

Subject overview

This subject examines the origins and outcomes of all major conflicts that have helped shape the international scene during the 19th and 20th centuries. Emphasis will be placed on the rise of the great powers and later superpowers as well as large scale conflicts like the Franco Prussian war, the World Wars, and the Cold War. The various efforts at international cooperation such as the Concert of Europe, the League of Nations, the United Nations, the European Union and NATO will also be studied.

Learning Outcomes

By the completion of this subject students will be able to:

- Reconstruct major events in International Politics during the last two centuries
- Identify the processes that led to the current state of affairs in the world
- Apply the three levels of analysis to international problems
- Identify the role of ethics in International Politics
- Explain the logic of violent conflict
- Describe the pitfalls that led to global conflicts

Assessment overview

- Participation 10% of total assessment
- Midterm 30% of total assessment
- Final exam 30% of total assessment
- Research paper 30% of total assessment

Subject modules

- The Napoleonic Wars
- The Congress of Vienna
- The Congress System
- The Revolutions of 1830 and 1848
- The Eastern Question
- The Decline of the Concert of Europe
- The Enduring Logic of Conflict in World Politics
- Origins of the Great 20th Century Conflicts
- The Balance of Power and World War I
- The Failure of Collective Security and World War II
- The Cold War
- Intervention, Institutions and Regional Conflicts
- Globalization and Interdependence
- The Information Revolution, Transnational Actors and the Diffusion of Power
- A New World Order?
- What is Terrorism?
- Environmental Security

Required readings

- Lowe, J. (1990). *The concert of europe: International relations 1814-1870*. Access to History series, Keith Randell, General Editor. Hodder and Stoughton.
- Nye, J, Jr. (2003). *Understanding international conflicts*. Longman.

Questions?

If you have questions about any of the subject summaries, please contact us.