Dr. Keith Knapp

Hiss 302:
Violence, War, and Peace in Chinese History

TR 8:00-9:15 and 9:30-10:45

Office hours: M 1-4:00pm & TR 2:00-3:30 pm, or by appointment. Office # 432C. Telephone: 3-6935, e-mail: keith.knapp@citadel.edu.

Course Description: Propaganda from the People’s Republic of China tells everyone that the Chinese are a peace-loving people. Before the collapse of the imperial state in 1911, its Confucianized upper class disdained people who engaged in violence and the state harshly punished those engaged in unsanctioned violence. Nevertheless, as in most societies, violence was common at all levels of society, and sometimes reached horrific levels. Our class will address the following questions: Was China marked by less violence than other civilizations? What kinds of violence were common? What social frictions gave rise to conflict? How aggressively did China go to war with other states? What were Chinese attitudes towards war and how did they change over time? How did Chinese wage war? Were certain social groups more likely to engage in violence? How did attitudes toward the military change with the advent of the modern state? What were the social mechanisms for stemming conflict?

Course Goals: After taking this course, each student should have an understanding of the following items: 1. the different philosophical dispositions towards warfare, 2. Chinese ambivalence towards violence and warfare, 3. Sanctioned violence was and is always necessary, 4. China did wage wars to expand its boundaries, and 5. the modern Chinese state put both warfare and soldiery in a more positive light.

Class Requirements: Students must attend class; attendance will be taken. Those who miss more than 20% of the class periods, whether or not their absences are excused, will fail the course. Students who are rowdy, read materials that are extraneous to the course in class, chew tobacco, or talk during lectures, will be asked to leave the classroom and be marked as absent. Students must read all six of the assigned texts. Assigned reading must be done prior to the first class of the week. Each student must participate in class discussion, write both a short and long paper, take six quizzes, and attend the three examinations. The short paper will be an analysis of either Master Sun’s Art of War or Records of the Historian. It should be four or five pages long. The long paper will consist of a research paper; the topic of which will be selected by the student. It will be at least eight pages long and will incorporate both a primary source and multiple secondary sources. The primary source can be one of the class readings. I will hand out instruction sheets on how to write these papers. The examinations will consist of short identifications and essay questions. The composition of your grade is as follows: quizzes 20%, participation 10%, first examination 10%, short paper 10%, second examination 10%, long paper 20%, and the final examination 20%. Participation consists of asking questions, volunteering opinions, and showing that you have read the class assignments. Papers handed in after the deadline will be reduced half a grade for each class period that it is late. Students who cheat on tests or engage in plagiarism will be reported for honor code violations and will receive a “F” grade for that test or paper. Scheduled tests are mandatory formations. Makeup tests Will NOT
be given without a written note from a doctor or other appropriate official. Guard duty or other military activities do not excuse you from scheduled tests.

Textbooks:


Class Schedule

**Week One: Beginnings**
1/16: Syllabus, Orientation: The sociological contours of violence in China

**Week Two: Shang and Zhou China**
1/21 & 1/23 Chariots as killing machines, honorific warfare, human sacrifice, blood covenants, hunting and meat-eating
Readings: Lorge, *Chinese Martial Arts*, Chapter 1
1/23 Geography quiz
Video: “Chinese Chariot Revealed”

**Week Three: The Transformative Warring States**
1/28 & 1/30 The rise of infantry, professional generalship, and the Samurai Ethos. Confucian, Daoist, Legalist, and Mohist views of warfare
Readings: Lorge, *Chinese Martial Arts*, Chapter 2
1/30 Quiz and Discussion of *Master Sun’s Art of War*

**Week Four: The Mighty Qin and Han Empires, Part 1: Good Walls make Good Neighbors**
2/4 & 2/6 The Qin army, the Xiongnu Empire, harmony through kinship peace treaties, Han Wudi’s war on the Xiongnu, the long walls
Readings: Lorge, *Chinese Martial Arts*, Chapter 3
2/6 Paper on the Sun Tzu due

Week Five: The Mighty Qin and Han Empires, Part 2
Readings: Records of the Historian, 45-148, 260-333
2/13 Quiz and Discussion of the Records of the Historian due

Week Six: The Six Dynasties: Barbarians at the Gate
2/18 & 2/20: The establishment of steppe regimes in Northern China, Daoist and Buddhist Millenarianism, and the development of Vegetarianism
Readings: Lorge, Chinese Martial Arts, Chapter 4
2/20 Paper on the Records of the Historian due

Week Seven: Making China Great Again: The Sui and Tang Dynasties
2/25 & 2/27: The Sui’s Korean folly, the military ethos of the Sino-Steppe elite, the An Lushan Rebellion, the rise of Military Governors, Huang Chao Rebellion, and the popularity of Polo
Readings: Lorge, Chinese Martial Arts, Chapter 5
2/27 Mid-term

Week Eight: The Weak Song Dynasty
3/3 & 3/5: Five Dynasties’ warlords, the Song founders’ pacification of government, development of firearms, the invention of the Chinese junk, and filial cannibalism
Readings: Lorge, Chinese Martial Arts, Chapter 6

Week Nine: The Unprecedented Mongol Empire and Its Overreach
3/10 & 3/12: Mongol military tactics, customs and organizations, conquest of Eurasia, failure to conquer Japan, Vietnam, and Java,
Readings: Lorge, Chinese Martial Arts, Chapter 7

Week Ten: The Ever-weakening Ming
3/24 & 3/26: Zheng He and his fleet, taking the fight to the steppe and the Tumu disaster, the great Ming wall, the Great East Asian War, the scourge of the “Japanese” pirates, and the Daoist war against demons
Readings: Lorge, Chinese Martial Arts, Chapter 8 and the first 200 pages of Romance of the Three Kingdoms
3/26 Quiz on and discussion of the Romance of the Three Kingdoms

Week Eleven: The Mightiest Dynasty of All: The Manchurian Qing
3/31 & 4/2: The Manchurian Banner army, the conquest of China, Koxinga’s defeat of the Dutch, defeat of the Ming loyalists, the Ten Great Conquests,
Readings: Lorge, Chinese Martial Arts, Chapter 9 and “Under the Blood Flag: Dutch and Chinese Views of the Battle of Taiwan” (handout)

Week Twelve: The Creation of Modern Armies – Power comes out of the Barrel of a Gun
4/7 & 4/9: the Self-strengthening Movement, the wars against the Western imperialists, the
Boxer Rebellion, the 1911 Revolution and the emergence of warlords, the Nationalist Army and Whampoa, the Red Army and the Jiangxi Soviet, guerilla warfare, the Long March, the Civil War, and the Korean War
Readings: Lorge, *Chinese Martial Arts*, Chapter 10 and *Mao’s Generals Remember Korea*
4/9 Discussion and Quiz on *Mao’s Generals Remember Korea*

**Week Thirteen: Local, Sectarian, and Secret Society Violence in Ming, Qing and Republican China**
4/14 & 4/16: Clan conflicts, sectarian revolts – the White Lotus Rebellion, the Taiping Rebellion, the Muslim wars in the Northwest, secret society violence – the Triads

**Week Fourteen: Violence and the Communist State**
4/21 & 4/23: Class conflict, struggle sessions, Cultural Revolution and the Red Guards
4/23 Discussion and Quiz on *The Cowshed*

**Week Fifteen: Suppressing the People**
4/28: The Tian’anmen Incident, harmonizing Hong Kong and Xinjiang
4/28 Term papers due

Final Examination
4/29 at 1pm or 5/4 at 8am