

1790 SECTION THINGS

Chapter 11: Asymmetric Conflict & Nuclear Weapons

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What is one thing you are grateful for?

Returning to a familiar idea: Backlash against hegemony

-  has a **command of the commons**, which makes  >> powerful than most others in the international system.
- How do weaker actors in the system challenge hegemony if the power asymmetry is so great?
 1. Asymmetric conflict
 2. Nuclear proliferation

1. Asymmetric conflict

Insurgency

- Definition: armed rebellion against government authority for political purposes
- Goals: regime change or separatism
 - Motivation: grievances and political instability, “greed,” competing ethnic/religious groups
- Strategy: we will focus on guerrilla warfare

Counterinsurgency

Treat People with Kindness x Counterinsurgency

"(Just a little bit of kindness)"

KI
Aug 15



- Efforts to get a militant group to stop committing violence
 - Use military force to fight and defeat rebels
 - Win “hearts and minds” of civilian population

Two sides of the same COIN

Why do (relatively) powerful democratic states face challenges when fighting insurgents?

**Case 1: The Troubles
(1969-75)**

**Case 2: US War in Afghanistan
(2001-21)**

JOURNAL OF STRATEGIC STUDIES
<https://doi.org/10.1080/01402390.2019.1672159>

 **Routledge**
Taylor & Francis Group

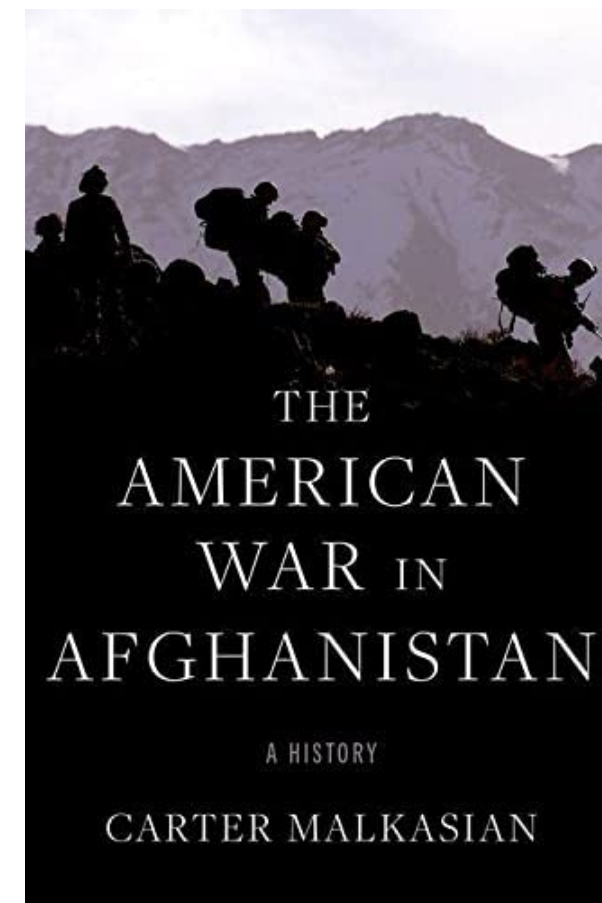
ARTICLE

 Check for updates

War in the city: Urban ethnic geography and combat effectiveness

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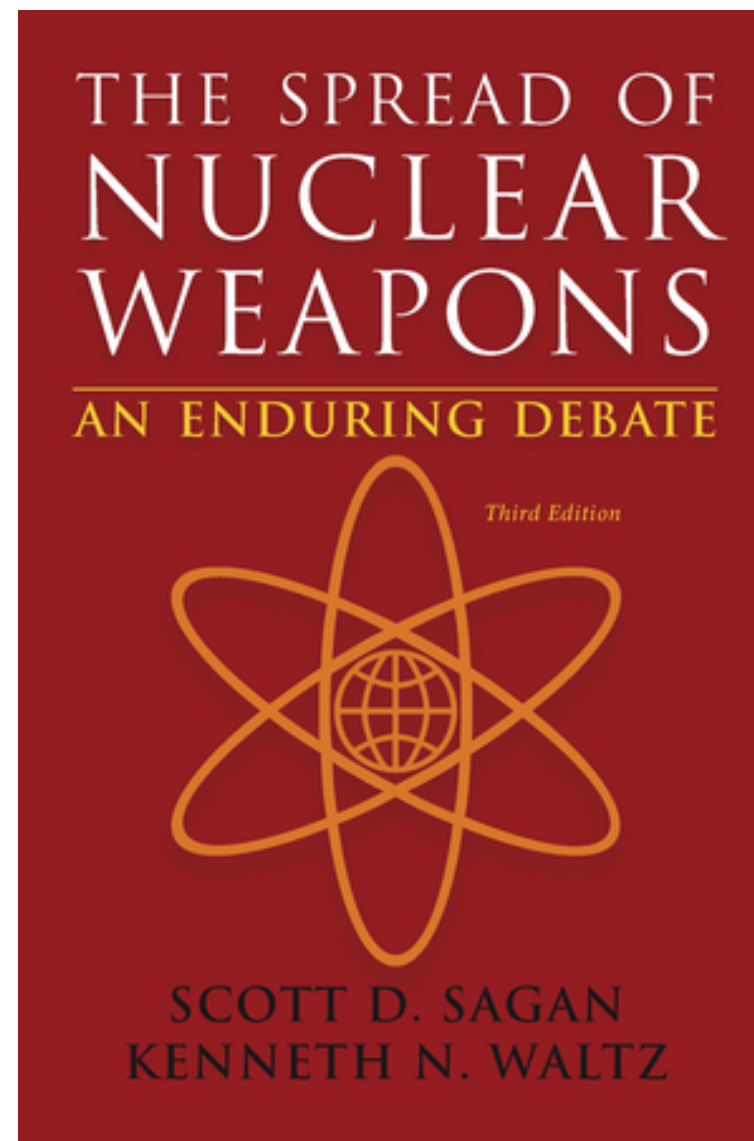


2. Nuclear proliferation

Unipolarity & NWs

- HST implies that an imbalance of power is good!
- But such concentrated power might create immense security worries for everyone else.
- Revisionist states might want NWs as a deterrent and source of bargaining power.
- Not a coincidence that a lot of post-CW US foreign policy relates to nonproliferation!

Are more NWs better or worse?



What about *zero* NWs?

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons
(ICAN)

The Nobel Peace Prize 2017



Founded: 2007

Prize motivation: “for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons”

In the news



World ▾ Business ▾ Legal ▾ Markets ▾ Breakingviews Technology ▾

4 minute read · November 19, 2022 9:42 AM EST · Last Updated 2 days ago



North Korea's Kim oversees ICBM test, vows more nuclear weapons

By Hyonhee Shin

Oct 31, 2022 - World

U.S. "not going to waste time" on Iran deal right now, official says



Barak Ravid, author of [Axios from Tel Aviv](#)

RUSSIA'S WAR ON UKRAINE

Russia's invasion of Ukraine could start a race for nukes, Austin says

The Defense secretary painted a bleak picture for the world, alluding to a scenario in which autocrats will race to acquire the bomb if Russia isn't repelled.



"They could well conclude that getting nuclear weapons would give them a hunting license of their own. And that could drive a dangerous spiral of nuclear proliferation," Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin said. | Sarah Silbiger/Getty Images

Looking ahead

December 2022

< Today >

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Reading Response ²⁷	²⁸	Last Section ²⁹	Last Class ³⁰	Dec 1	Office Hours ²	³
⁴	⁵	⁶	⁷	⁸	Office Hours ⁹	¹⁰
¹¹	Final Exam ¹²	¹³	¹⁴	¹⁵	¹⁶	¹⁷