



CDSn4001: Conflict Analysis

Future of war

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Agenda

- Final exam reminder
- What is the future of war and war prevention?
- Course Q&A

Final exam

- Answer the question
- Explain your answer (don't assume the reader knows what you are talking about)
 - If you make a statement, explain its logic, why you believe the statement is true
- Define key terms
- Correctly link the authors to their theories/arguments
- Provide accurate examples and explain how the examples fit the theory
- **Do NOT copy/paste text into your answers and reference your sources!**
- **Answer the question**

Why do wars end?



- Spread of democracy,
- Economic interdependence,
- Nuclear weapons,
- Commitment to peaceful process regardless of regime type,
- Credible commitments,
- Addressing root causes?

Credible commitment theory

- Parties don't reach cooperative solutions, because they can't commit themselves credibly to act (in advance) in agreed ways.
 - Actor's promise to behave cooperatively might not be believed by others if promises cannot be enforced.
 - Actors make promises but have no intention of upholding them, or
 - An actor may sincerely want to promise to cooperate, but in the future, it may be rational to break a promise if an opportunity arises.

How to make commitments credible?

- Make reneging on the agreement costly by raising the political costs of defection
 - Audience costs – sovereign states raise their audience costs if they want to increase the credibility of their commitments

Main questions

- What are “root causes” of conflict?
 - Triggers vs structural conditions
- Does addressing the root causes of conflict help prevent wars? Why?
- Can we disentangle violence from war?