

Suggested Reading for your Summer Break

Your lecturers have compiled this list to help you complement your summer enjoyment with some benefits. Books are available at the library. If you don't find any of the books there, ask the lecturer.

Levan Tsutskiridze:

Paul Kennedy: "The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers" (Vintage January 15, 1989)

This is a must read book for anyone seriously interested in the study of international affairs. Paul Kennedy gives a thorough and consistent analysis of how the great states rise to their greatness and then the circumstance which affect their gradual decline or collapse. This is something that will show you the logic (whether you agree with it it's totally up to you of course) of historical developments and is an instructive reading on the role of culture, politics, economic factors, state institutions and geography in international relations.

Eliot A. Cohen: Supreme Command: Soldiers, Statesmen, and Leadership in Wartime (Anchor, September 9, 2003)

This is a suggested reading for the students interested in the civil-military relations. Needless to say a very timely and important subject in today's Georgia. The book looks at how the four great leaders: Abraham Lincoln, Georges Clemenceau, Winston Churchill and David Ben Gurion, governed their relationship with the military authorities in wartime. Some of the arguments and findings fly in the face of a "normal theory" of civil-military relations, a summary of which is also provided in a very condensed but comprehensive manner at the last section of the book.

Desmond Morris: The Human Zoo: A Zoologist's Classic Study of the Urban Animal (Kodansha Globe, 1996)

This is a very interesting insight into the "zoological nature" of the mankind and its evolution from the tribal towards an urbane post modern resident of magapolysis. Conflicts and violence, sex and family relations, urban conflicts and gang culture, above all overpopulation as well as increasing number of suicides, homicide and other forms of men's erratic behavior are the subjects of this book. Analyzed through a zoologist's prism, from the perspective of the Evolutionist Theory it is a very telling, instructive and beneficial if not a frightening work of the Oxford's renowned zoologist. *This is one of Levan's favorites.*

Sofie Gelashvili:

Joseph S. Nye, Understanding International Conflicts: An Introduction to Theory and History – must read to anyone who wants to study international relations and understand basic IR concepts. As Nye says in the introduction the aim of the book is "to introduce students to the complexities of international politics by giving them a good grounding in the traditional realist theory before turning to liberal and constructivist approaches that became more prominent after the Cold War". It is an excellent reference and orientation work. Each chapter has a mix of figures, maps, chronologies, and photos, especially interesting is a block chart showing the causes for major wars or periods of conflict at the three levels of analysis--international system, national, and individual personalities.

Robert D. Kaplan, The Coming Anarchy : Shattering the Dreams of the Post Cold War – Editor and journalist of the Atlantic Monthly compiled his nine provocative, thoughtful, and very speculative essays most of which previously appeared in periodicals earlier. Here Kaplan describes his Clockwork Orange-like vision of the world's future--in which societies are permeated with violence, crime remains unabated, and official corruption and anarchy run rampant. Using West Africa and Turkey as his primary examples, he argues that "environmental scarcity," ethnic strife, overcrowded living areas, and the changing nature of war will irreparably tear the social fabrics of societies all over the world--in places as far apart as India, Canada, South America, Yugoslavia, Africa, the Far East, the Middle East, and even the United States. Kaplan further suggests that democracy will not protect us from this apocalypse; indeed, he notes, it could even help cause it.

John G. Stoessinger, Why Nations go to War - A classic in its field this book engages readers in a dialogue about the human truth behind the mechanistic forces of war. Stoessinger examines the characters and personalities of leaders who have taken their countries into battle, showing how misjudgments and misperceptions affected the course of history. The 8 case studies provide a solid historical background on twentieth-century warfare, while the compelling narrative keeps the readers involved.

Tonike Sharashenidze:

История дипломатии в 3-х томах. Под редакцией Потемкина

One of the most comprehensive works on this subject that covers history from the very dawn of international affairs to 1941 (when the book was published). The authors – in fact the best scholars of Soviet Union at that time – used lots of historical sources that resulted in a really impressive study. Despite the fact that the work was published in Stalin's era, its quite unbiased through coverage of history up to 1917 (when Bolshevik revolution took place in Russia).

Henry Kissinger. Diplomacy

The most famous work by the outstanding American diplomat and scholar. It covers the period that goes from the Peace of Westphalia, in 1648, to the early 1990ies. The author pays a special tribute to great *Realpolitikers* like Richelieu and Bismarck stressing how practical these men were, and how successful diplomats always put necessity ahead of principles. From Kissinger we learn that there is really little new about the international relations and that diplomacy basically remains the same.

Thucydides. History

Written four hundred years before the birth of Christ, this detailed contemporary account of the struggle between Athens and Sparta stands an excellent chance of fulfilling the author's ambitious claim that the work "was done to last forever." As some scholars argue, there is nothing that modern political scientists can add to this work and there is nothing that we know and Thucydides did not know. The author doesn't judge whether an action is good or evil: he merely shows that those that have power can use it as they see fit. Due to that, Thucydides is called by many the first realist theoretician.