

**Grand Strategy  
In  
Comparative And Historical Perspective**

INAF 344  
School of Foreign Service  
Georgetown University  
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**Course Description**

This course focuses on the grand strategy of imperial powers. It will begin with an examination of the components of imperial power and of the political, economic, and strategic issues entailed in its management and allocation. We will next examine in comparative perspective the grand strategies of past great powers, including the Roman, Ottoman, British, German, and Japanese empires. The course will then focus on American grand strategy during different phases in the country's rise as a great power. It will end with an examination of American grand strategy for the twenty-first century.

**Course Requirements**

Students should have a strong background in international relations. Class discussions will presume familiarity with the main theoretical traditions in international relations and with at least some of the historical cases covered in the course. Grades will be based on class participation and a research paper due at the end of the semester.

**Books Available for Purchase**

Harrison Wright, *The "New Imperialism."* (Out of print. Purchase at alibris.com)  
Daniel Headrick, *The Tools of Empire.*  
Paul Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of British Naval Mastery.*  
Paul Kennedy, *Strategy and Diplomacy.* (Out of print.)  
John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment.*  
Michael Howard, *The Continental Commitment.*  
Michael Barnhart, *Japan Prepares for Total War.*  
Edward Luttwak, *The Grand Strategy of the Roman Empire.*  
Karen Barkey, *Bandits and Bureaucrats.*  
V. Berghahn, *Germany and the Approach of War in 1914.*

## Course Outline

### 1. Course Overview

### 2. An Anatomy of Imperial Power

- Daniel Headrick, *The Tools of Empire*.
- Alexander Gerschenkron, "Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective."
- Charles Tilly, "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime."
- Halford Mackinder, "The Geographical Pivot of History."
- Margaret Sprout, "Mahan: Evangelist of Sea Power."
- Kennedy, *Strategy and Diplomacy*, chap. 3, skim chap 8.

### 3. Theories of Imperialism

- Selections by Hobson, Lenin, Schumpeter, Arendt, Robinson and Gallagher, Langer, and Mansergh in Wright.
- D.K. Fieldhouse, "Imperialism: An Historiographical Revision."
- Michael Doyle, *Empires*, pp. 19-47.

### 4. The Roman Empire

- Luttwack, *The Grand Strategy of the Roman Empire*.

### 5. The Ottoman Empire.

- Barkey, *Bandits and Bureaucrats*.
- Bernard Lewis, *Istanbul and the Civilization of the Ottoman Empire*, pp. 3-64.

### 6. The British Empire I

- Kennedy, *Rise and Fall*, chaps. 1-7.

### 7. The British Empire II

- Kennedy, *Rise and Fall*, chaps 8 and 9.
- Howard, *The Continental Commitment*.
- Eric Hobsbawm, *Industry and Empire*, chaps 6, 7, and 9.

### 8. The German Empire

- V. Berghahn, *Germany and the Approach of War in 1914*.
- Kennedy, *Strategy and Diplomacy*, chap 5.

### 9. The Japanese Empire

- Barnhart, *Japan Prepares for Total War*.
- Kennedy, *Strategy and Diplomacy*, chap. 7.

## **10. The American Empire I**

- George Kennan, *American Diplomacy*, chaps 1 and 2.
- Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*.

## **11. The American Empire II**

- Charles Kupchan, *The End of the American Era*, chaps 1-6, 8.

## **12. Where We Go From Here – Realists in Disarray**

- William Wohlforth, “The Stability of a Unipolar World.”
- Stephen Walt, “Keeping the World ‘Off-Balance’.”
- Michael Mastanduno, “Preserving the Unipolar Moment: Realist Theories and US Grand Strategy After the Cold War.”
- Josef Joffe, "Who's Afraid of Mr. Big?"
- Christopher Layne, “The Unipolar Illusion: Why New Great Powers Will Rise.”
- John Mearsheimer, “The American Pacifier.”

## **13. Where We Go From Here – Liberals in Disarray**

- Charles Kupchan, *The End of the American Era*, chap. 7.
- John Ikenberry, “Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Persistence of American Postwar Order.”
- Robert Chase, Emily Hill, and Paul Kennedy, “Pivotal States and U.S. Grand Strategy.”
- Joseph Nye, “Seven Tests: Between Concert and Unilateralism.”

## **14. Discussion of Research Papers**