarized Interstate Disputes
- National Material Capabilities
- Militarized Interstate Dispute Locations
- Others
  - → Alliances, Contiguity, Territorial change, Defense Cooperation Agreement, etc

Specific theories on war

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- Main realist theories:
  - $\rightarrow$ **Balance of power works**: states pursue it internationally, (small) wars avoid larger ones, it deters aggression, etc
  - $\rightarrow$ **International hegemony**: no, alliances are actually war-prone – given international anarchy, we need a Leviathan
    (be careful when hegemony switches, though)

Liberal theories

- More popular explanations (nowadays), and also more geared to *specific cases*
  - → realist explanations are perhaps more focused on explaining system-wide instability, whereas liberal theories let us 'predict' specific conflicts

- Two main theories:
  - → Democratic peace
  - → Capitalist peace

The democratic peace

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- Policy implications at the global and specific levels

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  - → role of **domestic politics**
- Some say that the democratic peace is not because democracy itself, but because of economic interdependences between wealthy countries (which happen to be democracies)

Liberalism nowadays



Forbes

Why Putin Won't Invade Ukraine

Loren Thompson Senior Contributor ⓘ
I write about national security, especially its business dimensions.

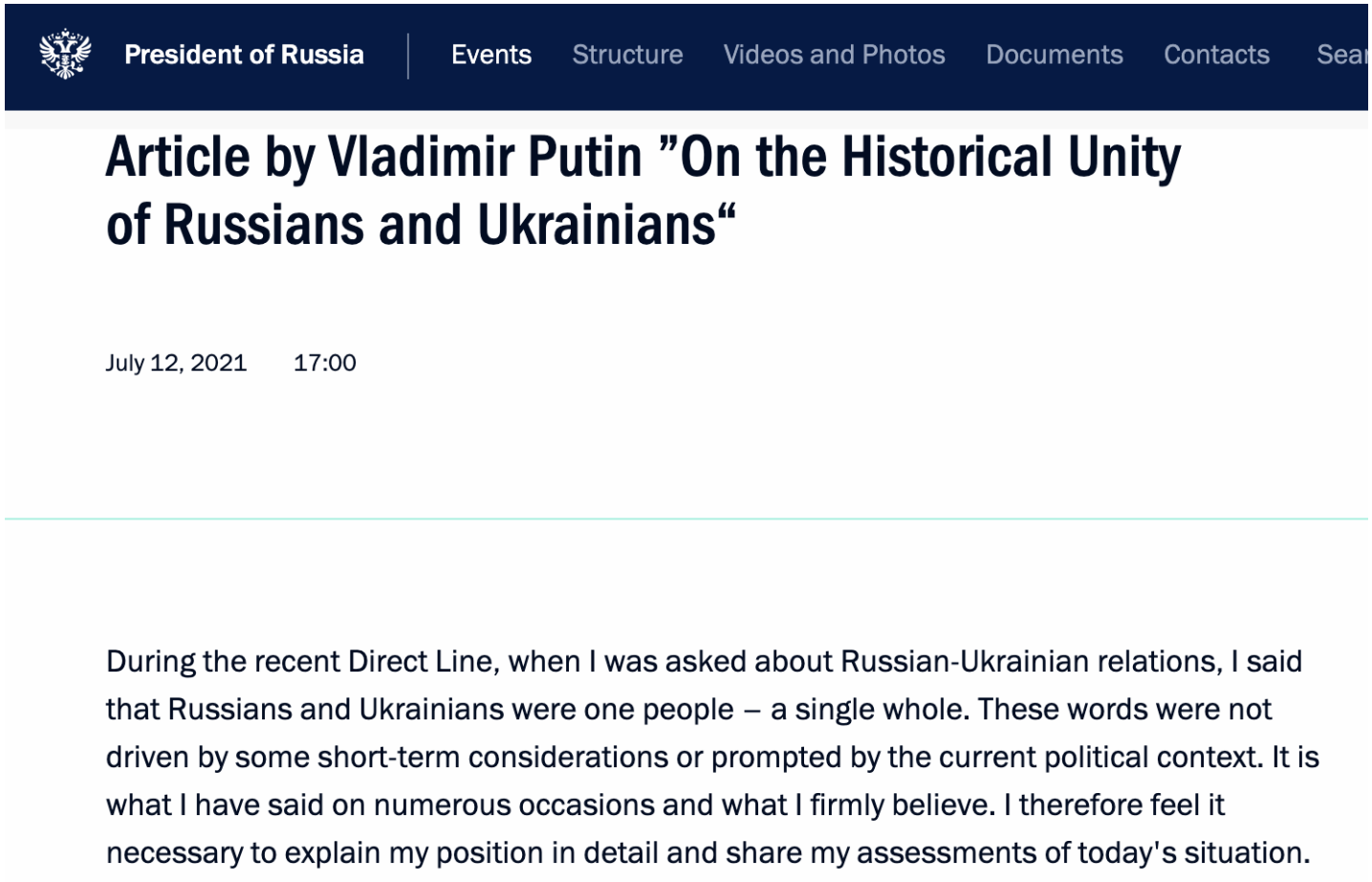
Follow

Dec 6, 2021, 10:33am EST

Inevitable sanctions. NATO isn't likely to send troops to counter a Russian invasion of Ukraine, but its members would impose the mother of all sanction regimes on Moscow. Russia is already subject to U.S. **sanctions** for annexing Crimea, and legislation is pending in the Senate to block operations of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline from Russia to Germany.

Domestic opposition. Russia has reverted to authoritarianism under Putin, but it is still far from being the totalitarian state of its Stalinist past. Putin has to worry about the domestic response to casualties in a Ukrainian war, and knowing this Kyiv (with Western assistance) would work hard to maximize Russian losses in any military campaign.

Constructivist theories



President of Russia | Events Structure Videos and Photos Documents Contacts Sear

Article by Vladimir Putin "On the Historical Unity of Russians and Ukrainians"

July 12, 2021 17:00

During the recent Direct Line, when I was asked about Russian-Ukrainian relations, I said that Russians and Ukrainians were one people – a single whole. These words were not driven by some short-term considerations or prompted by the current political context. It is what I have said on numerous occasions and what I firmly believe. I therefore feel it necessary to explain my position in detail and share my assessments of today's situation.

Rationalist theories of war

- If we think of states as unitary rational actors, war is actually not rational, your theories do not have microfoundations

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- If we think of states as unitary rational actors, war is actually not rational, your theories do not have microfoundations

The central puzzle about war, and also the main reason we study it, is that wars are costly but nonetheless wars recur. Scholars have attempted to resolve the puzzle with three types of argument. First, **one can argue that people** (and state leaders in particular) **are sometimes or always irrational.** They are subject to biases and pathologies that lead them to neglect the costs of war or to misunderstand how their actions will produce it. Second, **one can argue that the leaders who order war enjoy its benefits but do not pay the costs**, which are suffered by soldiers and citizens. Third, **one can argue that even rational leaders** who consider the risks and costs of war may **end up fighting nonetheless.**

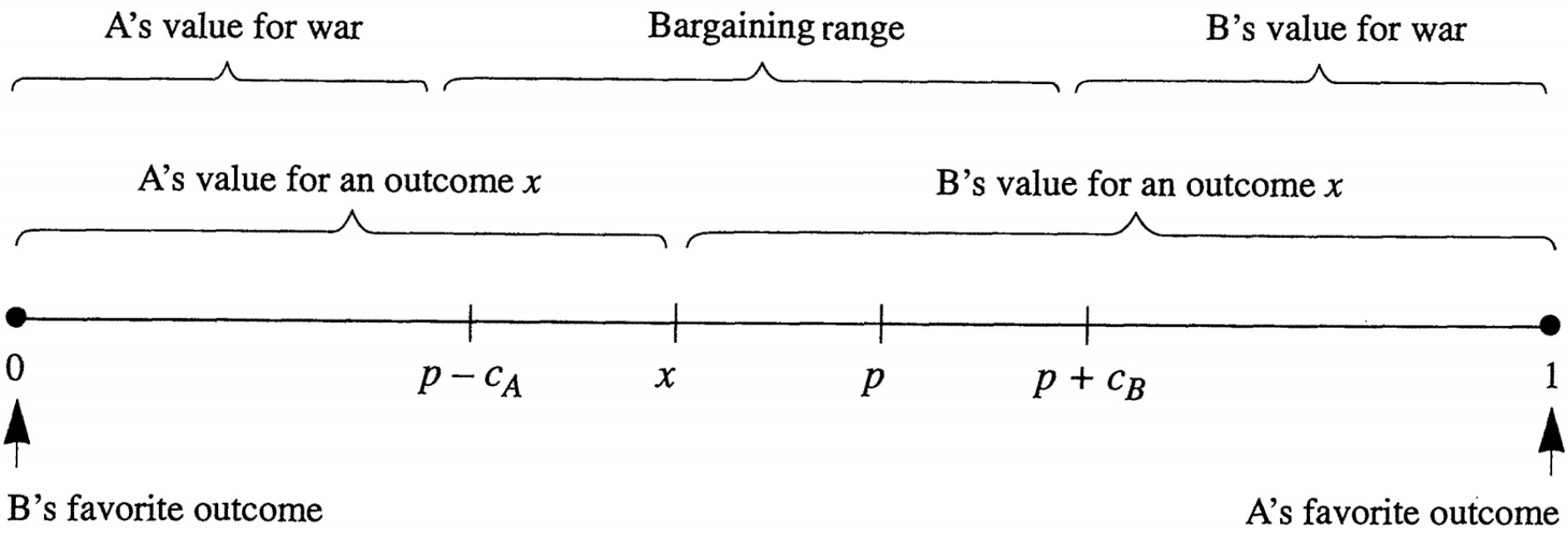
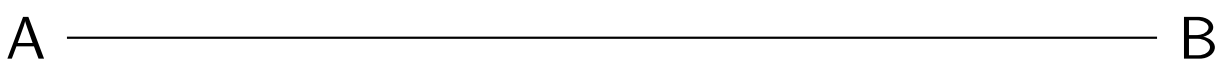


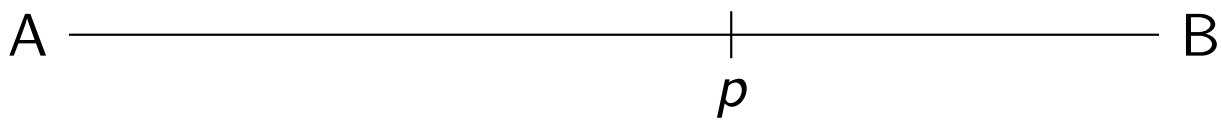
FIGURE 1. *The bargaining range*

Bargaining model of war



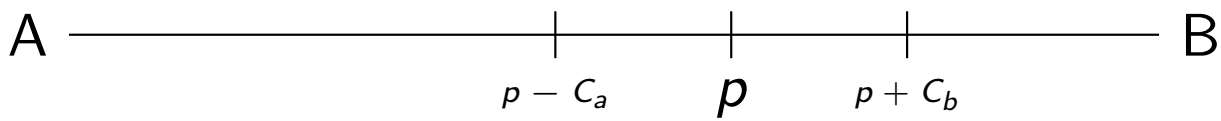
- Imagine A and B are fighting over control of a territory, and A is a bit stronger than B (and both know this)

Bargaining model of war



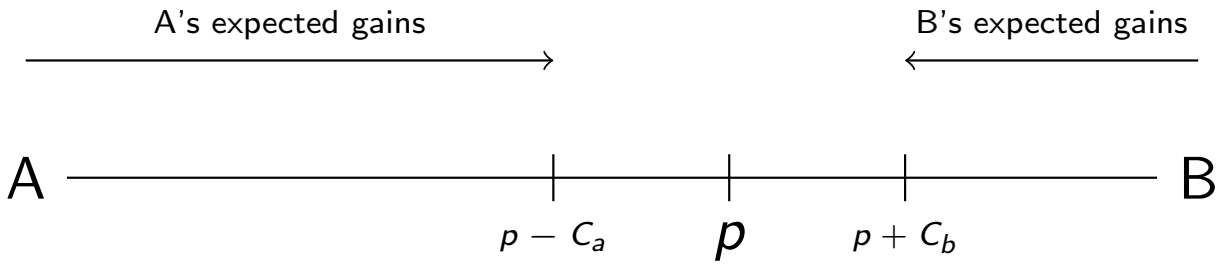
- p is what they expect if they fight

Bargaining model of war



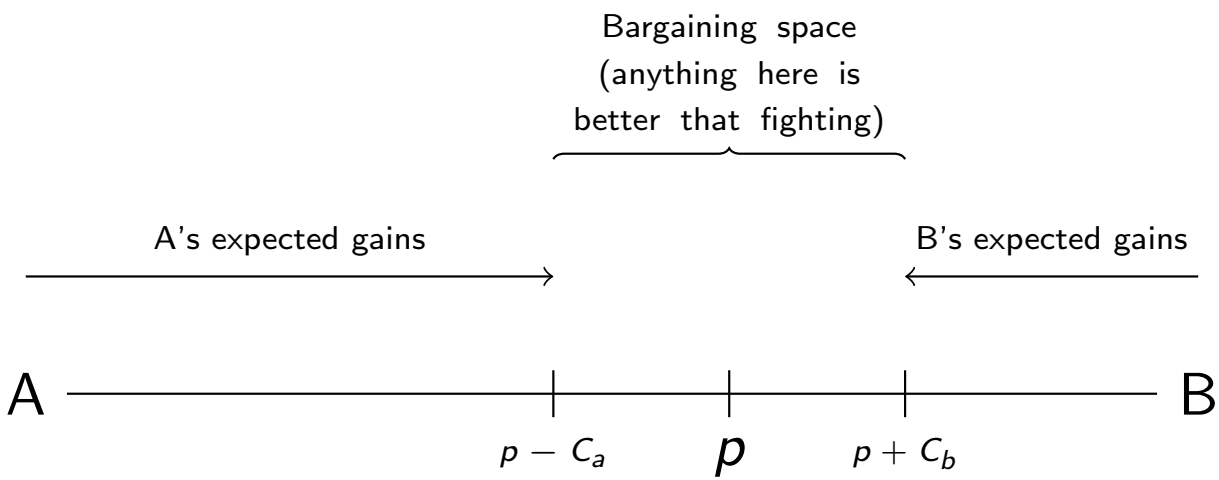
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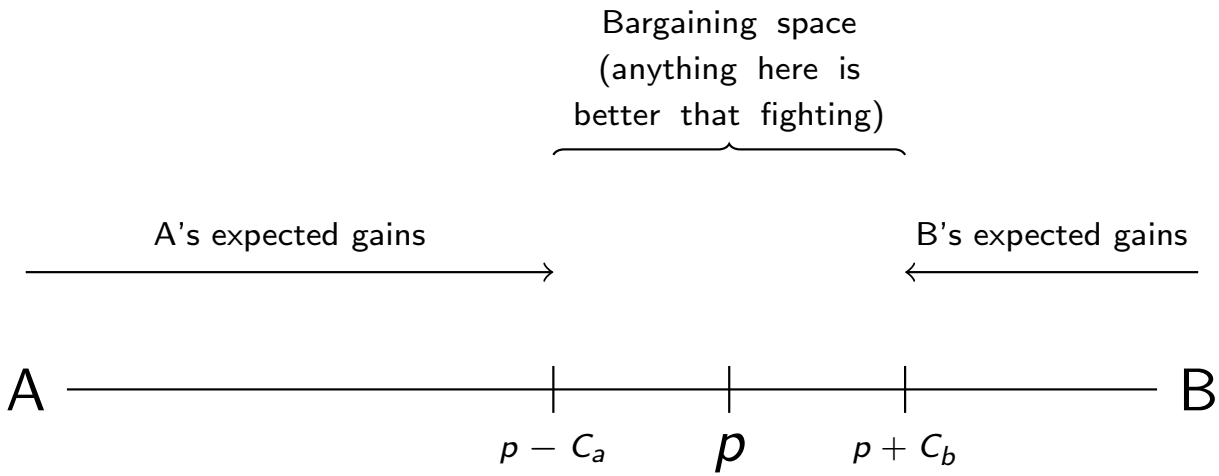
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Bargaining model of war



- Therefore, under rational conditions, they would be better off if they negotiate before fighting

Bargaining model of war



- This approach should be able to explain why there was never a **nuclear war**: the cost is just too high, even taking into account uncertainties

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  - → Think about **preventive wars** or wars over bargaining issues that will affect **future balance of power**. Also, leaders could create or overcome them: sunk costs (e.g. mobilizing troops) or tying hands (e.g. domestic audiences)

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  - → When any kind of deal is unsustainable because of the incentive structure (e.g. Prisoner's dilemma), as when a declining powerful state has a dispute with an emerging new power
- Indivisible issues
  - → If we are fighting for a piece of land or commercial rights, maybe we can split it up, but what if we are fighting for something sacred, e.g. control of Jerusalem? (constructivism!)

Two problems

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  - → For instance, war could be beneficial to a leader that wants to avoid being seen capitulating
- Maybe rationality does not always apply
  - → Psychological biases, bounded rationality, etc

Wraping up: what causes wars?

- This is just something very difficult to predict: 'war is in the error term' (Gartzke)

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- Also, some people say that the historical context matter when comparing wars

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2. Many wars are fought among contiguous states over territorial disputes (which doesn't mean that neighbors usually fight each other)
3. Asymmetry does not usually lead to war, and wars are usually fought between strategic rivals

Interstate war in context

	Target: State	Target: Non-State
Perpetrator: State	Interstate war	State repression Genocide Ethnic cleansing
Perpetrator: Non-State	Mass protests (rebellion) Military coup Political assassination* Civil War Terrorism (Organized crime)	Intercommunal violence*

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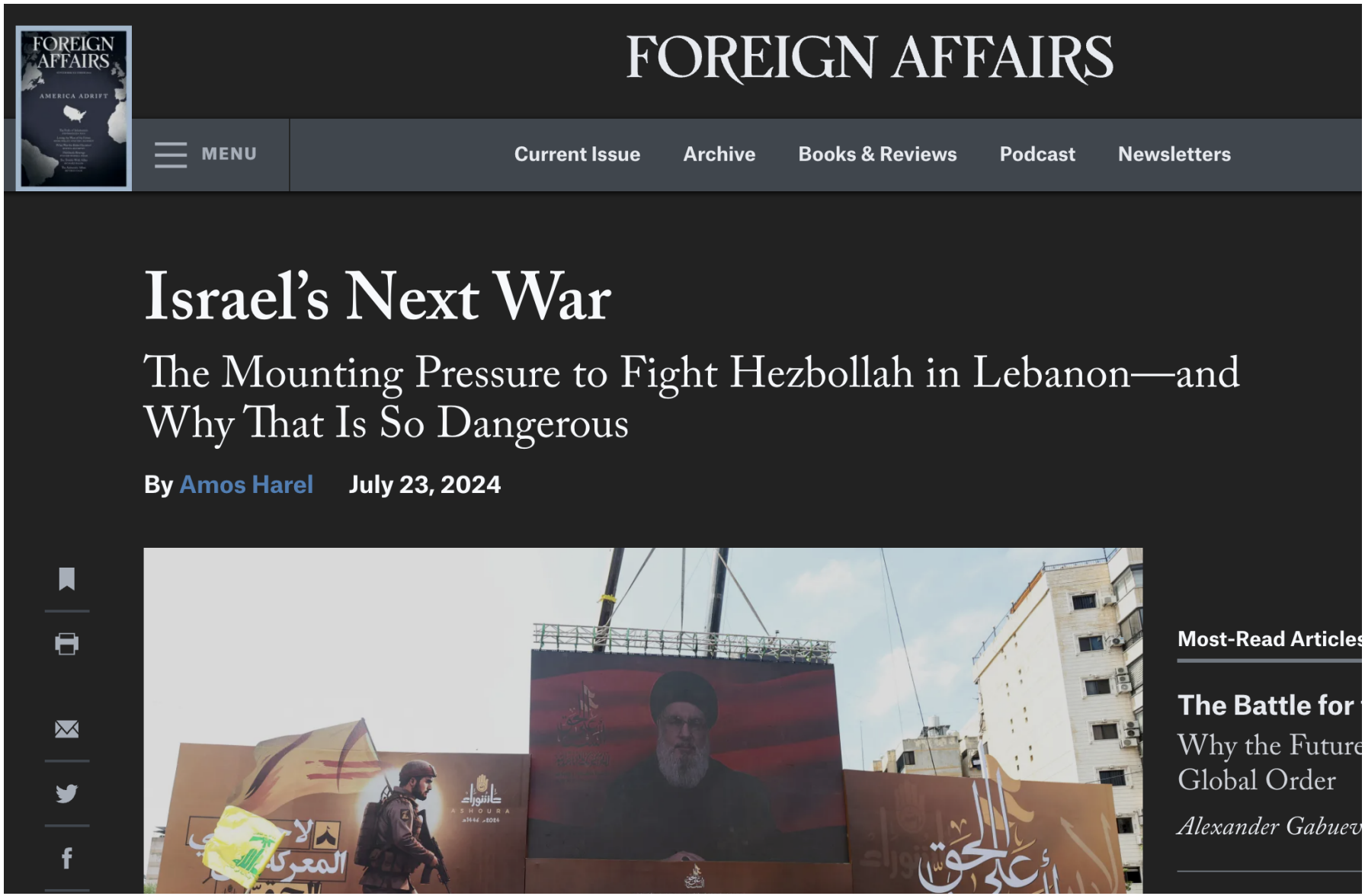
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- **Substitution**
  - → strategic choice between two types of civil wars
  - → proxy wars during the Cold War, terrorists and civil wars, genocide and ethnic cleansing (Plan Madagascar)

Friday seminar



Past exam question

- Tensions between China and the US have increased significantly during the last few months, related to the conflict over Taiwan. As a result, there has been some discussion lately about the risk of a potential open conflict between the US and China in the near future (e.g.). Yet, *beyond* a US-China war, how do you think this increase in tensions and the growing (military) power of China can affect patterns of political violence across the world? (1000 words)