

Seminar 3

Week 4- Lecture 3

Militarism, (In)security, and the Politics of Remembrance

Saadia Gardezi

Responsibility to Protect (R2P)- What is it? What actions should be taken?

Read and discuss: “In the Rwanda genocide, around 800,000 people were killed in one hundred days. A person dies for hunger-related reasons every 10 seconds, meaning that even more people die as a result of hunger every 100 days.ⁱⁱ Factoring in other avoidable deaths, the picture is even bleaker. In 2015, more than 16,000 children aged under five died every day. According to the World Health Organization, ‘almost all of these children’s lives could be saved if they had access to simple and affordable interventions’ (WHO, 2017). And environmental decline is already a mass killer, especially in low-income countries. Using World Health Organization Data, the Lancet Commission on Public Health (Landrigan, 2018) found that pollution alone currently kills nine million people per year; almost 25,000 people per day. This figure is, according to the co-lead of the commission, ‘almost certainly an under-estimate, probably by several million’ (cited in Carrington, 2017). These deaths are not a mere accident, nor are they unavoidable. They are produced politically, in part by the actions of the “international community”.

Why are militaries highly supported by the public?

How is militarism a part of our everyday lives?

What did you think of the “militarised can of soup example?” in the Enloe reading?

“The militarization of women has been necessary for the militarization of men (Enloe 2000,3)”. How does this happen? What does this mean?

How does militarism help us understand world politics?



Assaulting forward?

“More importantly, the reason why the President is so unconcerned and thinks that he did the right thing by pulling the troops out of Afghanistan in such a self-assuringly careless and reckless way derives from the fact that he is at the helm of a disoriented discourse within which wherever America may roam, its course of action is always in the right direction. After all, he does not care about the location. He cares about the situation and maintaining the fiction through false dilemmas between defeat and withdrawal to the detriment of people. Thus he is unfazed by the prospects of unjustly ending an unjust war” (Ekin 2021, Duck of Minerva).

Muscular liberalism

Do commemoration and remembrance practices differ across countries?