
Lesson Name: The Nature of War

Category: Canadian and World Politics

Course Code: CPW 4U1

Created By: Mark Melnyk

School: Markville Secondary School

Level: Grade 12

Time: 76 Minutes

Rationale:

During this lecture, it is necessary to trace the evolution of war in the modern era (post Treaty of Westphalia). It is also necessary to take extra care in making students aware of the human element of war, beyond the theory, maps and statistics.

Expectations:

The International Influence of Ideologies

- describe the main characteristics of the world's major political ideologies (e.g., fascism, conservatism, liberalism, socialism, communism);
- demonstrate an understanding of various critiques of traditional world views.

Nationalist and Internationalist Orientations

- identify the key components of nationalist ideology (e.g., the definition of nation, types of nationalism, the role of the individual and the group);
- determine the origins and effects of nationalist armed conflicts (e.g., the Balkan wars, wars in Central Africa, apartheid in South Africa) and of rivalries rooted in ethnocentrism (e.g., between India and Pakistan, between Israel and Arab nations, between the diverse peoples of Indonesia);
- describe the peaceful legal means used to adjudicate conflicts between governments (e.g., Canadian federal-provincial conferences, the International World Court) and explain their relationship to values, beliefs, and ideologies;
- explain the key arguments for and against the processes of "globalization" in economics, politics, and culture, as well as their relationship to values, beliefs, and ideologies.

State Power

- describe the factors that help to determine the power and influence of a country (e.g., geography and demography, economic resources and markets, military strength and diplomatic traditions);
- evaluate the accuracy and usefulness of classifying states (e.g., as developing countries; Western countries; non-aligned countries; major, medium, or small powers) when describing relationships among states;

Instructions:

Introduction: Provide perspective and connection to previous lessons and show how the nature of war ties into the current simulation. The issue of war has always become an issue in both the Salon and IR Simulations. Students must understand the human element of war.

1. Have the Computer and LCD projector set up in the classroom for the lecture. The lecture basically follows three major themes:

- i) The nature of war in history
- ii) Theories of hegemonic stability
- iii) Modern examples

2. Time should be provided to ask questions, the teacher might also choose to develop an interactive delivery to keep students questioning the material and asking questions.

3. Some time should be spent on the philosophy of war and its inevitability in human nature. Students should understand techniques of avoidance. The final quote by Plato provides seeds for discussion. The quote on Slide 13 by Genghis Khan offers a frightening view of war. The Modern examples can be augmented by using current events, newspapers and even video examples.

Lesson Closure: In the last few minutes of class try to provide examples that inspire hope. Some of the challenges that exist in our world often overshadow the small or large successes. Students should not leave the room thinking that “we are all going to die”. They should leave with more questions, and the desire to solve the world’s problems in their own way.

*Note:

Materials:

- ⇒ Computer & LCD Projector
- ⇒ Course Pack

Assessment & Evaluation:

- Assess student learning through Observation of student participation.
- Evaluation for Lectures comes on Test 1, the Mid-Term and the Final Exams.