

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. Author Richard Heinberg makes the point that “[o]ur collective choices about energy investments are, from a long-range perspective, utterly insane. We have bet the fate of our civilization--and the lives of our children and grandchildren--on energy resources that are depleting and polluting.” Do you agree or disagree, and if true, what do you believe is holding us back from a more sane energy policy?
4. Of the five theoretical approaches to security, which do *you* think our foreign and defense policies should be formulated upon? (Group discussion and review).
5. Discuss the Klare interview on global resource wars. What are the major theoretical underpinnings of his argument?
6. 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.*