Seminar Introduction: Information Technology Goes to War!

Technology and 20th Century Warfare

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Administrativia

• 2 Units, Pass/Fail (show up and you will pass!)
• Discussion, Videos, Games—Participation is crucial to learning
• 1 Group Insurgency Project (mid-March), 1 (short) research report (end of semester)
• Mission: Have fun, explore the topic, learn
Your Background and Experience

• Discussion of your background and experience
  - Who are you?
  - Why are you interested in this class?
  - What, if anything, do you know about military affairs?
  - Do you know someone in the military, a relative or school friend?

Why Study War?

Why do we fight?

http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=9219853826421988682
• The Screening of "Saving Private Ryan": Opening Omaha Beach Sequence

Outline
• Universal Conscription vs. the All-Volunteer Army
“The Army We Have”

• “To fight today’s wars with an all-volunteer force, the U.S. Army needs more quick-thinking, strong, highly disciplined soldiers. But creating warriors out of the softest, least-willing populace in generations has required sweeping changes in basic training.”

Four Wars You (May) Have Never Heard Of

• Spanish-American War, April-August 1898
• Reconquest of the Sudan/Battle of Omdurman, 1898
• Boer War, 1898-1902
• Russo-Japanese War, 1904-1905
Spanish-American War

Reconquest of the Soudan
Boer War

Britain vs. Dutch Settlers (Boers aka the Afrikkaners) in South Africa

• Guerrilla war effectively neutralizes the technical superiority of British forces
• Scorched earth, block houses, and concentration camps
• Beginning of the end of the British Empire

Russia vs. Japan over expansion into Manchuria and Korea

• Numerous Japanese victories over a European power shock the World
  – Sneak naval attack before declaration of war
  – Problems of logistics for the Russians

• Emergence of Japan as a regional power, decline of Russia as a world power
• Russian Revolution of 1905

Russo-Japanese War
Next Week: The Naval Game