

Military Power Research Assignment: Help Notes

Target Objective

The *target objective* for this essay is for students to evaluate how relevant military power is in global politics and to arrive at a substantiated judgment about circumstances in which military power is *most useful* and *least useful*.

Brief Indicative Content

Students will need to investigate relevant themes using a combination of theoretical perspectives and empirical evidence drawn from case studies. Students should aim to establish some degree of analytical balance, even if the essay argues strongly in one direction.

Possible themes include the decline of inter-state war and rise of economic power (impact of globalization, etc.); difficulty of resolving conflict by military means ('intractable' terrorist threats, insurgency or 'new' wars, economic costs of military force etc.); military power as irreducible core of state sovereignty; and the need to respond to new security threats.

Case studies may include the Gulf War (1991); Kosovo (1999), Sierra Leone (2000), Afghanistan (2001-14); Iraq (2003-11); Russo-Georgian (South Ossetian) War (2009); Libya (2011); Crimea and Ukraine (2014); and the "Islamic State" in Iraq and Syria (2014). Students might also note recent and current cases in which there has been hesitation over the use of military force, e.g. against Iran's nuclear program, to overthrow the Assad regime in Syria, or in Chinese maritime territorial disputes.

Theoretical perspectives include coercive diplomacy; deterrence; economic sanctions; realism (classical perspectives on state interests, neorealist perspectives on the anarchic international system, the security dilemma, balance of power); liberalism (democratic peace thesis, complex interdependence, multilateral institutions); soft power; changing nature of warfare (RMA, 4th generation warfare, cost of modern weapons, terrorism, asymmetric conflict); Responsibility to Protect (humanitarian intervention).

Suggested Resources

Students are *required* to use the extracts in the assignment sheet to explain and evaluate competing perspectives on the utility of military force. To sustain a well informed and analytical discussion, students will need to go beyond the material in the extracts by using a variety of books and articles, including those from which the extracts are taken.

(i) Textbooks

Baylis, John, Steve Smith and Patricia Owens eds. (2011) *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations* (Oxford: Oxford University Press), Ch. 13 "The changing character of war", and Ch. 33 "Globalization and the post-cold war order".

Heywood, Andrew. (2014) *Global Politics* 2nd ed. (New York: Palgrave Macmillan), Ch. 9 "Power and Twenty-first Century World Order", and Ch. 10 "War and Peace".

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Kaarbo, Juliet and James Lee Ray (2011) *Global Politics* 10th ed. (Boston: Wadsworth Cengage), Ch. 4 “The Power of States and the Rise of Transnational Actors” and Ch. 6 “International Conflict: Explaining Interstate War”.

Rourke, John T. (2008) *International Politics on the World Stage* 12th ed. (New York: McGraw-Hill), Ch. 8 “National Power and Diplomacy: The Traditional Approach” and Ch. 10 “National Security: The Traditional Road”.

(ii) Books [Check Google Books: <https://books.google.com/>]

Art, Robert J. and Kenneth Waltz eds (2009) *The Use of Force: Military Power and International Politics* (New York: Rowman and Littlefield, 7th ed.)

Biddle, Stephen (2004) *Military Power: Explaining Victory and Defeat in Modern Battle* (Princeton: Princeton University Press)

Bird, Tim and Alex Marshall (2011) *Afghanistan: How the West Lost Its Way* (Princeton: Princeton University Press)

Boot, Max (2006) *War Made New: Technology, Warfare, and the Course of History 1500 to Today* (New York: Gotham Books)

Clark, Wesley K. (2001) *Waging Modern War: Bosnia, Kosovo and the Future of Combat* (New York: Public Affairs)

Ferguson, Niall (2005) *Colossus: The Rise and Fall of America's Empire* (London: Penguin)

Freedman, Lawrence and Efraim Karsh (1993) *The Gulf Conflict 1990-91: Diplomacy and War in the New World Order* (London: Faber)

Hahn, Peter L. (2012) *Missions Accomplished? The United States and Iraq Since World War 1* (Oxford: Oxford University Press)

Horowitz, Michael C. (2010) *The Diffusion of Military Power: Causes and Consequences for International Politics* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press)

Nye Jr. Joseph S. (2004) *Soft Power: The Means to Success in World Politics* (New York: Public Affairs)

(iii) Articles, Chapters and Papers [See assignment sub-folder on Blackboard]

Cohen, Eliot A. (1996) “A Revolution in Warfare”, *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 75, No. 2 (Mar.-Apr.), pp. 37-54, available at: <http://www.comw.org/rma/fulltext/9603cohen.pdf>

Conetta, Carl (2008) “Out from the House of War: A Litmus for New Leadership in Security Policy”, Presentation at the “Forceful Engagement” symposium, New School, New York NY, (10 Apr.), available at: <http://www.comw.org/pda/fulltext/080410conettasympodium.pdf>

de Wijk, Rob. “The Limits of Military Power” in Alexander T. J. Lennon, *The Battle for Hearts and Minds: Using Soft Power to Undermine Terrorist Networks* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2003), pp. 3-28, available at: <http://www.mbc.edu/faculty/gbowen/dewijk.pdf>

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Dobbins, James (2005) "Iraq: Winning the Unwinnable War", *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 84, No. 1 (Jan/Feb), pp. 16-25 available at: <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/60423/james-dobbins/iraq-winning-the-unwinnable-war>

Gray, Colin S. (2011) *Hard Power and Soft Power: The Utility of Military Force as an Instrument of Policy in the 21st Century* (Carlisle, PA: Strategic Studies Institute), available at: <http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pdffiles/PUB1059.pdf>

Jakobsen, Peter Viggo. (2011) "Pushing the Limits of Military Coercion Theory", *International Studies Perspectives*, Vol. 12, No. 2 (May), pp. 153-70.

Keohane, Robert O. and Joseph S. Nye Jr. (1998) "Power and Interdependence in the Information Age", *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 77, No. 5 (Sep.-Oct.), pp. 81-94, available at: http://www.academos.ro/sites/default/files/power_and_interdependence.pdf

Nye Jr. Joseph S. (2010) "Is Military Power Becoming Obsolete?", *The Korea Times* (13 Jan.), available at: http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/publication/19858/is_military_power_becoming_obsolete.html

Hastings, Max. (2008) "The Iraq experience has laid bare the limits of raw military power", *The Guardian* (17 Mar.), available at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/mar/17/iraq.usa?INTCMP=SRCH>

Lecoutre, Sophie. (2010) "The US Shift Towards 'Smart Power' and its Impact on the Transatlantic Security Partnership", *EU Diplomacy Papers 2/2010* (Brussels: College of Europe), available at: <http://aei.pitt.edu/13209/>

Levgold, Robert (2014) "Managing the New Cold War: What Moscow and Washington Can Learn From the Last One", *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 93, No. 4 (Jul/Aug), pp. 74-84, available at: <http://harriman.columbia.edu/files/harriman/content/Managing%20the%20New%20Cold%20War.pdf>

Murden, Simon. (2007) "Staying the Course in 'Fourth-Generation Warfare': Persuasion and Perseverance in the Era of the Asymmetric Bargaining War", *Contemporary Security Policy*, Vol.28, No.1 (Apr.), pp.197-211, available at: <http://www.contemporarysecuritypolicy.org/assets/CSP-28-1-Murden.pdf>

Norton-Taylor, Richard (2011) "Nato ends military operations in Libya", *The Guardian* (31 Oct.), at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/oct/31/nato-ends-libya-rasmussen?INTCMP=SRCH>

Troxell, John F. (2006) "Military Power and the Use of Force", in J. Boone Bartholomees Jr (ed.) *U.S. Army War College Guide to National Security Policy and Strategy* 2nd ed. (Carlisle, PA: Strategic Studies Institute) pp. 217-40, available at: <http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pdffiles/pub708.pdf>

Students are not required to conduct internet-based research for this assignment, and indeed are discouraged from using electronic sources except those listed above. However, if students find an electronic source that they wish to use and have any questions about the reliability of the material found online, they should consult their instructor.

Technical Requirements

Students must follow the advice given in (a) the *Politics Study Skills* guide on “Researching, planning and writing essays”; and (b) the *Student Guide for Politics Courses On Ground*, which contains writing exemplars. In brief, essays must conform to the following requirements:

- Between 2,000 and 2,500 words i.e. 8-10 double spaced pages with one-inch margins, and font size of 11 or 12. A word count must be provided at the end of the paper.
- Referenced using APA (Harvard) system. See Indiana University Bloomington, Campus Writing Program, ‘APA Style: A Quick Guide’, available at: <http://www.indiana.edu/~citing/APA.pdf>
- Bibliography of sources used (which is the convention for APA).
- A clear structure with an obvious introduction, middle section, and conclusion.
- The introduction must establish a thesis and indicate the content that will be discussed.
- Each subsequent paragraph should discuss only one analytical point, or two closely-related points.
- The conclusion should reiterate the line of argument and should highlight what is most significant.

Late Assignment Policy

Research essays that have not been through the structured drafting and review process (further details below) will not be accepted for submission, and any research essay submitted after the deadline will receive zero points. If there are extenuating circumstances that are properly documented, you will be permitted to write another research assignment on a completely different topic to the first submission (i.e. you will have to start all over again).

Plagiarism Policy

Students are reminded about Baker College policies on academic honesty (syllabus, p.2):

“Academic honesty, integrity, and ethics are required of all members of the Baker College community. Academic integrity and acting honorably are essential parts of professionalism that continue well beyond courses at Baker College. They are the foundation for ethical behavior in the workplace. There are four possible consequences for violating Baker College's Honor Code:

1. Failure of the assignment
2. Failure of the course
3. Expulsion from the College
4. Rescinding a certificate or degree”

Your instructor may require you to submit your essay to Turnitin, as stated in the syllabus:

“Baker College utilizes plagiarism detection services and has the authority to submit any papers or assignments to such services to determine authenticity. Some assignments may need to be submitted electronically for this purpose.”

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Assessment

Essays will be assessed on the basis of three criteria:

- *Analysis and evaluation* (80 points). The significance of the information deployed must be analyzed consistently and a clear line of argument maintained throughout the essay.
- *Factual knowledge and understanding* (80 points). The information deployed must be accurate and relevant to the question.
- *Communication and presentation* (40 points). The essay must be properly structured, free of spelling and grammatical errors, and supported by a sufficient number of references and a bibliography consistent with the APA style guide.

In addition, 50 points are available for the structured drafting and review process, which will be assessed EITHER by using the “Milestones” rubrics, OR the submission of a prospectus. Your instructor will advise you which method will be used. Students should familiarize themselves with the detailed descriptors in the rubrics, which are available on Blackboard under “Course Information”.