Terms and concepts to know:

City-state system    Thucydides
Plato              Aristotle
Cicero            Imperialism
Feudalism          Thirty Years War
Westphalian System  Sovereignty
Nationalism        Concert of Europe
Treaty of Versailles League of Nations
Fascism             Cold War
Truman Doctrine     Containment
Capitalism          Socialism
NATO               Reagan Doctrine
Deterrence         Uni / Bi / Multipolarity
Hegemony           Glasnost / Perestroika

Study and discussion questions:

1. Among Waltz’s “images,” which of the three do you think offers the best explanation for war and why? Why does Waltz distinguish between the “immediate” causes of war and the “permissive” causes of war?
2. Why does Waltz conclude that “realism remains the most compelling general framework for understanding international relations?” Why does he believe that constructivist theories best explain change in world affairs?
3. Who started the Cold War? Does the question matter in any way? Why did the Cold War end and who (if anyone) “won” the Cold War? Will the post-Cold War era be characterized by cooperation among the great powers and the rest on the globe?
4. Does the post-Cold War world signal a return to the multipolar system of the late 18th century, or is this going to be a unipolar era with the U.S. exercising the same hegemonic domination that the British did in the early part of the 19th century? Or does the War on Terrorism signal the beginning of a new “Cold War”?
5. Michael Klare describes what he calls a new “Thirty Years War” that is now developing that has similar outlines of the earlier conflict (1618 – 1648) discussed in class. What are some of the similarities and differences between to two?

Readings:


Video:

*The Rise of the Houthis.*