

# Economic and Political Aspects of Wars and Armed Conflicts

Milena Palczewska

War Studies University, Warsaw, Poland

War, as a social phenomenon, is studied unofficially by most disciplines of social sciences. This is due to the nature of the war itself, which is an extremely interdisciplinary phenomenon. In common thought, war is associated exclusively with the science of history, but in its essence, this phenomenon also includes economics and political sciences. War undeniably affects the political and economic processes in the state, both in a negative and positive way. Often, also the strategies of the state's political activities and plans for economic development are conditioned by the occurrence of wars and armed conflicts.

*Keywords:* economy, politics, war, armed conflict, polemology

## Introduction

Economics is a social science that analyzes and describes the production, distribution, and consumption of goods. Economics is therefore the study of how the body and people decide on the use of resources, which may also have a different and alternative application, in order to produce different goods and distribute them to the consumption of the current or future, between different people and different groups in society. Therefore, often there are correlations between the economy and the phenomenon of war. You can even find that war without economics does not exist, and not once is even its immediate cause (in regard to economic conditions).

The modern level of development of the world economy has caused degradation of the rank of a number of problems, which in the past were either constant spark war conflicts, or assumed deposition, retaliation and covering the silence of history for the sake of peace and stabilization. (Stachowiak, 2012, p. 49)

Political studies take up politics as the overall activity, related to the exercise of political power, its function and role in social life, the theory of its organization, functions and nature of states, and international political organizations. The state, as one of the research areas of polemology (in respect of its operation during the war), necessarily connects to actions of war, because firstly they are carried out in the territory/territories of the countries concerned, and secondly they involve the states as parties, and thirdly they are often the cause of the dispute (in the territorial sense).

The research area of article is related to the economics and politics in the context of their relationship with wars and armed conflicts as well as polemology. The aim of the research is to show the relationships and dependencies of economics, politics, and wars. Main hypothesis claims that economics and politics, according to their research area have influence on the image of war.

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Milena Palczewska, Ph.D., associate professor, vice-dean for Student Affairs, Military Faculty, War Studies University, Warsaw, Poland.

Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to Milena Palczewska, War Studies University, al. gen. A. Chruściela 103, Warsaw 00-910, Poland.

### Methodology

The basics of war and peace show variety of tools and resources, by non-military and military forces, through strength and economic tools, to the efforts and peace efforts, both in terms of production, manufacturing, and trade. We can conclude that they are inextricably linked with the economic aspects of the functioning of the state. Therefore, the phenomenon of war and peace, ultimately results in security, including its economic aspect. Therefore, it is advisable to distinguish the economics of peace and war.

Economics of war is one form of life and functioning of the economic entity, social group, or the state in which occurs dominant consumption. Peace economics, in turn, is one form of this life and its operation, which is dominated by the production-abundance, prosperity, and wealth. Economics of war "(...) is the implementation of the consumption both by deconstructing assets, resources, and wealth and their maintenance, by the relations with nature and other people-trafficking, which essentially pursues the intention to correct for different kinds of reproduction" (Sulek & Płaczek, 1998. p. 33). While the peace economics is the implementation of production and manufacturing, adding something to the goods, wealth, and resources, measures and tools of economics of war and peace were and are now very diverse. Among them, we can mention the armed forces, armies, artisanal, factory, workshop, and farms. In addition, you will notice that in this war economics approach as well as in some aspects of the war, they appear as the first taken by humanity work, construction, and maintenance, more specifically describe in economic life through consumption. In turn, the economy, production, and industry are subject to large increase during the war, but after its completion, the damaged infrastructure is rebuilt.

In wars and armed conflicts, over the centuries, we use different types and generations. Market, as well as its impact on the operation and development of the armed forces, affects the economy of the conduct of wars. It is noted that such trend as the professionalization of the army and military service is taken by commercial companies. Subsequently, the author will discuss selected economic aspects and their impact on the image of the ongoing wars. In addition, they are presented in Figure 1.

The phenomenon of globalisation also includes weapons market, which became the political market. Looking from the point of view of political science and international relations, thinking plays an important role in terms of coalitions, alliances. Therefore, the aim of the implementation of national interests, as well as maximizing of power, occurs in the course of the competition with other countries. In this sense, the impact of globalization, as the pressure for consolidation of the defense industry and its science and research facilities, maintains a high level of technology and keeps up with the growing cost of armaments, with a relatively small expenditure of military.

After the cold war, global military finances fell significantly and rapidly. Currently, they remain at a similar level, however, it is noted that this applies only to highly developed countries. It was calculated that countries which have the greatest level of socio-economic development, make up 75% of the total military expenditure in the world, and in these areas inhabit only 15% of the population. In turn, in the group of the most vulnerable states and in terms of socio-economic development, the needs of military expenditure accounts for 4.5% of the world's spending; however, inhabitants of these states rise up to 41% of the total population of the world (Płaczek, 2004). Through analysis of trends in the world, we can generalize that the poorest states spend too little on their military needs; among them, the countries of the African Continent, East Asia, and South America, there is a big overpopulation. In the future, this can result in a war or armed conflict within

states, which will not be able to cope with their state off by their own means and tools.

The size of military expenses is linked to the production of reinforcing that with every coming year increases. However, not always the weapon and military equipment goes to the armed forces. Part is used to guerrilla activities and regulates disputes within states. These trends impinge negatively on the current shape of the security environment. Large impact on the economics of war and military is the fact that the arms industry has become much more focused, both national as well as international levels. It was visible that in the significant technological change, civilian technology has become increasingly important for weapons systems.

Besides, there are numerous processes of consolidation within the international defence industry, as shown, inter alia, in the privatization of self-absorption and defence services. This phenomenon attracts a new kind of suppliers to the procurement system. Currently, a dynamic growth among private companies is to ensure the safety of people and property protection, and infrastructure. Although some of these activities can be seen as a development of the armaments industry, other support activities are not military service. They relate to the overall security by creating the same peripherals consisting of private companies, around the right arms industry.

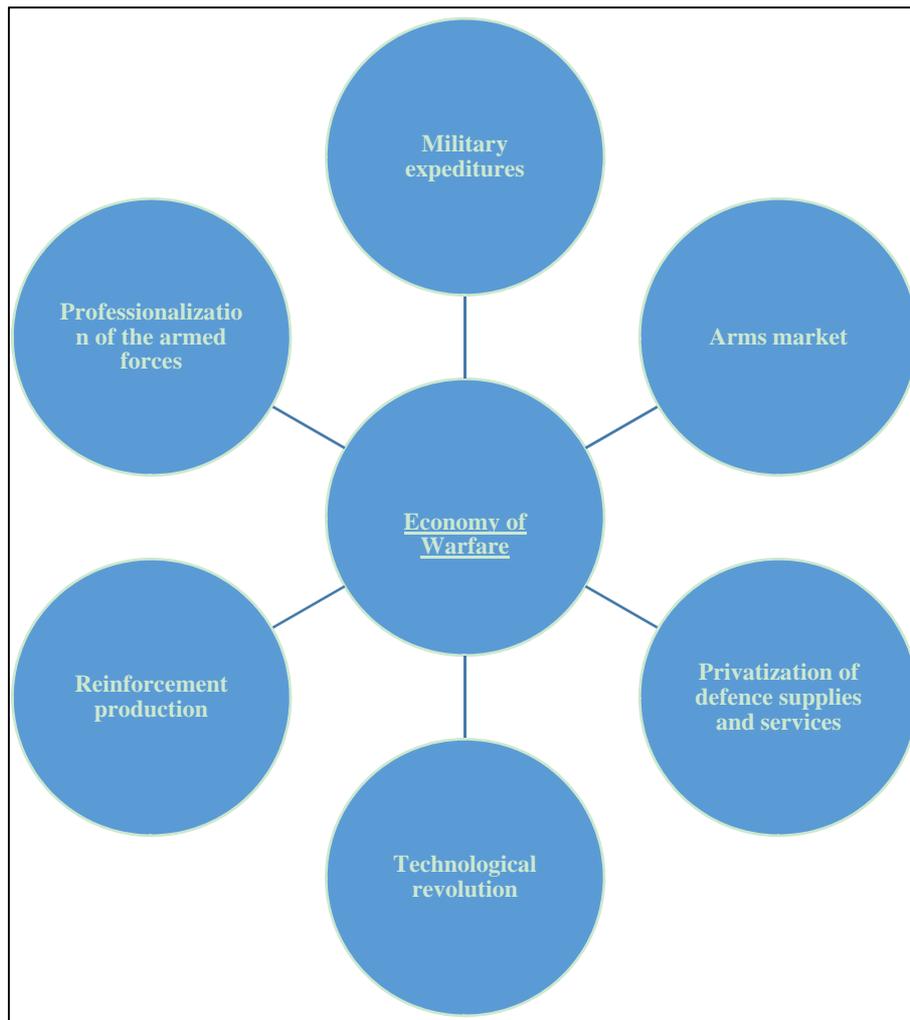


Figure 1. Economic aspects affecting image of wars. Source: Górski, Płaczek, Skarżyński, and Sułek (2008, pp. 146-156).

The defence sector of states will have to adapt to the following factors:

- The changing role of the force. Until now, politics and war are applied sequentially—using violence in order to destroy the conventional enemy forces. However, today and in the future, the use of force will be inextricably woven into the development of media and political situation.
- Technological revolution. Benefits will bring to the armed forces of the continuous development of microelectronics, techniques for detecting purposes, communication technology, biological sciences, and research on the use of new materials and technologies, associated with the use of energy sources. Increasingly, defense sector will have to use the rapid development of technology.

In connection with the large binding economic sector, defence of the country in recent years faced with trends that could threaten world peace and security. The first of these, it is explicit support from governments for the continuous transmission of high-potential weapons in less developed countries, for example, modern combat aircraft, long-range missiles, tanks, submarines, ammunition, radar detectors, etc. Second, the formation of alliances between producers from various countries appears among others in the transfer of military technology and defense systems. Third, it is a growing trend to adapt civilian technology for military purposes. In turn, the fourth trend is the increase in the number of developing countries that purchase technology for the production of weapons of mass destruction (Górski et al., 2008).

The armies of the world over the years are becoming less numerous, and in addition, noticeable is the growth trend of professionalization of modern armed forces. This factor has two main aspects. The first one is associated with the increasing saturation of engineering troops (complex weapons systems and equipment)—this requires a professional service. The second, related to the formal transition to a professional army, created exclusively by volunteers.

Another factor in the field of economics, affecting the shape of wars and armed conflicts, is their funding. Noticeable is the phenomenon of privatization of the armed conflicts. It manifests currently in the activities of private military companies, such as companies providing military services (offer their services on the front lines through direct action or direct command over the units front), the military company consultative (advisory services and training for the army), or military business support (provide services of a logistics).

Due to the changing world, and hence the phenomenon of war, some interdependence should be noted: The same forces that transform economic and social order convert also war. The war, which is turned at the present time, determines the increase or reduction of food prices in the shops, the shares on the stock markets, and fuel. Economic phenomena significantly correlate with war and armed conflict. In addition, in analysing the history of humanity, it can be said that the way in which people waged a war reflects on the course of history the way they worked. What is more, “from the invention of tilling, each revolution in goods entailed a revolution in the system of civil wars” (Toffler, 1998, p. 54).

It is also appropriate to mention that wars are periods of particularly high consumption of goods. This aspect of the war drew polemist G. Bouthoul’s (1981, p. 15) attention: “War destroys, always the same. Regardless of its sociological context, technical, political, economic, ethnic or ideological aspect, it involves fastest destruction of the human life and material assets”.

Economics always affects the war, sometimes less and sometimes more. The conduct of the war, keeping the armed forces, requires the use of the economic aspects of the functioning of the state. In this connection, the representatives of the polemistology by analyzing the war and armed conflict examine these phenomena, including economic issues. The money, which affects state security or the lack thereof, is derived from

economics. Polemologists, among others, by formulating polemological rules, are barometers of the modern world. They have this reflected in ongoing wars, but also in the wars of the future. It is possible that they will be carried out with the use of only including economic mechanisms, without the use of the armed forces.

The most well-known theorist of war, which highlighted the relationship policy with the war was C. Clausewitz. He (1995, pp. 762-771) wrote:

War is nothing more than the rest of the policy by other means. (...) So the war can never be separated from politics. (...) The subordination of the military political point of view would be absurd, because the war has created policy. The policy is intelligence, war and the only tool, and not the other way around. Remains so only need to comply with the point of view of the military political point of view. (...) So once again: the war is a tool of the policy and, if necessity, must have its character and measures. Directing the war in its main outlines is so policy that turns the pen on the sword, however, while continuing to reason according to their own rights.

According to the fact that the war remains, in accordance with C. Clausewitz, in close connection with the policy, the development of military technology has an impact on domestic and foreign policy. Having a more modern and effective military measures than the opponents constitutes a strong incentive, which can lead to a reformulation of strategic objectives. The war, however, is not only a political action. If we restrict the understanding only to the relationship with politics, it is very difficult, if at all possible, to understand the phenomenon of war among states and nations outside the western civilization, which bases its tools of military operations on the technology.

The war may affect the shape of the international political environment in the following ways:

- changes on the map of political world;
- transform forces systems, military alliances;
- the formation of the new states;
- changes in the conduct of internal policies and external countries;
- the map focuses on the political influence in the world (including changing nature of the political blocks).

The state and war—domination and violence—have become inseparable. The state has taken on the characteristics of the military organization. As periods of peace were becoming shorter and the frequency of war grew, states have become military garrisons. Their main role was to collect donations from the people and recruit out of the troops to maintain the ability of turning wars. The war has become the main preoccupation of the aristocracy—warriors and military officers—and the King, who was the commander-in-chief. The temporary army formed from the peasantry with the urge to place professional and permanent armies.

War is caused by “differences in the pace of development between the great powers, and what’s particularly significant, differences in the pace of development between the dominant and demanding, to ago second to catch up with the first” (Gałganek, 1990, pp. 106-107).

The war, regardless of its nature and objectives is pursued as the motor drive of humanity. Therefore, war even aggressive is fully justified. In anarchy international system, in which states are ongoing amongst themselves a continuous fight for survival, it is an integral part of the attribute of existence, so that thwarts all efforts that seek to prevent. This is the direction in which the fate of the world defines violence and war, and that even if the intentions are completely opposite. In this category, you can include both German Nazism, as well as the concepts of fascist, according to which B. Mussolini saw the war as a recurring phenomenon, which renews the vital forces of the nation. Next to the radical currents, we must also replace the Darwinism concepts of the struggle for existence, which were transferred to the coexistence between people and justify the reliance

upon the argument. Therefore it was pointed out that this is a trend for the second half of the 19th and the first half of the 20th century, when modern nation states were formed.

Analyzing the phenomenon of war on the plane of the repetitive processes has the nature of a global perspective. Noticeable here is linking global economic development, meaning the waves of long duration, with the onset of major armed conflicts and wars, which are the consequence of the transition from one period to another. These are the so-called N. Kondratiev cycles, which last an average of 50 years. In turn, G. Modelski has grown them for approximate 100 years, by associating them with the breakup of the geopolitical configuration.

These concepts may not constitute grounds for prevention of all armed conflicts. However, the generalizations in this area, as well as explaining them on a wider plane, certainly allow us to bring the process to which the modern world strives to remedy. The awareness of the amount of armed conflicts taking place in the pages of history, allows recognizing the phenomenon of war as a problem of the international community. While the scientific concepts related to policy and geopolitics, help to understand the causes of armed conflicts and violence, based on international relations, historical and geographical determinants.

Polemology, the study of nature and the phenomenon of war, cannot omit making aspects, policy, and international relations. These disciplines, strictly affect the causes, course, and consequences of wars and armed conflicts. In addition, from the business to political, it depends on the same war understood by some as a continuation of the policy. Actions which are taken by politicians and military commanders are one of the research areas of polemology, as they significantly affect the end result taken struggles. Polemological approach is also noticeable in the formulation of strategies, or national security systems of modern states. In a special way, it exposes in the activities relating to the main polemological thesis—from knowledge of war to the knowledge of peace. Currently, efforts to maintain peace in states policies are the primary area of interest of politicians, but also of military theorists and strategists.

## Results

War was from old times the subject of profit and loss calculations. The human loss account, especially tragic and especially strong on the imagination, was probably one of the most important stimuli for scientific analysis of the war, but certainly not the only one. The calculation of losses and profits was accompanied by the idea of war as it was the highest risk for the parties involved in the conflict. We can even assume that scientific calculations are currently being conducted to prevent war. It is advisable to investigate war and armed conflict (one and the same object) through various disciplines with their specific methods and “being foreign” in their own language. Therefore, economics is a science that correlates with polemology. Their common areas are presented in Table 1.

In the case of research, from the point of view of polemology and economics, the subject of analyzes using the theoretical resources of these disciplines makes a war—a systemic phenomenon. At the same time, models developed within one discipline (economics) can be transferred, at least to some extent, to the other discipline (polemology). The typical problems that arise are the questions: How can economic models describe wartime processes? How can economic models describing the emergence of economic structures be used to model socio-economic processes influencing conflict? Such studies of war require the cooperation of economists with polemologists, and their purpose is to understand how general categories obtain detailed exegesis in the disciplines of discourse.

Table 1

*Categories Which Implies Economics and Polemology*

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|--|
| Production, distribution, and consumption of goods during wars and armed conflicts |
| Human needs in the course of wars  |
| International economic relations   |
| Functioning of the economy in time of war  |
| Peace economics and economics of war   |
| Strategic raw materials as a conflict category                                     |
| The technological revolution   |
| Military expenses  |
| Professionalization of the armed forces and reinforcing production                 |
| The economic mechanisms that drive the course of wars and armed conflicts          |

Source: made by author.

Referring to the current international situation, it is important to correlate wars and armed conflicts to the future. This direction has been identified as one of the future areas of common research interest in economics and polemology. The severe economic crisis that began in 2008 and continues to grow, has recently become drastically sharpened and has become a starting point for growing criticism of the economy of the armed forces, the defense industry, and armed conflict. Furthermore, the social consequences of its actions are being criticized. However, they are also an impulse to reflect on the changes and constructive remediation of modern world reality. Although such radical ideas are not yet in place, the idea of moving to a social (not military) market economy is in the current trend. It is considered as a possible alternative to the neo-liberal model, and it is a response to the imperfections of the currently dominant form of capitalism in the armed industry. Such a change requires not only the transformation of the economy, but also the mentality of people with an emphasis on shaping their pro-social behavior, such as the National Reserve Forces can participate.

Polemology recognizes that the causes of wars should be at the economic level, mainly political: alliances, coalitions, changes of opinion under the influence of ideology, and propaganda or religion (Cesarz & Stadtmüller, 1996). Therefore, correlations between the political studies and polemology have also been presented (see Table 2).

Table 2

*Relationship of Political Studies and Polemology*

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| War as continuation of the policy                          |
| Exercising political power                                 |
| International relations                                    |
| Movements and political doctrines                          |
| State and its functioning during the period of the war     |
| State as a side of to the conflict                         |
| Internal and external policy of state                      |
| Transformation of forces, military alliances               |
| Evolving the map of political influence in the world       |
| Formulation of strategies and systems of national security |

Source: made by author.

War science is a kind of research that requires from researcher a professional and comprehensive knowledge of more than one discipline (e.g., political studies or geography) to accomplish a research goal that is impossible to achieve within a single discipline.

Political scientist B. de Mesquita has

Analyzed the causes of the 251 military conflicts that have been taking place in the world over the past two centuries, and concluded that in most cases the aggressors correctly estimated that a successful invasion would serve the interests of their country. (Pinker & Rasa, 2005, p. 451)

Political studies give synonyms of openness and susceptibility to new ideas, going beyond the rigid in these discipline inefficient models of scientific activity. They are the expression of criticism of the present state and the desire to change it. In addition, through interdisciplinary approaches in polemological studies, progress will be made in solving theoretical and empirical problems, previously analyzed separately by particular disciplines (political studies). The use of research methods in the field of political studies allows not only to re-interpret the effects described by polemology, but also to propose new research hypotheses, which could not be worked out using the methodology of only one of the scientific disciplines. It seems that such an approach in the study of war and armed conflict should be applied as widely as possible.

Polemologist Q. Wright calculated that in Europe in the years 1480-1940, there was 278 wars. Summing up they were: United Kingdom (28%), France (26%), Spain (23%), Russia (22%), Austria (19%), Turkey (15%), Poland (11%), Sweden (9%), Italy (9%), the Netherlands (8%), Germany (Prussia) (8%), and Denmark (7%) (Wright, 1964). There is a noticeable relationship between the process of expanding state territory and gaining a higher position in the international community and the frequency of engaging in armed conflict. However, it should be mentioned that M. Adler believed that “war would never be a mean to freedom unless it was a continuation of the struggle for freedom. War can be a defense for the gained freedom” (Ryszka, 1975, p. 93).

Today’s research is not an isolated system, but its reconstructions are possible in close connection with other systems, especially with the state (law, administration, financing, evaluation, etc.) and business (finance, dependency, management, evaluation, verification, etc.).

Diplomacy is one of the possibilities for resolving wars and armed conflicts in the future. It is diplomacy, which allows us to see the intrinsic value of internal initiatives and to understand that the solutions imposed by the winners who are very rare (if any) regulating these problems. Only the participants of the conflict (internal or international) can best identify their needs and develop the techniques they need to meet them. These aspirations may be translated into the language of peace initiatives, negotiation programs, and a deeper doctrinal-ideological justification.

“In the post-Cold War world, there is yet another new type of conflict in which armed force is used. These are internal conflicts involving regular armed forces and partisans and paramilitary units, as well as groups of armed civilians” (Malendowski, 1999, p. 13).

Last but not least, an important aspect is that F. Ryszka, as a related science to polemology, also mentioned politicometrics, which is based on two main streams:

- “Study of causes and consequences of war, seeking to the new definition of conflict;
- Research of ‘internal mechanisms of conflict’, approaching the traditional discipline of the art of war” (Ryszka, 1984, p. 504).

## Conclusion

Polemologic knowledge about war and armed conflict, in addition to theoretical, has also important practical part. It is associated with the belief that reality (social world) is multidimensional and its understanding, which should take into account the different contexts and perspectives. Therefore, the development of polemology should be based on mutual and effective cooperation of various sciences, disciplines, and scientific disciplines (while maintaining the specificities of individual scientific disciplines). As a result of the implementation of the designed intent of the examination procedure, you can assess that the aim of the work was accomplished as specified and depending on the polemology with the related sciences. In addition, it assessed the degree of interdisciplinarity and indicated action that should be taken for peace. Getting to know the essence of war and armed conflict in the past, present, and future can be creatively used in the various aspects of the measures and procedures for the safety and defence of the state. It is also possible to design strategy and improve systems to extend the zone of peace in global, regional, and local levels.

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