Military Force

- Force is the use of military capabilities to coerce other states (or actors) against their will. It can refer to interstate wars, civil wars, or armed interventions.

- Interstate wars are wars involving states against states.

- Civil wars are defined as fighting within a state.
Military Force

- Armed interventions involve sending troops to another state to alter some internal aspect (the balance of a civil war, establish or maintain peace, etc.).

- While war could be considered irrational, the decision to go to war is considered a rational choice.
Conventional Forces

- State leaders involved in a conflict can use various kinds of leverage to reach a more favorable outcome:
  - Nonviolent levers – foreign aid, economic sanctions, and personal diplomacy, etc.
  - Violent levers – violent actions such as sending out armies, suicide bombers, or missiles
    - Costly to the sender and receiver and tend to be a last resort
    - Declining in use over time
Conventional Forces

- Most states, however, still devote vast resources to military capabilities.
  - Defending territories
  - Deter attack
  - Compel other states to behave certain ways by threatening an attack
  - Humanitarian assistance for disasters
  - Surveillance of drug trafficking
  - Repression of political dissent
Conventional Forces

- Great powers continue to dominate the makeup of world military forces.
- Military capabilities divide into three types:
  - conventional forces
  - irregular forces
  - weapons of mass destruction
Types of Forces

☑ Most wars involve a struggle to control territory.
  ■ The fundamental purpose of conventional forces is to take, hold, or defend territory.

☑ Armies
  ■ Infantry: foot soldiers who use assault rifles and other light weapons

☑ Counter-insurgency
  ■ Includes programs to “win the hearts and minds” of populations so they stop sheltering the guerrillas.
  ■ Guerrillas often use landmines, which continue to harm populations even after the war is over.
Types of Forces

- Navies
  - Adapted primarily to control passage through the seas and to attack land near coastlines.
  - Aircraft carries – instruments of power projections

- Air Forces
  - Strategic bombing of land or sea targets, close air support, interception of other aircraft, reconnaissance, and airlift

- Logistics and intelligence
  - GPS
  - NSA
  - Budgets of U.S. intelligence agencies: $44 billion (2005)
Military and Nonmilitary Means of Leverage

Conventional Armed Force Is The Most Commonly Used Military Form Of Leverage
Deciding to Go to War

Rational choice refers to:
- a choice that requires a rank ordering of preferences or goals,
- consideration of alternatives to attain one’s goals in light of capabilities,
- and consideration of costs and benefits typically either to minimize the former or maximize the latter.

Rational choice is based on logically pursuing preferences.
Rationality can actually be quite subjective and result in suboptimal outcomes.
Causes of War

- There are from several different levels of analysis:
  - The international system level of analysis
    - Argues that wars happen because there is nothing to stop them.
    - In an anarchic world, there is no actor that can enforce rules to limit states’ behavior.
  - Other systemic level explanations look at
    - The role of alliances and their roles in the onset of war.
Causes of War

- The individual & group levels of analysis also seek to explain the onset of war.
- The perceptions & misperceptions of individuals in leadership positions affect their actions.
- Groupthink can explain why suboptimal decisions are made.
- Finally, state & societal levels of analysis can explain aspects of the outbreak of war through examinations of the nature of a state or society.
War is an extension of politics.

There are several principles of war, including mass, surprise, concentration of forces, and economy of forces.

When things do not go according to plan in a war, friction occurs.

War as basically a zero-sum affair in which one side won and the other side necessarily lost.
Pacifism, Bellicism, & Just War

- Pacifism is the philosophical position that rejects all forms or war and any use of force.
- Bellicism, its opposite, either sees value in war itself or at least understands war as an essential part of politics.
- Just war theory fills the middle ground, prescribing a way in which wars ought to be fought.
  - Just war theory consists of jus ad bellum and jus in bello.
Jus ad bellum

- The examination of the right to go to war. Several criteria must be met for a war to be just:
  - The cause must be just,
  - The order to go to war must come from a legitimate authority,
  - The war must be proportionate to the provocation, there must be a reasonable chance of success, and
  - War must be the last resort.
Jus in bello

- Concerns the conduct of actors and actions in war. There are several principles:
  - Conduct must be militarily necessary,
  - Noncombatants must be spared,
  - The means employed must be proportional to the desired ends, and
  - The means themselves cannot be immoral.
- Just war theory presents proper behavior in regards to noncombatants, chemical warfare, nuclear warfare, etc.
International Law & Intervention

- International law provides another set of standards in regards to warfare.
- According to the United Nations charter, there are three scenarios in which force may be used legally:
  - unilaterally in self-defense,
  - multilaterally when authorized by the UN Security Council, or
  - multilaterally by regional collective defense action.
International Law & Intervention

- Intervention in civil wars is considered illegal unless approved by the UN Security Council.
- These restrictions may often be overlooked in favor of the state’s best interest (raison d'etat).
- Intervention in the domestic affairs of other countries may be viewed favorably if citizens in a state are facing repression or death in large numbers.
- The rights of citizens in a state have started to have increasing importance when compared to the principle of state sovereignty.
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<td>□ Pacifism</td>
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Review – How much do you understand?

1. According to international relations theory, democratic countries are?
   A. less likely to go to war against one another.
   B. more likely to go to war.
   C. less likely to go to war.
   D. more likely to go to war against one another.
Review– How much do you understand?

2. Wars between or among one or more states are referred to as?
   A. civil wars.
   B. intrastate wars.
   C. interstate wars.
   D. revolutionary wars.
Review – How much do you understand?

3. *Jus in Bello* refers to?

A. the right to go to war.
B. the right conduct in war.
C. the principle of proportionality in war.
D. the need to set limits on the destructive capabilities of a military force.
Review – How much do you understand?

4. The Hague Convention and the Geneva Convention are attempts to institutionalize
   A. Jus ad bellum or the right to go to war.
   B. the philosophical position that rejects all forms of war and any use of force.
   C. the law of war.
   D. humanitarian intervention.
Review—How much do you understand?

5. Which of the following levels of analysis can be used to explain international war?
   A. international
   B. individual
   C. state and societal
   D. all of these answers
Review – How much do you understand?

6. Under which of the following conditions does the UN Charter specify that unilateral force may be legally used?

A. to aid in a civil war
B. to establish democracy
C. in self-defense
D. to halt human rights violations
Review – How much do you understand?

7. Humanitarian intervention
   A. is an acceptable action under international law.
   B. legally violates the principle of nonintervention.
   C. refers to NATO’s involvement in Kosovo.
   D. both B and C
Review– How much do you understand?

8. The French term *raison d'état* refers

A. to the rationale of justifying state policy only by the state's own interests.

B. to the subjective rationality of a state’s rank ordering of preferences.

C. to a philosophical position that rejects all forms of war and any use of force.

D. to the right to go to war.