

# Classroom Reading List: Conflict

## CFR Resources

Charles Landow and Mohammed Aly Sergie, “[The Northern Ireland](https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/northern-ireland-peace-process) [Peace Process](https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/northern-ireland-peace-process).”

A backgrounder on the Northern Ireland peace process and the ways in which British politics are endangering the peace. (2,000 words)

Lindsay Maizland and Beina Xu, “[The U.S.-Japan Security Alliance](https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/us-japan-security-alliance).”

A survey of the U.S.-Japan alliance, one of the United States’ most important alliances outside the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). (2,250 words)

Jonathan Masters, “[The North Atlantic Treaty Organization](https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/north-atlantic-treaty-organization-nato) [(NATO)](https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/north-atlantic-treaty-organization-nato).”

An introductory survey of the history and functioning of NATO. (2,500 words)

Jonathan Masters, “[Sea Power: The U.S. Navy and Foreign Policy](https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/sea-power-us-navy-and-foreign-policy).”

An introduction to the U.S. Navy and its role, including some consideration of the challenges it faces. (2,150 words)

## Articles

Margaret MacMillan, “[The World That War Has Made](https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-world-that-war-has-made-11601650668),” *Wall Street Journal*, October 2, 2020.

Adapted from the author’s recent book*, War: How Conflict Shaped Us*, a fascinating essay that discusses the many and varied consequences of wars throughout history. (2,200 words)

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Jeffrey E. Stern, “[From Arizona to Yemen: The Journey of an American](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/11/magazine/war-yemen-american-bomb-strike.html) [Bomb](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/11/magazine/war-yemen-american-bomb-strike.html),” New York Times, December 11, 2018.

A feature article that provides background on the ongoing conflict in Yemen while tracing the many effects war has on civilians. (7,600 words)

Thomas S. Szayna, Stephen Watts, Angela O’Mahony, Bryan Frederick, Jennifer Kavanagh, “[What Are the Trends in Armed](https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1904.html) [Conflicts, and What Do They Mean for U.S. Defense Policy?](https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1904.html)” RAND Corporation, 2017.

A report, from a nonprofit nonpartisan research organization, that offers some excellent graphs and data about changing trends in conflict, along with some analysis about the decline in armed conflict. (11 pages)

Declan Walsh and Somini Sengupta, “[For Thousands of Years, Egypt](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/02/09/world/africa/nile-river-dam.html) [Controlled the Nile. A New Dam Threatens That.](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/02/09/world/africa/nile-river-dam.html),” *New York Times*, February 9, 2020.

A feature article that offers a case study of the environmental dimension of interstate conflict. (2,300 words)

“[What Would Happen if America Left Europe to Fend for Itself?](https://www.economist.com/special-report/2019/03/14/what-would-happen-if-america-left-europe-to-fend-for-itself),”

*Economist*, March 14, 2019.

A thought experiment that illustrates the importance of NATO and the role that the United States plays in European security. (1,500 words)

## Books

Anand Gopal, *No Good Men Among the Living: America, the Taliban, and the War Through Afghan Eyes* (2014).

An award-winning narrative that follows three Afghan civilians and how they are affected by the ongoing war in Afghanistan. (304 pages)

Patrick Radden Keefe, *Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland (2019).*

A detailed account of a murder in Northern Ireland that also serves as an excellent overview of the Troubles. (441 pages)

## Multimedia

Zack Beauchamp, “[Three Big Reasons War Is Going Away](https://www.vox.com/2014/6/25/5841988/why-war-has-declined-in-two-minutes),” Vox, June 25, 2014.

A brief video that details three explanations for why conflict is decreasing. (2 minutes)

Adam B. Ellick and Adam Westbrook, “[Operation Infektion](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/12/opinion/russia-meddling-disinformation-fake-news-elections.html),” *New York Times*, November 12, 2018.

An outstanding three-part video documentary that explores Russian disinformation campaigns during the Cold War and today.

Neil Halloran, “[The Fallen of World War II](http://www.fallen.io/ww2/).”

A moving data visualization, available as a video or as an interactive, that depicts how many people died in the World War II and puts that number in context.

Danush Parvaneh and A. J. Chavar, “[Trade Wars, Explained](https://www.vox.com/videos/2018/6/6/17434282/trade-wars-explained-video),” Vox, June 6, 2018.

A comprehensive video that explains how conflict can play out through trade. (5 minutes)

“[Peace Lines](https://99percentinvisible.org/episode/peace-lines/),” *99 Percent Invisible*.

From a podcast about design and urban planning, a look at the Troubles in Northern Ireland through the lens of “peace walls” that separate Protestant and Catholic neighborhoods. (42 minutes)

“[The Perfect Weapon](https://www.hbo.com/documentaries/the-perfect-weapon),” *HBO*.

A new documentary, based on a book of the same name by David Sanger, that describes the history and growing importance of cyberwar as a form of conflict. (87 minutes)