

Sociology 125. Lecture 24.  
**Militarism & Empire**  
Monday December 4, 2006

## **I. Introduction**

1. Traditional American views of War, Peace, and the U.S.
2. The reality
3. What is “militarism”?
  - Definition of Militarism
  - Militarism as a “policy” vs Militarism as an “Institution”

## **II. Historical Trajectory of American Militarism**

1. Founding Fathers
2. 19<sup>th</sup> Century ambivalence
3. The Spanish American War
4. Building a Modern Military Bureaucracy
5. WWI.
6. The Cold War: consolidating militarism.
7. Fifty years of interventions and military spending.
8. US Militarism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

## **III. Motivations for Militarism today: the problem of “Empire”**

1. Particular economic interests – especially control over crucial global resources
2. Maintenance of general global economic predominance of American multinational corporations.
3. National security (understood in a particular way).
4. Distinctive interests of the military-industrial complex itself.
5. Ideological Crusades.

## **IV. Consequences of Militarism and Empire**

1. Perpetual war
2. Reduction in democracy at home
3. Degradation of information
4. National Bankruptcy