State and Their Private Armies

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INST 29208  (Winter 2009)
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Office Hours: Wed 11:30-1:00
(Gates Blake, Room 218B)

Course Definition:
This course deals with the issue of privatization of organized violence across time and space and tries to find answers to a number of questions. Why do states hire mercenaries, mercenary bands, or private military companies? What are the major historical cases relevant to the topic? What are the economic and social, as well as political, implications of privatization of force? These questions are then tied to the recent developments in the privatization of force: the rise of “corporate armies” in the post-Cold War era. We will first capture the empirical magnitude of the phenomenon by focusing on the African as well as Balkan cases, while also spending time on the role of the private military companies in the current US war efforts. While analyzing these recent cases we will try to answer some recent questions: does the rise of private armies mean the demise of the nation-state?; what are the implications of private armies for accountability and democracy?; how does globalization play a role in the recent developments?; can private armies be used for peace keeping operations? The course will place a significant emphasis on the historical roots of privatization of military services. Therefore, the readings will cover not only the present but also the distant past.

Requirements:
The final grade will be determined by three factors: class participation (20%), 4 short [2-page] papers (40%), and a final take-home exam (40%). As mentioned above, this is a seminar, and your participation is not only expected, but also highly valued and appreciated. Students who are interested in a research paper as a substitute for the final exam should contact the instructor no later than the end of Week 4.

Texts:
The only required book for the course is: Deborah Avant’s The Market for Force: The Consequences of Privatizing Security (Cambridge University Press), which will be available for purchase in the Seminary Co-Op. A reserved copy can also be found in Regenstein Library.

All the other assigned chapters and articles will be available [electronically] from the Chalk website.
January 5 Introduction

I. What is “Privatization of Organized Violence”?


II. Mercenaries of the Distant Past:


III. Mercenaries in the Medieval Europe


** Don’t worry about the names/wars etc…, skimming is OK**
IV. The Age of the Condottieri: Of Mercenaries and Italian City-States

January 28


V. Mercenaries and the Kings’ War of the 16th-18th Centuries

February 2


VI. Right Before the Dawn: Late-18th Century

February 4


VII. Silent Myths

February 9


VIII. Dogs of War: A Case Study


IX. A New World Order: Globalization Meets the End of the Cold War


**March 4**


**March 9**


**March 11**

Wrapping Up – Of Patterns, Continuities, and Change