

Paul Kennedy
HIST 221/GLBL 281
Military History of the West Since 1500

Tuesday & Thursday, 10:30-11:20 am, Luce Hall auditorium
Prof. Paul Kennedy (paul.kennedy@yale.edu, best reached via igor.biryukov@yale.edu)
Head TF: Catherine Treesh (catherine.treesh@yale.edu)

Course Description: A study of the military history of the West since 1500, with particular emphasis upon the relationship between armies and navies on the one hand, and technology, economics and geography, and the rise of the modern nation-state on the other. The lectures covering the period after 1900 will also focus upon air power and sea power in their varied manifestations, as well as looking at recent developments in asymmetrical warfare. HIST 221/GLBL 281 provides a foundation lecture course for Yale Air Force/ROTC and Navy/ROTC students.

Course Arrangements: The course will be taught through two weekly lectures on Tuesdays and Thursdays. *No electronic devices will be allowed in lecture; be prepared to take notes by hand.* There is also a compulsory weekly section. Air Force and Naval ROTC students will be clustered in “military specific” sections. Overall grade will be a conflation of the mid-term exam on October 5th (30%), the final exam on December 16th (60%), and your section participation (10%); no paper is required. Blue books will be provided for the exams.

The powerpoint slides for this course will be accessible on Canvas the evening before each of the lectures.

Required books for purchase:

Copies will be available at the Yale Bookstore but may be purchased from other sources

Boot, Max. *War Made New: Technology, Warfare, and the Course of History, 1500 to Today*. New York: Gotham Books, 2006.

Howard, Michael. *War in European History*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1976.

Keegan, John. *The Price of Admiralty: The Evolution of Naval Warfare from Trafalgar to Midway*. England: Penguin Books, Ltd, 1990.

Kennedy, Paul M. *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*. New York: Vintage Books, 1989.

McNeill, William Hardy. *The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Force, and Society since A.D. 1000*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1984.

Parker, Geoffrey. *The Military Revolution: Military Innovation and the Rise of the West 1500-1800*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

Van Creveld, Martin. *The Age of Airpower*. New York: Public Affairs, 2012.

Students are strongly encouraged to read chapters 1-4 of Howard’s *War in European History* prior to the first lecture.

Background Reading:

Students unfamiliar with the broad sweep of European and world history since around 1500 will benefit from possessing one or more of the following general surveys.

McNeill, W.H. *A World History*. London: Oxford University Press, 1998.

McNeill, W.H. *The Rise of the West: A History of the Human Community*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992.

Roberts, J.M. *The New Penguin History of the World: Fifth Edition*. New York: Penguin Books, 2007.

Barracough, G (ed.), *The Times Atlas of World History*. London, 1978.

And here are some interesting further titles:

Barracough, G. *An Introduction to Contemporary History*. New York: Basic Books, 1964.

Gat, Azar. *A History of Military Thought from the Enlightenment to the Cold War*. Oxford: 2001.

Jones, Archer. *The Art of War in the Western World*. Urbana : University of Illinois Press, 1987.

Keegan, John. *The Face of Battle: A Study of Agincourt, Waterloo and the Somme*. Penguin: New York. 1983.

Millett, Allan R., and Peter Maslowski, *For the Common Defense: A Military History of the United States of America*. Free Press: New York, 1984.

Showalter, Dennis E. *Railroads and Rifles*. Archon Books: Hamden, 1975.

Van Creveld, Martin. *The Art of War: War and Military Thought*. Cassel: London 2000.

Van Creveld, Martin. *Supplying War: Logistics from Wallenstein to Patton*. Cambridge University Press: 1979.

Schedule:

August 31 Thursday Introduction to the Course

September 5 Tuesday Rise of the West from 1500 (General)

Kennedy. *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*. Chapter 1: The Rise of the Western World, pages 3-30 [28 pages]

McNeill. *The Pursuit of Power*. “Pioneering the Business of War in Northern Italy” and “The Gunpowder Revolution and the Rise of Atlantic Europe,” pages 63-102 [40 pages]

September 7 Thursday Guns and Sails

Parker. *The Military Revolution*. Chapter 3: Victory at Sea, Part I, pages 82-103 [22 pages]

Boot. *War Made New*. Chapter 1: Sail and Shot: The Spanish Armada, July 31-September 21 1588, pages 26-50 [25 pages]

Kennedy. *The Rise and Fall of British Naval Mastery*. Introduction: The Elements of Sea Power, pages 1-9 [9 pages] On Canvas.

Parker. *The Cambridge History of Warfare*. “Ships of the Line 1500-1650,” pages 120-131 [11 pages] On Canvas.

September 12 Tuesday The Early Modern State, Organization, and Bureaucracy

Parker. *The Military Revolution*. Chapter 2: Supplying War, Part I, pages 45-61 and Chapter 4: The Military Revolution Abroad, pages 115-145 [48 pages]

McNeill. *The Pursuit of Power*. Chapter 4: Advances in Europe's Art of War 1600-1750, pages 117-143 [27 pages]

Kennedy. *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*. "International Comparisons," pages 55-70 [16 pages]

September 14 Thursday Finance – How was it paid for?

Parker. *The Military Revolution*. Chapter 2: Supplying War, Part II, pages 61-81 [21 pages]

McNeill. *The Pursuit of Power*. "The Market Asserts Control," pages 102-116 [15 pages]

Kennedy. *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*. "War, Money, and the Nation State" and "The Financial Revolution," pages 70-86 [17 pages]

Howard. *War in European History*. Chapter 3: The Wars of the Merchants, pages 38-53 [16 pages]

September 19 Tuesday Land Power in the 17th and 18th Centuries

McNeill. *The Pursuit of Power*. "Standardization and Quasi-Stabilization" and "Disequilibrium Arising from Deliberate Reorganization," pages 139-158 [20 pages]

Boot. *War Made New*. "Absolutism Ascendant" and Chapter 3: Flintlocks and Forbearance: Assaye, September 23, 1803, pages 72-102 [31 pages]

Kennedy. *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*. "The Winning of Wars 1660-1763," pages 100-115 [16 pages]

Howard. *War in European History*. Chapter 4: The Wars of the Professionals, pages 54-74 [21 pages]

September 21 Thursday The Rise of Britain

Guest Lecturer: Dr. Evan Wilson, Associate Director of International Security Studies at Yale

Brewer. *The Sinews of Power: War, Money, and the English State, 1688-1783*. Chapter 1 [22 pages] On Canvas.

Kennedy. *The Rise and Fall of British Naval Mastery*. Chapters 3 and 4 [53 pages] On Canvas.

Rodger. *The Command of the Ocean: A Naval History of Britain, 1649-1815*. Conclusion [8 pages] On Canvas.

September 26 Tuesday The French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars: Land and Sea

McNeill. *The Pursuit of Power*. Chapter 6: The Military Impact of the French Political and the British Industrial Revolutions (1789-1840), pages 185-206 [22 pages]

Kennedy. *The Rise and Fall of British Naval Mastery*. Chapter 5: The Struggle against France Renewed (1793-1815), pages 123-148 [26 pages] On Canvas.

Kennedy. *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*. "The Winning of Wars, 1763-1815," pages 115-139 [25 pages]

Howard. *War in European History*. Chapter 5: The Wars of Revolution, pages 75-93 [19 pages]

September 28 Thursday Theories and Notions of Warfare

Clausewitz. *On War*. Chapter 1, pages 1-26 [26 pages] On Canvas.

Paret. "The Genesis of *On War*," pages 3-25 [23 pages] On Canvas.

Howard. "The Influence of Clausewitz," pages 27-44 [18 pages] On Canvas.

October 3 Tuesday Industrial Revolution and Its Impact Upon Warfare

Kennedy. *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*. Chapter 4: Industrialization and the Shifting Global Balances, 1815-1885, pages 143-158 and 170-182 [29 pages]

Boot. *War Made New*. Part II: The First Industrial Revolution; Chapter 4; and Chapter 6, pages 109-145, 170-205 [71 pages]

October 5 Thursday MID-TERM EXAM**October 10 Tuesday War, Peace, and Land Power in the Long Nineteenth Century (1815-1914)**

Kennedy. *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*. Chapter 4: Industrialization and the Shifting Global Balances, 1815-1885, pages 158-169 and 182-194 [26 pages]

October 12 Thursday Sea Power and Navies in the Long Nineteenth Century (1815-1914)

Mahan. *The Influence of Sea Power Upon History, 1660-1783*. Introduction, pages 1-23 [23 pages] On Canvas.

Kennedy. *The Rise and Fall of British Naval Mastery*. Introduction: The Elements of Sea Power, pages 1-9 [9 pages] On Canvas.

McNeill. *The Pursuit of Power*. Chapter 8: Intensified Military-Industrial Interaction, 1884-1914, sections titled "Decay of Britain's Strategic Position," "Emergence of the Military-Industrial Complex in Great Britain," and "Naval Armament and the Politicization of Economics," 262-294 [32 pages]

Keegan. *The Price of Admiralty*. "The Fall of the Wooden Walls" and "High Seas Fleet Versus Royal Navy," 109-128 [19 pages]

October 17 Tuesday Air Power and Its Implications

Van Creveld. *The Age of Airpower*. Chapter 1: Antecedents and Beginnings, pages 3-24 [22 pages]

McNeill. *Pursuit of Power*. Chapter 7: The Initial Industrialization of War, 1840-1884, section titled "Commercial and National Armaments Rivalries," pages 223-241 [18 pages]

Boot. *War Made New*. "The Rise of the Second Industrial Age," 205-211 [7 pages]

MID OCTOBER BREAK: October 17th through 23rd

N.B. This break begins at 11:00 pm on October 17th and attendance is required at the morning lecture.

October 24 Tuesday World War One (General), Including Land Warfare

Kennedy. *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*. Chapter 5: The Coming of a Bipolar World... Part One, 1885-1918, pages 194-203, 243 (table 21), 249-274 [36 pages]

McNeill. *The Pursuit of Power*. Chapter 9: World Wars of the Twentieth Century, especially pages 307-345 [39 pages]

Howard. *War in European History*. Chapter 7: Wars of the Technologists, pages 116-136 [21 pages]

Suggested Further Reading

Keegan, John. *The Face of Battle*. Chapter 4: The Somme, 1 July 1916, pages 207-290. On Canvas.

October 26 Thursday Air Power and Sea Power in World War One

Van Creveld. *The Age of Airpower*. Chapter 2: Test Passed, pages 25-50 [26 pages]

Keegan. *The Price of Admiralty*. Chapter 2: Jutland, pages 128-181 [53 pages]

Kennedy. *The Rise and Fall of British Naval Mastery*. Chapter 9: Stalemate and Strain (1914-18), pages 239-265 [27 pages] On Canvas.

October 31 Tuesday International Politics and Sea Power in the Interwar Years

Kennedy. *The Rise and Fall of British Naval Mastery*. Chapter 10: The Years of Decay (1919-39), pages 267-298 [32 pages] On Canvas.

Kennedy. *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*. From Chapter 6: "The Postwar International Order," "The Challengers," and "The Offstage Superpowers," pages 275-333 [58 pages]

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_relations_\(1919-1939\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_relations_(1919-1939))

November 2 Thursday Air Power (Civil and Military) in the Interwar Years

Hastings, *Bomber Command*, Chapter 1: In the Beginning, Trenchard: British Bomber Policy, 1917-1940, pages 42-67 [26 pages] On Canvas.

Overy, *The Air War, 1939-1945*. Chapter 1: Preparing for War, pages 5-25 [21 pages] On Canvas.

Van Creveld. *The Age of Airpower*. Chapter 3: Visions, Organizations, and Machines. Chapter 4: From War to War, pages 51-92 [42 pages]

November 7 Tuesday World War Two (General), Including Land Warfare

Kennedy. *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*. From Chapter 6: "The Unfolding Crisis, 1931-1942" and from Chapter 7: "The Proper Application of Overwhelming Force" and "The New Strategic Landscape," pages 333-372 [40 pages]

Van Creveld. *The Age of Airpower*. Chapter 5: From Triumph to Stalemate; Chapter 7: Closing the Ring, pages 93-111, 131-152 [41 pages]

Boot. *War Made New*. Chapter 7: Tanks and Terror: France, May 10-June 22, 1940; Chapter 8: Flattops and Torpedoes: Pearl Harbor, December 9, 1941, pages 212-267 [55 pages]

November 9 Thursday World War Two in the Air

Kennedy. *Engineers of Victory*. Chapter 2, pages 82-167 [85 pages] On Canvas.

Boot. *War Made New*. Chapter 9: Super Fortresses and Firebombs: Tokyo, March 9-10, and The Consequences of the Second Industrial Revolution, pages 268-306 [39 pages]

Young. *Atlas of the Second World War*. The War in the Air, pages 275-281 [7 pages] On Canvas.

November 14 Tuesday The War at Sea 1939-1945 (Including the Air War at Sea)

Kennedy. *Engineers of Victory*. Selection from Chapter 1, pages 34-75 [42 pages] On Canvas.

Van Creveld. *The Age of Airpower*. Chapter 8: From Carrier War to Grande Finale, pages 153-170 [18 pages]

Keegan. *The Price of Admiralty*. Chapter 3: Midway, pages 183-250 [68 pages]

November 16 Thursday The Altered International Arena in the Post-1945 Era

Millet and Maslowski, *For the Common Defense*, Chapter 15: Cold War and Hot War: The United States Enters the Age of Nuclear Deterrence and Collective Security 1945-53, pages 440-474 [34 pages] On Canvas.

Schell, *The Unconquerable World*, Part I: Violence, pages 11-99 [89 pages] On Canvas.

Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, Chapter 7: Stability and Change in a Bipolar World, 1943-1980, pages 373-437 [65 Pages]

NOVEMBER RECESS: November 17th through November 27th**November 28 Tuesday Wars and Warfare in the Era of the Pax Americana**

Boot. *War Made New*. Chapters 10-12; Precision and Professionalism, Special Forces and Horses, Humvees and IEDs, pages 318-418 [100 pages]

November 30 Thursday Sea Power in the Modern Age

Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of British Naval Mastery*, Chapter 12: The End of the Road; Introduction to the Penguin Edition, pages 323-349, xv-xxv [39 pages] On Canvas.

Black, *Naval Power*, Chapters 7-9: 1945-2010, The Future, and Conclusion, pages 189-231 [43 pages] On Canvas.

Rosenberg, David Alan, "American Naval Strategy in the Ear of the Third World War: An Inquiry into the Structure and Process of General War at Sea, 1945-90," in Rodger, *Naval Power in the Twentieth Century*, pages 242-254 [13 pages] On Canvas.

December 5 Tuesday Aircraft and Ground Warfare (Vietnam, Iraq)**Guest Lecturer: Dr. Phil Haun, U.S. Naval War College**

Van Creveld. *The Age of Airpower*. Chapters 19-20, pages 379-422 [42 Pages]

Pape. *Bombing to Win*. Chapters 6 and 7, "Vietnam" and "Iraq," pages 174-253 [80 Pages] On Canvas.

December 7 Thursday What Was this Course All About? Q & A, Prep for Final Exam**December 16 Saturday 2 p.m. FINAL EXAM**

Syllabus updated 11/27/2017