Guidelines for PhD Comprehensive Exams in Security Studies
Department of Political Science
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The following is a list of essential readings for the Political Science half of PhD exams in Security Studies. ***Students are also required to be familiar with readings from the syllabi of core Security Studies courses offered by the Political Science department (POLSC 812, 813, 814).***

Readings have been chosen that represent classic works or those that contain important theoretical or methodological contributions to the field. As in studying for any comprehensive exam, students should make an effort to develop an understanding of the chronology of the development of the literature.

Core Reading List

General Theory

1) Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce and David Lalman. 1992. *War and Reason*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

2) Bueno de Mesquita, et al. 2003. *The Logic of Political Survival*. Boston: MIT Press.

3) Doyle, Michael. 1986. "Liberalism and World Politics." *American Political Science Review* 80: 1151-1169.

4) Waltz, Kenneth. 1959. *Man, the State, and War*. New York: Columbia University Press.

5) Waltz, Kenneth N. 1979. *Theory of International Politics*. New York: Random House.

6) Wendt, Alexander. 1999. *Social Theory of International Politics*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

7) Schelling, Thomas. 1960. *The Strategy of Conflict.* Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

8) Axelrod, Robert. 1984. *The Evolution of Cooperation*. New York: Basic Books.

Methods:

1) Achen, Christopher, and Duncan Snidal. 1989. "Rational Deterrence Theory and Comparative Case Studies." *World Politics* 41:143-169.

2) Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 1985. "Toward a Scientific Understanding of International Conflict: A Personal View." *International Studies Quarterly* 29: 121-136.

3) Thompson, William R. 2003. "A Street Car Named Sarajevo: Catalysts, Multiple Causation Chains, and Rivalry Structures." *International Studies Quarterly* 47: 453–474.

4) Bennett, D. Scott, and Allan Stam. 2000. "Research Design and Estimator Choices in the Analysis of Interstate Dyads." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 44(5):653-685.

6) Fearon, James D. 1991. "Counterfactuals and Hypothesis Testing in Political Science." *World Politics* 43:169-195.

7) Reed, William. 2000. "A Unified Statistical Model of Conflict Onset and Escalation." *American Journal of Political Science* 44: 84-93.

8) Singer, J. David. 1968. "The Incompleat Theorist: Insight Without Evidence." In K. Knorr and J. Rosenau, eds. *Contending Approaches to International Politics.* Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

9) Goertz, Gary and Paul F. Diehl. 1995. "The Initiation and Termination of Enduring Rivalries: The Impact of Political Shocks." *American Journal of Political Science* 39: 30–52.

10) Brown, Michael E., Sean M. Lynn-Jones, and Steven E. Miller. 2000. "Rational Choice and Security Studies: Stephen Walt and His Critics." Cambridge: MIT Press. *May also be found in International Security vols. 23(4) and 24(2).*

11) Most, Benjamin and Harvey Starr. 1989. *Inquiry and Logic in International Politics.* Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press.

12) Gartzke, Erik. 1999. "War is in the Error Term." *International Organization* 53 (3): 567-87.

13) Bennett, D. Scott, and Alan C. Stam, III. 2003. *The Behavioral Origins of War.* Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

14) Bennett, A., and C. Elman. 2006. "Complex Causal Relations and Case Study Methods: The Example of Path Dependence." *Political Analysis* 14: 250-267.

15) Mahoney, J. and G. Goertz. 2006. "A Tale of Two Cultures: Contrasting Quantitative and Qualitative Research." *Political Analysis* 14: 227-249.

Systemic Explanations of International Conflict and Cooperation:
1) Organski, A.F.K., and Jacek Kugler. 1980. *The War Ledger.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

2) Kugler, Jacek and Douglas Lemke, eds. 1996. *Parity and War: Evaluations and Extensions of The War Ledger.* Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

3) Thompson, William R. 2009. "Structural Preludes to Systemic Transition since 1494." In William R. Thompson, *Systemic Transitions: Past, Present, and Future.* New York, NY: Palgrave Press.

4) Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce and David Lalman. 1988. "Empirical Support for Systemic and Dyadic Explanations of War." *World Politics* 41: 1–20.

5) Volgy, Thomas J. and Lawrence E. Imwalle. 1995. "Hegemonic and Bipolar Perspectives on the New World Order." *American Journal of Political Science* 39: 819–834.

6) Thompson, William R. 1992. "Dehio, Long Cycles, and the Geohistorical Context of Structural Transition." World Politics 45: 127-152.

7) Keohane, Robert O. 1984. *After Hegemony.* Princeton: Princeton University Press.

8) Rogowski, Ronald. 1987. "Political Cleavages and Changing Exposure to Trade." *American Political Science Review* 84: 1121-1137.

Crisis Bargaining:
1) Fearon, James. 1995. "Rationalist Explanations for War." *International Organization* 49:379-415.

2) Powell, Robert. 2006. "War as a Commitment Problem." *International Organization* 60: 169-203.

3) Reed, William. 2003. "Information, Power, and War." *American Political Science Review*. 97:633-641.

4) Schultz, Kenneth A. 2001. *Democracy and Coercive Diplomacy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

5) Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, James Morrow and Ethan Zorick. "Capabilities, Perception and Escalation," *American Political Science Review*. 91:15-27.

6) Morrow, J. D. 1989. "Capabilities, Uncertainty, and Resolve: A limited information model of crisis bargaining". *American Journal of Political Science*, 33(4):941–72.

7) Powell, Robert. 1999. *In the Shadow of Power*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

8) Fearon, J. D. 1997. "Signaling Foreign Policy Interests: Tying hands versus sinking costs". *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 41(1):68–90.

Alliances and Deterrence

1) Huth, Paul, and Bruce Russett. 1984. "What Makes Deterrence Work?" *World Politics* 36:496-526.

2) Morrow, James. 1991. "Alliances and Asymmetry." *American Journal of Political Science* 35:904-933.

3) Morrow, James. 2000. "Alliances: Why Write them Down?" *Annual Review of Political Science*. 3:63-83.

4) Smith, Alastair. 1995. "Alliance Formation and War." *International Studies Quarterly* 39: 405–425.

5) Leeds, Brett Ashley. 2003. "Do Alliances Deter Aggression? The Influence of Military Alliances on the Initiation of Militarized Interstate Disputes." *American Journal of Political Science* 47: 427–439.

6) Olson, Mancur, and Richard Zeckhauser. 1966. "An Economic Theory of Alliances." *Review of Economics and Statistics* 48 (3): 266-79.

Domestic Politics and International Conflict

1) Maoz, Zeev and Bruce Russett. 1993. "Normative and Structural Causes of Democratic Peace." *American Political Science Review* 87: 624–638.

2) Farber, Henry S. and Joanne Gowa. 1995. "Polities and Peace." *International Security* 20: 123–146.

3) Fearon, James. 1994. "Domestic Political Audiences and the Escalation of International Disputes." *American Political Science Review* 88: 577–592.

4) Reiter, Dan, and Allan Stam. 2002. *Democracies at War*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

5) Morgan, T. Clifton and Kenneth N. Bickers. 1992. "Domestic Discontent and the External Use of Force." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 36: 25-52

6) Meernik, James and Peter Waterman. 1996. "The Myth of the Diversionary Use of Force by American Presidents." *Political Research Quarterly* 49(3): 573–590.

7) Mansfield, Edward D. and Jack Snyder. 2002. "Democratic Transitions, Institutional Strength, and War." *International Organization* 56: 297–337.

8) Ostrom and Job. 1986. "The President and the Political Use of Force." *American Political Science Review* 80(2): 541-66.

9) Putnam, Robert D. 1988. "Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-
Level Games." *International Organization* 42 (3): 427-60.

10) Mueller, John. 1971. "Trends in Popular Support for the Wars in Korea and
Vietnam." *American Political Science Review* 65 (2): 358-75.

11) Smith, A. 1996. "Diversionary Foreign Policy in Democratic Systems". *International
Studies Quarterly* 40(1):133–54

12) Lake, D. A. 1992. "Powerful Pacifists: Democratic States and War". *American
Political Science Review*, 86(1):24–37

13) Fordham, Benjamin O. 2005. "Strategic Conflict Avoidance and the Diversionary
Use of Force*." Journal of Politics* 67: 132-153.

Trade/Interdependence and International Conflict:
1) Mansfield, Edward D. and Brian M. Pollins, eds. 2003. *Economic Interdependence
and International Conflict: New Perspectives on an Enduring Debate*. Ann Arbor:
University of Michigan Press.

2) Russett, Bruce and John Oneal. 2001. *Triangulating Peace*. New York: W.W. Norton
and Company.

Terrorism

1) Hoffman, Bruce. 2006. *Inside Terrorism*. 2nd ed. New York: Columbia University
Press.

2) Walter Reich, ed. 1998. *Origins of Terrorism: Psychologies, Ideologies, Theologies,
States of Mind*. Princeton: Woodrow Wilson Center Press.

3) Kreuger, Alan B. 2007. *What Makes a Terrorist: Economics and the Roots of
Terrorism.* Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Civil Wars / Ethnic Conflict

1) Lake, David A. and Donald Rothchild. 1996. "Containing Fear: The Origins and
Management of Ethnic Conflict." *International Security* 21: 41-75.

2) Collier, Paul and Anke Hoeffler. 2004. "Greed and Grievance in Civil War." *Oxford
Economic Papers* 56: 563-595.

3) Regan, Patrick M. 2002. "Third-Party Intervention and the Duration of Intrastate
Conflicts." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 46: 55-73.

4) Fearon, James and David Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War." *American Political Science Review* (97): 75-90.

5) Walter, Barbara. 2002. *Committing to Peace.* Princeton: Princeton University Press

Peacekeeping / Conflict Management / Peace Agreements

1) Dixon, William J. 1996. "Third-Party Techniques for Preventing Conflict Escalation and Promoting Peaceful Settlement." *International Organization* 50: 653-81.

2) Regan, Patrick and Allan C. Stam. 2000. "In the Nick of Time: Conflict Management, Mediation Timing, and the Duration of Interstate Disputes." *International Studies Quarterly* 44: 239-260.

3) Fortna, Virginia Page. 2004. "Does Peacekeeping Keep Peace? International Intervention and the Duration of Peace After Civil War." *International Studies Quarterly* 48: 269-292.

4) Fortna, Virginia Page. 2003. "Scraps of Paper? Agreements and the Durability of Peace." *International Organization* 57: 337-372.

5) Werner, Suzanne and Amy Yuen. 2005. "Making and Keeping Peace." *International Organization* 59: 261-292.