OUTLINE OF LECTURE 7: THE CAUSES OF WAR

1. The Puzzle of War
   • why rationalist explanations?
   • war as a bargaining problem
   • bargaining range always exists
   • latent use of force to drive bargains

2. Rationalist Explanations for War
   1. indivisibility of stakes
      • shared control
      • side-payments
   2. asymmetric information
      • private information
      • incentives to misrepresent
      • risk-return trade-off
      • risks vs. mistakes
      • war as a bargaining process
      • wartime revelation of information
      • convergent expectations
      • two examples: Seven Weeks War (1866), Serbo-Bulgarian War (1885)
   3. credible commitment problem
      • time inconsistency
      • preemptive war
      • preventive war
      • armistice and cease-fires
      • ethnic conflict and disarmament
      • power transition theory?
      • two examples: Peloponnesian War (432 BC), Second World War (1939)
   4. the costs of peace
      • preventing power shifts
      • example: China's intervention in the Korean War (1950)