

Department of Peace Studies

MA Programme 2004-2005 - First Semester

Arms Control and Proliferation Introduction

This course aims to provide a foundation for thinking about the role of arms control in international security in the post-Cold War world. It begins by examining the problems created for international security by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction from the 1940s.

It will then place emphasis on international arms control regimes, including the NPT, CWC and BTWC, in responding to these challenges, and will examine, in particular, recent post—Cold War developments and future trends involving new technologies such as directed energy weapons systems. It will also examine issues of paramilitary violence, particularly in relation to the use of conventional munitions for economic targeting as a trend in asymmetric warfare.

A general reading list is provided. In addition, lecture notes or other appropriate readings and background papers will be provided on Blackboard as the course progresses.

Learning Outcomes for this course.

By the end of this course, you should have acquired

- a systematic understanding of current issues in arms control and proliferation
- an ability to understand concepts and theories in aspects of international relations and security studies related to arms control and weapons proliferation
- an ability to access data from a variety of sources in the public domain and to express ideas clearly

Teaching

The course is taken primarily by Paul Rogers, with contributions from Simon Whitby and Michael Bourne.

Outline Syllabus

The characteristics of weapons of mass destruction — nuclear, chemical and biological. Conventional area— impact weapons such as clustered sub—munitions and thermobaric (fuel—air) weapons.

The origins and early development of nuclear weapons from

1940 to 1960, including the early stages of the Soviet— American nuclear arms race.

Development of superpower strategic nuclear arsenals, 1960—90 and of attempts at the control of strategic nuclear weapons.

Proliferation of nuclear weapons and its control, 1950— 1990. SIVLT I and SALT II and the Limited Test Ban

Treaty. The Non—Proliferation Treaty and the development of nuclear—free zone negotiations.

Intermediate and tactical nuclear weapons, strategies for war—fighting. The Intermediate Nuclear Force (INF) Treaty. Applicability of Cold War strategies to the post—Cold War world — the “mini—nuke” problem.

Nuclear futures — the United States, Russia and China and the relationship to National Missile Defence, middle powers, new nuclear weapons states, proliferation and control.

The development, proliferation and control of biological and chemical weapons, with emphasis on the current negotiations to strengthen the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention.

The development, proliferation and control of chemical weapons. Verification procedures of the Chemical Weapons Convention in relation to wider arms control issues.

Directed energy weapons, including the Airborne Laser and the Space—Based Laser, and their military and political implications.

Conventional weapons and paramilitary organisations — economic targeting against advanced industrial states.

The problem of light arms transfers and “cascading” especially in Southern states. Arms transfer controls and their development.

Overview and conclusions

arms control and proliferation in the context of changing causes of international insecurity.

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