



## KAUTILYA SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

GITAM (Deemed to be University)  
Rudraram, Patancheru Mandal  
Hyderabad, Telangana 502329

<b>Course Code:</b> PPOL6811	<b>Course Title:</b> Military Interventions, Technology & The Changing Character of War	
<b>Trimester:</b> 4	<b>Course Type:</b> Elective	<b>Credits:</b> 3
<b>Home Program(s):</b> MPP	<b>Batch/Academic Year:</b> 2023-2025	
<b>Course Lead:</b> Air Vice Marshal (Dr) Arjun Subramaniam (Retd)	<b>Assigned TA/RA:</b>	

### Course Description

The broader role of the instrument of force in statecraft in contemporary times along with the rapidly changing character of warfare in the light of several ongoing conflicts in a highly securitised global geopolitical environment merits serious examination. Additionally, the existing moral, ethical and theoretical framework of the 'Just War' theory needs additional contextual discussion in the light of how technology is impacting the conduct of wars such as the Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Hamas conflicts.

Military interventions are viewed as a muscular manifestation of national power in pursuit of national interests in the Post WWII era and states have regularly exercised this option even though the results have been unpredictable, consequences uncertain and failures are not uncommon.

The failure of several military interventions like the ones in Iraq and Afghanistan makes it very easy to deliver a verdict on the follies and dangers of interventions. The ongoing crises in Ukraine and Gaza are indicative of the unforeseen outcomes of interventions. However, it is also important to reflect on some interventions that have been rather successful in furthering national interests, irrespective of how much of the world sees it. The British intervention in The Falklands in 1983, India's intervention in Bangladesh and the Maldives in 1971 and 1988 respectively and the successful Russian interventions in Syria in 2015 are among examples of interventions driven purely by national interest.

While the easiest thing to do in discussions on military interventions is to question the rationale for interfering in another nation's affairs, altruism and the capacity to alleviate human suffering is often used as the rationale for military intervention as it was used by India in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, and by NATO in the Balkans. Whenever interventions have been successful, they have been so because of clear political objectives, calibrated use of force and a clear understanding of the difference between conflict termination and conflict resolution that lead to timely exit strategies.

Military interventions endorsed by the United Nations under the umbrella of collective security and Responsibility to Protect (R2P) have also assumed significance in the post-Cold War era,

particularly in Africa. These become even more relevant to examine in the light of major Indian contributions in several UN Peacekeeping missions since the 1950s. However, the lack of global consensus in recent years over such interventions has seen an erosion in the capability of the UN to effectively intervene in inter or intra state conflict.

Theories and outcomes would be reinforced with an adequate exposure to case studies, interactive discussions and group presentations.

### Learning Objectives

The primary learning objectives of the course will revolve around the following core ideas:

- **Examine** how war and conflict are an integral part of the evolution of Post WW-II international order.
- **Explain** the role of force and military interventions as an intrinsic tool of statecraft.
- **Critically** examine realpolitik, national interests, ideology and altruism as drivers of interventions.
  
- Assess the global, regional and societal impact as well as the consequences of various interventions through a strategic and operational lens.
- Understand the importance of technology and space as critical enablers and force multipliers in various facets of warfare.

### Course Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the military dynamics and the changing character of war and conflict that underpin the current global order.
- **Recognise** the role of military interventions as a critical manifestation of state power in a highly securitised contemporary global order.
- Assess, with the help of case studies, the drivers of military interventions.
- Appreciate the consequences and limitations of military interventions for pursuit of national interests.
- Understand better the impact of technology interdisciplinary nature of complex public policy issues

### Course Schedule

Unit I	Sessions: 4	<b>An introduction to the Role of force in statecraft &amp; Military Interventions</b>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ An introduction to the Role of Force &amp; the 'why' and 'how' of military interventions.</li> <li>➤ The reasons and types of military interventions during the Cold War &amp; post-Cold war era.</li> <li>➤ Chronological Overview of military interventions</li> <li>➤ The Just War Theory &amp; The Changing Character of War</li> </ul>		
<b>Unit II</b>	<b>Sessions: 6</b>	<b>Military Interventions during the Cold War</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ U.S. Intervention in Vietnam: A Strategic and Operational Assessment</li> <li>➤ The 1971 Indian Intervention in Bangladesh</li> <li>➤ The Indian Peacekeeping Force in Sri Lanka &amp; India's intervention in The Maldives</li> </ul>		
<b>Unit III</b>	<b>Sessions: 4</b>	<b>Multilateral Military Initiatives</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ An Introduction to UN Peacekeeping Operations</li> <li>➤ The concept of Responsibility to Protect (R2P)</li> <li>➤ UN interventions in Africa: Putting R2P to work</li> <li>➤ India's Experience in UNPKOs</li> </ul>		
<b>Unit IV</b>	<b>Sessions: 4</b>	<b>Great Power intervention is no guarantee of success</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ US interventions in Iraq and Afghanistan : Drivers &amp; Consequences</li> <li>➤ Russian interventions in Georgia, Crimea &amp; Ukraine</li> </ul>		
<b>Unit V</b>	<b>Sessions: 6</b>	<b>Changing nature of Warfare: Proxy Wars, Impact of Technology - Policy Implications</b>

- Emergence of proxy states: Israel, Hamas and Hezbollah
- The evolving role of the economic weapons as a complementary tool of intervention:
- Technology in contemporary warfare, militarisation & weaponisation of space & impact of AI
- Group Presentations will address changes in warfare and its policy implications