

LECTURE / DISCUSSION / DEBATE
SECURITY THEORY AND PEAK OIL

Terms and concepts to know:

Arms control	Arms limitations
Arms reductions	Geneva Protocols
NPT	SALT I and II
ABM Treaty	CFE Treaty
INF Treaty	START I and II
National security	International security
Transstate security	Global security
“De-targeting/alerting”	Nuclear proliferation

Study and discussion questions:

1. Discuss the reasons for studying international violence. How do they conflict with the goals of peace studies theory?
2. Debate the three theories of arms-tension-war. Which of the three appear to you to be the best theory for describing how wars begin?
3. Have arms treaties historically lessened tension in the world? Why or why not do you believe they have or have not?
4. Discuss the complexities associated with domestic political support for arms spending and high military budgets. Can the current military budget be justified?
5. Of the five theoretical approaches to security, which do *you* think our foreign and defense policies should be formulated upon? (Group discussion and review).
6. Discuss the Klare interview on global resource wars. What are the major theoretical underpinnings of his argument?
7. Robert Kaplan has been described as a “21st century realist.” What does this mean and how does his writing reflect this?
8. Explain the main arguments being presented in the film *Oil, Smoke and Mirrors*? Do you agree or disagree with the main thrust of their collective arguments about the importance or seeing oil at the core of the 9/11 attacks? What do you believe a realist would say to this? Would you agree? Why or why not?

Readings:

WEB – Readings from the “Security and Peak Oil” links.

Video:

Oil, Smoke and Mirrors.