America's Wartime Diplomacy: The Politics of Coalition Maintenance and Alliance Management

SA.200.755

WEDNESDAYS, 2:15-4:45, ROME 534
Ambassador Eric Edelman

Final Version 123009

Course Concept

For Americans alliances are something of an unnatural act. During its formative years the U.S. was sheltered from international conflict by two oceans. In addition policymakers in the nation's first 125 years had normative advice from the founding generation against “political connections” with Europe or "entangling alliances" and "seeking monsters to destroy" (George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and John Quincy Adams respectively). As a result, throughout the 19th Century, the U.S. sought, above all else, to avoid political commitments to other countries and their attendant responsibilities. With America's rise to world power, however, alliances became a necessary but awkward requirement. But the process of adjustment was difficult. Even when Wilson took the country into the "war to end all wars" the U.S. was an "associated" not an Allied power. Our understanding of U.S. attitudes toward and management of its alliances is hobbled by our habit of studying the diplomacy that led to the outbreak of war and then the peacemaking which followed. The diplomacy of wartime coalition maintenance has been slighted. This course will explore U.S. diplomacy during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, the Iraq Wars, Kosovo and Afghanistan to examine how American learned the hard lessons attendant to Churchill's pithy observation that "the only thing worse than fighting a war with allies is trying to fight one without them." The course will examine the habits, norms, and institutional arrangements of alliance management that are rooted in the requirements of fostering and holding together sometimes fragile wartime coalitions. It will also consider Cold War cases to illuminate U.S. alliance management practices beyond wartime.

Requirements

Each student will write four memoranda from an assigned list, and will be prepared to summarize his or her memorandum in a two minute presentation in class. They will be expected, in most cases, to re-write the memorandum after the class to which it refers. Memoranda will include To, From, Subject, and Date lines at the top, will be in 12 points of a standard font (e.g. Times New Roman) and will have margins of 1.5" at the left, 1" at top, right, and bottom, and will consist of single-spaced, numbered paragraphs separated by a full space from one another. The memoranda will be no longer than three pages, and will be submitted in hard copy in class: we also request electronic copies sent to esedelman@gmail.com. These format requirements and presentations for 5% each, and general participation the remaining 20%. Students will, of course, be expected to attend all classes having done the readings and being prepared to discuss them.
Books Required for Purchase


Mark Stoler, Allies and Adversaries: The Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Grand Alliance, and U.S. Strategy in World War II (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2006)


Seth Jones, In the Graveyard of Empires (New York, W.W. Norton, 2009)

Getting in Touch with the Instructors

To arrange office hours with Ambassador Edelman, email him at esedelman@gmail.com

1. Alliances, Coalition Maintenance and Alliance Management

Required Reading:


Mark A. Stoler, “War and Diplomacy: Or, Clausewitz for Diplomatic Historians, Diplomatic History, 29:1, 1-26


Dan Reiter, “Learning, Realism, and Alliances: The Weight of the Shadow of the Past,” World Politics; 46:4, 490-526


Recommended Reading:


2. World War I

*Required Reading:*


*Recommended Reading:*

Thomas J. Knock, *To End All Wars: Woodrow Wilson and the Quest for a New World Order*, (New York, Oxford University Press, 1992)
3. World War II - Europe - Part 1

Required Reading:


Recommended Reading:


4. World War II - Europe - Part 2

Required Reading:

Mark Stoler, *Allies and Adversaries: The Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Grand Alliance, and U.S. Strategy in World War II* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2006) 146-270


Recommended Reading:

5. World War II - Asia

Required Reading:


Recommended Reading:


6. The Korean War

Required Reading:


Recommended Reading:


7. The Vietnam War – 1945-1961

Required Reading:


Recommended Reading:


8. The Vietnam War – 1961-1973

Required Reading:

Rhiannon Vickers, “Harold Wilson, the British Labour Party and the War in Vietnam” *Journal of Cold War Studies*, 10:2, 41–70


**Recommended Reading:**


Andrew Preston, “Balancing War and Peace: Canadian Foreign Policy and the Vietnam War, 1961–1965”, *Diplomatic History*, 17:1, 73-111

**9. The Cold War – Suez and the INF Deployments.**

**Required Reading:**


**Recommended Reading:**


10. The Balkans Wars

**Required Reading:**


**Recommended Reading:**


11. The Gulf War and the Iraq War

**Required Reading:**


**Recommended Reading:**


12. Afghanistan

*Required Reading:*


*Recommended Reading:*


Sarah Kreps “When Does the Mission Determine the Coalition? The Logic of Multilateral Intervention and the Case of Afghanistan,’ *Security Studies*, 17:3, 531-567


13. Wrap Up

*Recommended Reading:*


