

The
Scholars
Programme



War: What Is It Good For?

Key Stage 3 Programme

Pupil Name

Tutorial
Group

PhD Tutor



Course Rationale

This course introduces us to the concept of war in international Relations. The field of International Relations is the study of the relations between international actors including countries or international organisations like the United Nations. International Relations is traditionally concerned with the state as the primary actor, however as we will learn in this course, war is shaped not only by state leaders but by the people engaging in them.

We will be using the case study of the Cold War to understand some of the ways that wars are fought, why they are fought, and how wars impact wider societal relations.

We will learn about the history of the Cold War and consider some of the causes that brought the United States and the Soviet Union to fight a war. We will gain an understanding of the actors involved and explore the ways in which the nature of war developed throughout the period of the Cold War.

We are interested in studying war because of the way it shapes our everyday lives. Whether or not our countries are directly engaged in war, the Cold War demonstrates the interconnectedness of the world and how conflicts in one region of the world can impact many countries.

By the end of this course, you will be able to recognise the different causes of war, the strategies that warring groups engage in, and to define different conceptions of 'peace'.

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[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gassed_\(painting\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gassed_(painting))

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Failure of Communism in Eastern Europe



<https://www.independent.co.uk/climate-change/news/wildlife-set-for-final-victory-along-the-iron-curtain-832856.html>

The iron curtain was a political boundary dividing Europe into two separate areas after World War II. The Soviets had control of East Germany and Eastern European countries, and they built a wall to block off access to their territories.

However, by the end of the Cold War, food prices and living costs in the Soviet Union were rising. There were food shortages and people were unhappy with their quality of life. In 1956, there had already been a revolution in Hungary as thousands of people took to the streets to protest freedom from Soviet rule. They wanted free elections and the chance for multi-party democracy. This means that more than one party could run for government.

There was also widespread revolt in Poland in the 1980s as people protested and went on strike. By 1989 talks between the Polish government and opposition groups agreed to hold new elections. An anti-communist party formed the new government.

In 1989 the Austrian border was opened and many people from Hungary and East Germany fled to West Germany.

Activity 2

Watch this BBC report of the night the border fell down <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-50013048>.

How were the events represented in the BBC report?

What was the mood of the people?

Gorbachev

Mikhail Gorbachev became the 8th leader of the Soviet Union in 1985. He supported greater freedom of speech and wanted to modernise the Soviet Union. The Cold War had taken a toll on the Soviet economy and Gorbachev realised they could not compete with the military spending of the US.

In 1988 he made a proposal in the Soviet Congress for congress to be elected by the people in a democratic way. The members of congress agreed with the proposal and it was decided that the next March would see open elections.

In 1991, the Soviet Union dissolved itself into republics and the war was officially over marked also by the official fall of the Berlin Wall.

Peace and War

But does the end of war mean the world was at peace?

The academic Johan Galtung suggested that peace can be understood as both negative and positive. In this tutorial we are focusing on how we can apply these terms when discussing war in general, and especially in terms of our case study. Peace can be thought as a spectrum, ranging from negative to positive peace.

Negative Peace.....Positive peace	
Often understood as the absence of direct violence , but the reasons for the original conflict have not been resolved.	Positive peace is often understood as a situation whereby relationships are restored, violence has ceased, and the reasons for the original conflict has been (mostly) resolved.

Activity 3

Pair up with your neighbour and discuss the questions below:

- What is the difference between negative and positive peace?
- Is negative peace better than positive peace?
- Or is positive peace better than negative peace?
- Is negative peace, or positive peace, the opposite of war?

