

# What Comes After War?

## Mapping the Mutations of Global Violence

Political Science 673

Spring 2019

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Many within the field of International Relations have declared that war is coming to an end. For those that actually live in the world such statements seem absurd. At no time in human history has there been such a diversity and intensity in the means of violence. From drones, to improvised explosive devices, to the still persistent presence of nuclear weapons, the modes of destruction available to actors vastly outstrips the capacity to make life on planet earth. However, the universality of destruction does not mean equality in death. The distribution of violence follows the uneven histories of settler colonialism and race-making through the fractured and remixed spatial geographies of the global south. Supply chains, pipelines, trade routes, migration patterns, and ever new zones of conflict from outer-space to artificial islands vastly complicate the seemingly settled boundaries between north and south. New actors, new empires, new balances of power, all represent the possibility for new futures for world order potentially but not necessarily unprecedented in their character.

This semester we will be taking up the futures of violence as a global phenomena and ask whether the concept of war is still sufficient to capture the new logics and forms of violence. What are the modes of destruction that will come to define the next 100 years? Do the break downs in imperial models of order present opportunities for alternatives to war? Or will the afterlife of war exceed the horrors of global conflagration and combat? To investigate these questions we will work together to develop a working concept of what we think war is and what drivers have created a world of war in an effort to consider what kinds of future worlds those drivers make possible.

### Reading List

Antoine Bousquet, Jairus Grove, Nisha Shah, "Becoming War: Towards a Martial Empiricism"

Gregoire Chamayou, *Manhunt: A Philosophical History*

Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari, *A Thousand Plateaus*

Peter Sloterdijk, *Foams: Spheres Volume III: Plural Spherology*

Achille Mbembe, "Necropolitics"

Didier Fassin, *Life: A Critical Users Guide*

Paul Virilio, *The Original Accident*

Beatriz Colomina and Mark Wigley, *Are We Human?*

Brian Massumi, *Ontopower*

Jasbir Puar, *The Right to Maim: Debility, Capacity, Disability*

Tiqqun, *Introduction to Civil War*

Jackie Wang, *Carceral Capitalism*

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Week 16

Sayak Valencia, *Gore Capitalism*

