Seminar Introduction: Information Technology Goes to War!

Technology and 20th Century Warfare

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Administrativia

- 2 Units, Pass/Fall (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?

The Horror of Modern Warfare: Screening of “Saving Private Ryan”, opening Omaha Beach sequence.
• 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
USA vs. Spain in Cuba, Philippines, Puerto Rico

US supports Cuban “freedom fighters”

Sinking of the Maine in Havana Bay

Weak Spanish Empire and strong expansionist sentiments in USA

USA gains a Pacific empire, and the Filipinos were not happy

Spanish-American War
Reconquest of the Soudan

- Anglo-Egyptian Forces vs. Mahdist Sudanese
- Industrial-era weaponry vs. swords and spears
- Battle of Omdurman: Mahdist losses—10,000 killed, 13,000 wounded, 5,000 taken prisoner; British—48 killed, 382 wounded
- British control of Cape-to-Cairo railroad
Boer War

- Britain vs. Dutch Settlers (Boers aka the Afrikkanas) 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
Early 20th Century Strategic Decision Making
– Arms race between British Grand Fleet vs. German High Seas Fleet
– Who can build strategically the best navy, with the available financial resources?

Next Week: The Naval Game