

Small Wars in Global Context

HIAF 113
Winter 2014
Tu-Th, 12.30-1.50
Center Hall 212

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There has not been a world war since the 1940s. Yet, it is a mistake to assume that the causes and consequences of smaller wars have simply been domestic. The last sixty years have seen brutal, even genocidal national conflicts shaped by multiple states and conflicting global ideologies. Since each war has had economic, political, and humanitarian significance beyond its national borders, this course explores the circumstances, interconnections, and traumas of 'small wars'—civil wars, proxy wars, and foreign military interventions—in transnational perspective. Many common threads tie conflicts as diverse as the anti-colonial war in Algeria, the civil war in Angola, and the current insurgencies in Iraq and Afghanistan. To appreciate these ties we will trace the geopolitical strategies, contests over natural resources, profiteering, ideologies, and human rights violations evident in many conflicts since the Second World War.

By paying particular attention to the intersections of national and foreign interests we can better understand the global circumstances each conflict reflects as well as the social, political, national, and regional particularities that differently shape each war. Further, by considering local interests stereoscopically within geopolitical strategies we can better appreciate the continuities between anti-colonial, Cold War, and post-Cold War conflicts as well as their effects on our collective future. Finally, rather than offering the perspectives of dispassionate analysts, each of the readings captures something of the psychological realities of war through the eyes of those who experienced it firsthand.

NOTE: I only respond to email in extreme circumstances.

Unless it is an emergency, I prefer that you ask me questions before class, in class, after class, or during office hours. I am happy to answer any and all questions you have.

Required readings: available at UCSD Price Center bookstore

Ismael Beah, *Long Way Gone*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2007. Michael Herr, *Dispatches*. New York: Vintage, 1991. Ryszard Kapuscinski, *Another Day of Life*. New York: Vintage, 2001. Julie Flint and Alex de Waal, *Darfur: A New History of a Long War*. New York: Zed Books, 2008.

EXAMS & ASSIGNMENTS:

EXAMS: Two exams will be administered over the course of the quarter. The midterm, May 7, will be in the form of in-class essays. The final will be a take-home exam. You will be given the questions for the final exam at the end of class on Thursday, June 6.

Your responses to all essay questions must be drawn from the lectures, readings, and films. The final exam must be submitted by 4.30pm on Tuesday, June 11 to the bin marked **'HIAF 113'** on the fifth floor of HSS. **NO FINALS WILL BE ACCEPTED BY EMAIL.**

The two exams will consist of three essay questions from which you may choose two.

The final will be cumulative, so you will be responsible for bringing material from throughout the semester to bear on your responses.

ASSIGNMENTS: We will watch multiple films over the course of the quarter. You are required to write a **one-page (600 words), single-spaced response to one of the films.** You may decide which one you would like to review. **THE ONLY RULE**

IS THAT IT CANNOT BE THE LAST FILM. The response should not be a comprehensive outline of the film but should instead be a reflection on the themes, ideas, and messages of the movies. What did the film attempt to convey? In what ways was it successful? What were its faults? What did you like? What didn't you like? Each response is due **one week** from the day we view the film. **NO ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED BY EMAIL.**

EVALUATION:

Final grades will be calculated in the following manner: **1)**
Exams: **90 percent** (45% midterm, **45%** Final)

2) Film responses: **10 percent**

Schedule of Class Meetings, Exams, and Readings

Meeting

4.02 Introduction 4.04 War, Cold and Hot

Reading

none Dispatches, 3-69

Independence Movements to the Cold War

4.09 General China in Kenya 4.11 Film: America's Enemy

4.16 Independence in Vietnam 4.18 Settler War in Algeria

4.23 Anti-imperialism in Cuba Cold War to the Post-Cold War

Dispatches, 70-107 Dispatches, 107-166

Dispatches, 167-209 Dispatches, 209-249

Dispatches, 249-260

4.25 Colonial Legacies in Angola

4.30 Racial Exclusion in Zimbabwe 5.02 Film: Flame

5.07 **MIDTERM EXAM** 5.09 Maoism in Peru

Another Day of Life, 127-143, 1-26

Another Day of Life, 27-76 Another Day of Life, 77-124, 143-144

none Long Way Gone, 1-50

5.14 Global Mujahideen in Afghanistan Post-Cold War to Global War on Terrorism

5.16 Two Wars in Liberia

5.21 Film: Pray the Devil Back to Hell 5.23 A Dirty War in Sierra Leone

5.28 Darfur and Genocide 5.30 From 9/11 to Afghanistan and Iraq

6.04 Film: Endgame 6.06 A Global War on Terrorism?

Long Way Gone, 51-100

Long Way Gone, 101-150

Long Way Gone, 151-200 Long Way Gone, 201-240

Darfur, 1-70 Darfur, 71-149

Darfur, 150-199 Darfur, 230-276

FINAL EXAM question will be handed out in class on Thursday, June 6th. Your final essay should be turned in by 4.30pm on Tuesday, June 11th. Your answers should

reference the texts, lecture notes, and films.