

Paper #2.

Due in class #18

James Thompson, Jr., in his *How Could Vietnam Happen? An Autopsy*, makes a number of compelling arguments about failure points in U.S. national security policy making. Write an essay that examines Bush Administration (i.e., G.W. Bush) national security policy in the light of Thompson's analysis.

This essay is a serious test of your ability to extract "the big picture" from reading materials and then apply the arguments in your own analysis of a new case. Read the Thompson piece carefully. Extract the key arguments. Do any, some, or all apply to the Bush Administration national security policymaking? What evidence is available to support your analysis? [If you have been reading the newspaper all along as required you should already have some good sources of evidence.]

Your essay should focus first on those parts of Thompson's analysis that do apply directly and clearly to the present administration. Then you might turn to more ambiguous connections. Then finally, you might discuss elements of Thompson's analysis that do not apply if you believe and can argue that their absence largely invalidates the comparison. In other words, focus on what really matters and ignore minor differences. [Conversely, if you believe that Thompson's analysis is either irrelevant or that the Bush administration has internalized his analysis and is not making those mistakes, then you should focus your essay on

how the Bush administration is not repeating the errors that Thompson highlights.

The key to a solid paper is (1) concise extraction of Thompson's main arguments, (2) application of those arguments to the analysis of Bush administration policy, (3) detailing of evidence to support your analysis, and (4) clear and concise prose.

Citation Style for Papers

Many different citation styles exist. One of the easiest and simplest is the "science journal" style, which is what I want you to use in your papers. There are a number of permutations depending on the reference type.

Rule 1: embed the reference with the form (author last name, year) in the your text.

President Bush recently stated "...these folks have to be punished...." (Gertz, 2001).

Rule 2: If the same author has more than one reference in a given year (as many journalists do) append a letter -- a,b,c, etc. -- to the year. (Gertz, 1999a; Gertz, 1992b).

Rule 3: You need a bibliography at the end of the paper that gives the full citation to each reference. The bibliography should be alphabetical by author last name. It takes the form:

for a journal article:

Author last name, first name (year) "Article Title," Journal Name

for a book:

Author last name, first name(year) Book Title (Publishing City: Publisher)

for material in an edited book:

Author last name, first name (year of edited book publication) "Chapter Title," in Author(s) of edited volume, ed. Title of Book ((Publishing City: Publisher)

Examples:

Clinton, William (1997) "Advancing our Interests through Engagement and Enlargement," in Peter Hays, Brenda Vallance, and Alan Van Tassel American Defense Policy (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press), 284-297.

Gertz, William (2001) "Bush Goes to War," Washington Times (September 12), 1.

Kuconis, John (2002) Flying is Way Cool (Colorado Springs: US Air Force Academy), 200-203.