

University of California, San Diego  
Professor John Stoessinger  
Winter 2007  
PS 154

## **CRISIS AREAS IN WORLD POLITICS**

*This course will examine the most critical areas in contemporary world politics. While the emphasis will be placed on American involvement in each crisis, an effort will also be made to acquaint the student with its historical and political background. Students are required to read each weekly assignment before class in order to allow meaningful dialogue after the lecture. There will be a midterm and a final exam. Students are urged to read the New York Times on a daily basis.*

### **TOPIC 1      LOOKING INTO THE ABYSS: THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS**

January 9

READINGS: \*Robert F. Kennedy, Thirteen days. *Entire Book*,  
\*John G. Stoessinger, Nations at Dawn. Sixth Edition,  
Chapter 12

### **TOPIC 2      THE WAR AGAINST TERROR: SADDAM HUSSEIN, OSAMA BIN LADEN, & THEIR LEGACIES**

January 16  
Tenth

READINGS: \*John G. Stoessinger, Why Nations Go to War,  
Edition, Chapters 8, 9.  
Paul Pillar, "Intelligence, Policy, and the War in Iraq,"  
Foreign Affairs, March/April 2006

### **TOPIC 3      THE HOLOCAUST: REFLECTIONS ON GERMANY'S PAST &              FUTURE**

January 23  
Tenth

Readings: \*Thomas Keneally, Schindler's List. *Entire Book*.  
\*John G. Stoessinger, Why Nations Go to War,  
Edition, Chapters 1, 2 and Epilogue

### **TOPIC 4      THE MIDDLE EAST: THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT**

January 30

READINGS: \*John G. Stoessinger, Why Nations Go to War, Tenth  
Edition, Chapter 7

**February 6, MIDTERM EXAM**

**TOPIC 5      RUSSIA, THE FALL OF COMMUNISM, & BEYOND**  
February 13    READINGS: \*Stoessinger, Nations at Dawn. Sixth Edition, Chapters 8-11, 13  
  
George F. Kennan, "Communism in Russian History," Foreign Affairs, Winter 90/91  
Marshall I. Goldman, "Putin and the Oligarchs," Foreign Affairs, Nov/Dec 2004

**TOPIC 6      A. THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA TODAY & TOMMORROW**  
February 20    READINGS: \*John G. Stoessinger, Why Nations Go to War, Tenth Edition, Chapter 3  
  
\*Stoessinger, Nations at Dawn. Sixth Edition, Chapters 1-7, 15, 16  
Andrew Nathan, "The Tiananmen Papers," Foreign Affairs, Jan/Feb 2001

**B. JAPAN: PHOENIX RISING?**

**TOPIC 7      SOUTH AFRICA, RWANDA, and DARFUR: PROFILES IN BLACK & WHITE**  
February 27    READINGS: Alan Kuperman, "Rwanda in Retrospect," Foreign Affairs, Jan/Feb 2000.  
Terrorist Threat in Africa," Foreign Affairs March/April 2004

**TOPIC 8      THE BALKANS: THE WORLD'S TINDERBOX & INDIA AND PAKISTAN: NUCLEAR ROULETTE**  
March 6        READINGS: \*John G. Stoessinger, Why Nations Go to War, Tenth Edition, Chapters 5, 6  
Gary J. Bass, "Milosevic The Hague," Foreign Affairs, June 2003

**TOPIC 9      DIPLOMACY, THE UNITED NATIONS, AND CONCLUDING REFLECTIONS**  
March 13      READINGS: \*Stanley Meisler, The United Nations: The First Fifty Years.  
  
*Entire Book*,  
John G. Stoessinger, Why Nations Go to War, Tenth Edition, Chapter 10  
\*Harold S. Kushner, When Bad Things Happen to Good People, Avon Paperback. Entire Book.

**FINAL EXAM**