

Evolution and Development of Strategic Thought

a. Credit Hours 3-0

b. Course Code:SS-825

c. Course Title

Evolution and Development of Strategic Thought

d. **Course Description**

This course tracks the historical evolution of grand strategic thought. A conceptual history of grand strategy, it traces what people meant when they employed the term. The course explores the basic and standard definitions of strategic and how strategic thinking evolved with time. The course will be the first port of call for learners of strategy who want to check up on the development of land strategy in the eighteenth century, maritime strategy in the nineteenth century, nuclear strategy in the twentieth century, or counterinsurgency strategy in the twenty-first century.

e. **Course Objectives**

The purpose of “Evolution and Development of Strategic Thought” is to understand the relationship of the conduct of warfare to the development of strategic thought, i.e., the impact of the “lessons of warfare” upon thinking about the conduct of future warfare. The student will learn the history of the conduct of war through the development of strategic thought. Strategic thought is the accumulated concept of using violence for political purposes, usually the defense or destruction of a particular regime or form of government and, sometimes, the society it represents. “Government” can mean any form of communal decision-making ranging from a tribal council to a modern parliamentary democracy of a nation-state.

f. **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a good understanding of key concepts and perspectives used to discuss and theorize strategy and be familiar with critical debates in the evolution of strategic thinking.
- Understand the role of strategy as not just explanatory but also as constitutive of policy and the perceived policy options available.

- Be familiar with the development of strategic thinking and prominent strategists in the field of strategic studies.

g. **Course Content**

- Week 1:** What is Strategy?
- Week 2:** Evolution and Development of Strategic Thought – The Origins
– An Art of War
- Week 3:** - An Introduction Strategic Thinkers
- Sun Tzu – Chinese Strategic Thought
- Week 4:** Kautilya – Indian Strategic Thought
Ibn Khaldun - Islamic Strategic Thought
- Week 5:** - The Rise of the Nation-State and Strategic Thought
- Machiavelli, The Prince
- The Role of Strategic Theory
- Week 6:** - Political & Strategic Power – Carl von Clausewitz
- Clausewitz, On War – The Aftermath of the Napoleonic Wars
- Critical Analysis of Strategic Thought
- Week 7:** “Is Clausewitz the Creator of Modern Strategic Thought?”
- Week 8:** - The Military-Technological Revolution and the
Industrial Nation-State
- Liddle-Hart – Indirect Approach
- Contemporary Strategic Thought
- Week 9:** ***Mid-Term Exam***
- Week 10:** “Was the Emergence of Modern Warfare the Result of
Technological or Political Change?”
- Week 11:** - Modern Military Thought
- The Influence of Sea Power upon History, 1660-1783
- Week 12:** The Post-Modern Way of War
- Week 13:** World War II and Its Consequences
- Week 14:** War in the Nuclear Age
- Week 15:** Nuclear Strategies of the Modern World
- Week 16:** ***Final Exam***

h. **Recommended Readings**

- Correction. (2024). *Survival*, 1–2. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00396338.2024.2367822>
- Root, H. L. (2024). Civilisational Conflict. *Survival*, 66(3), 43–48. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00396338.2024.2357479>
- Raine, J., Barry, B., Childs, N., Hinz, F., & Voo, J. (2024). Iran and Israel: Everything Short of War. *Survival*, 66(3), 79–90. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00396338.2024.2357485>
- Thayer, B. A. (2021). Colin Gray and strategic thought. *Comparative Strategy*, 40(2), 128–132. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01495933.2021.1880811>
- Lonsdale, D. J. (2021). Colin Gray's universal strategic theory. *Comparative Strategy*, 40(2), 117–121. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01495933.2021.1880809>
- The International Institute for Strategic Studies (ed.) *The Evolution of Strategic Thought* (London: Routledge, 2008).
- Hew Strachan, "Strategy and the Limitation of War," *Survival* 50 (February-March 2008)
- Mackubin Thomas Owens, "Reflections on Future War," *Naval War College Review* 61 (Summer 2008)
- Bailey, "The Birth of the Modern Style of Warfare," and "The Century of Firepower," *Field Artillery* (1998)
- Gat, "Futurism, Proto-Fascist Culture and Sources of Douhetism," *War and Society* 15 (May 1997)
- Frank Uhlig, Jr., "How Navies Fight, and Why," *Naval War College Review* 47 (Winter, 1995)
- Williamson Murray, MacGregor Knox, and Alvin Bernstein, eds., *The Making of Strategy: Rulers, States, and War*. (Cambridge University Press, 1994).
- Bellamy, "Civilian Experts and Russian Defense Thinking," *JRUSI*, (1992)
- Gat, "Ardant du Picq's Scientism, Teaching and Influence" *War and Society* 8 (October 1990)

- Donnini, "Douhet, Caproni, and Early Air Power," Air Power History, (Summer 1990)
- Peter Paret, ed., Makers of Modern Strategy from Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age, 2nd ed., Princeton University Press, 1986.
- Chaliand, Gerard, ed., Guerilla Strategies (University of California Press, 1982)
- Carl von Clausewitz, On War, edited by Paret and Craig (Princeton University Press, 1976).
- Murray, Making Strategy, Chapters 12-16, 18
- Paret, Makers of Modern Strategy.