

The State and Modern War
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Questions to keep in mind:

- How do we distinguish “war” from other forms of violence (bank robbery, gang warfare, fight in a pub)?
- What role did war play in the creation of the modern state?
- How has war fighting changed in the 20thC and what impact has this had on the growth of the state?

Key Points:

- the “original sin” of the state is that it was born of war, violence, and conquest
- early states: dominant prince consolidates core territory by “internal conquest”
- expansion beyond core territory by conquest and war
 - overseas: colonialism, imperialism (Spain, Britain)
 - continental hinterland (Russia, USA)
- war is used to consolidate or maintain unity of nation state (American Civil War German Reich)
- key bureaucratic institutions of the modern state arose out of the need to fund, organise, and wage war
- prior to the welfare states of the 20thC, 90% of all state revenue went to pay for war fighting
- the “Thirty Years War of the 20thC” destroyed the liberal order of the 19thC and lead to total war and the total state, industrialised killing, hyperinflation, communist revolution, Military-Industrial Complex
- key component of classical liberal tradition is opposition to war and expansion of state power

Bibliography

A more detailed bibliography on this topic can be found at my website <<http://homepage.mac.com/dmhart/Teaching/2010/IHS.html>> .

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Filmography

See my study guides on 84 war films at <<http://homepage.mac.com/dmhart/WarFilms/index.html>>.

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Akira Kurosawa, *The Seven Samurai (Shichinin no Samurai)* (1954).

Bruce Beresford, *Breaker Morant* (1980).

Lewis Milestone, *All Quiet on the Western Front* (1930).

Stanley Kubrick, *Paths of Glory* (1957).

Peter Weir, *Gallipoli* (1981).

Mike Nichols, *Catch-22* (1970).

Elem Klimov, *Come and See* (1985).

Stanley Kubrick, *Full Metal Jacket* (1987).

Stanley Kubrick, *Dr. Strangelove* (1964).