

# CDSn4001: Conflict Analysis

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Hypotheses on military  
factors as a cause of war

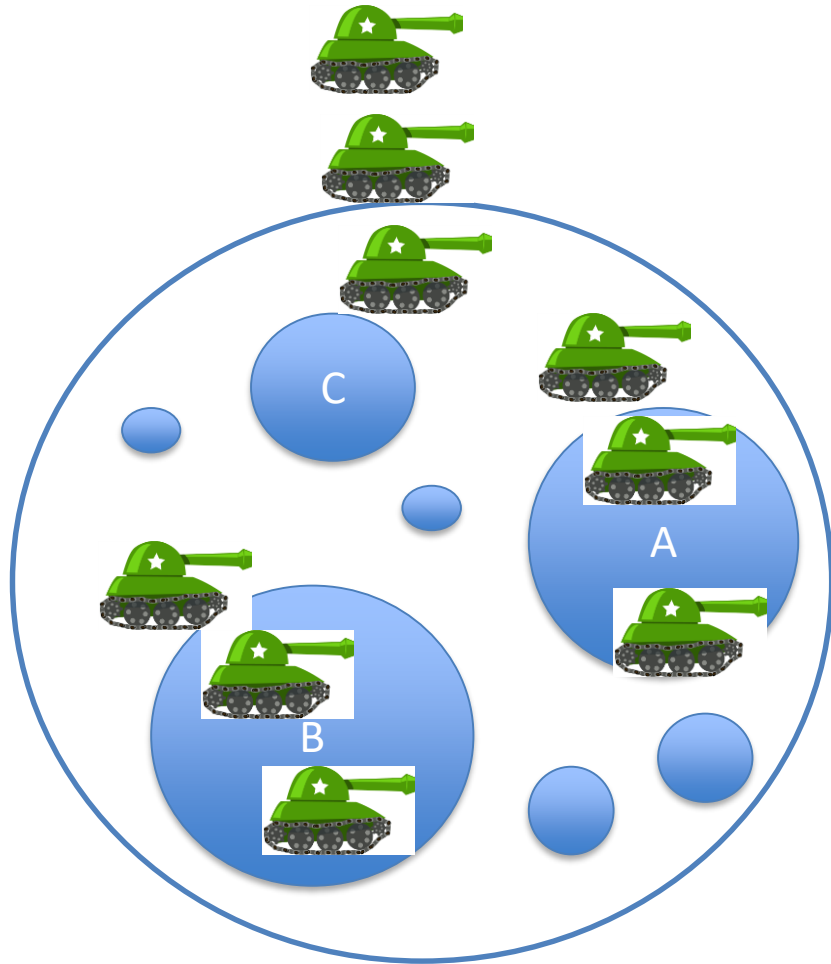
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# Agenda

- What military factors encourage or discourage conflict among states?
- What is the significance of offense/defense as a cause of war?
- Under what conditions will the security dilemma cease to exist?
- The ethics of preventive war?

# Anarchy and the security dilemma



- When states look at the system of anarchy, they feel insecure
  - State A builds up military power
  - State B: Why did state A do that? Are they going to attack us?
  - State A: Why did State B do that? Are they going to attack?
- Arms race
- Trying to ensure their own security, these states have created more insecurity.

# Preventive vs pre-emptive war

- **Pre-emptive war**

- First move by opponent is imminent
- Evidence of an attack in the short term
- The first mover gains an important advantage

- **Preventive war**

- Perception that attack will happen in the long term
- Better to attack before opponent gains strength

# Pre-emption vs prevention

An attack on North Korea...	As Used in the Nonproliferation Literature	Strategic Studies Literature and Policy-makers	International Law	
			Restrictive, traditional interpretation	2002 National Security Strategy (“Bush Doctrine”)
... before it has a credible nuclear capability, absent specific warning of war	Prevention	Prevention	Prevention (i.e. illegal preemption)	Lawful preemption
... after it has a credible nuclear capability, absent specific warning of war	The window for prevention has passed	Prevention (i.e. to prevent that nuclear capability from improving in future)	Prevention (i.e. illegal preemption)	Lawful preemption
... given warning of imminent war	The window for prevention has passed	Preemption	Lawful preemption	Lawful preemption