

The State and Modern War
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Questions to keep in mind:

- What role did war play in the creation of the State in the 20th century? in terms of numbers and types of States?
- How has war fighting changed in the 20thC and what impact has this had on the growth of the state?
- What impact has “total war” (WW1 & WW2) had on individual, political, economic liberty?
- What are the moral legacies of modern war?

Key Points:

- the dissolution of Empires has resulted in a large increase in the number of nation states
- key bureaucratic institutions of the modern state arose out of the need to fund, organise, and wage war - “war socialism”
- 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
- Robert Higgs’ “ratchet effect” means that after a crisis the State does not return to the size it was before the crisis
- “Total War” resulted in “death by government” on a massive scale
- there are important moral legacies from the experience of war in the 20th century

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

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