

Josef Korbel School Student Endorsed Reading List

Profit Over People by Noam Chomsky

Submitted by Adrina Durham, MA Candidate in International Development

Chomsky illustrates, through a collection of essays, the harm that neo-liberalism has caused in various nations. Extensive partnerships between governments and corporations often end up neglecting the people, thus profit has become more important than people. Chomsky's uncommon insight provides one with a sense of recent politics, preparing one to understand the politics of modern governments that may be studied in class.

The Wisdom of Whores: Bureaucrats, Brothels and the Business of AIDS by Elizabeth Pisani

Submitted by Andrew Ferris, MA Candidate in International Human Rights

An interesting look at the complexity of the AIDS pandemic given from the perspective of the disease in Southeast Asia (primarily Indonesia). The book unmasks how unprecedented funds and ideology have formed AIDS policy that is not always beneficial to those who suffer from the illness. It is a fresh perspective and a great read.

Don't Sleep, there are Snakes by Dan Everett

Submitted by Andrew Ferris, MA Candidate in International Human Rights

Deep in the jungles of the Amazon basin lives a small, isolated tribe called the Pirahã. Since 1977, linguist Dan Everett has made it his life's work to study the incredibly unique and extremely difficult language of these people. His work has upended many of the ways that we think about the relationship between language and thought. In a culture with no defined system of numbers or colors and no concept of cultural history, Everett's research flies in the face of modern linguistic theory. The world of the Pirahã is as fascinating as it is alien and the questions it raises about imagination, cognition, and human nature force the reader to reconsider the role that language plays in interpreting the world around us.

The Mantle of the Prophet: Religion and Politics in Iran by Roy Mottahedeh

Submitted by Roy Baran, MA Candidate in International Studies

A terrific, in-depth look at the politics of Iran leading up to the 1979 revolution, widely considered one of the best books written on this topic. Good for anyone with an interest in Middle East politics, regardless of how much experience you have with the subject. Mottahedeh takes the social and political issues of Iran and ties them together with the true story of a young cleric who becomes a student of Khomeini. The great thing about this book is how accessible and easy to read it is (much of it reads like a novel), while still giving a lot of detailed information about the subject matter.

Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice by Jack Donnelly

Submitted by Nirvana Bhatia, MA Candidate in International Human Rights

This brief overview of the birth of human rights and the resulting issues is required reading in the Introduction to Human Rights course, and I think it provides an excellent introduction to the subject. What exactly are rights? Who really qualifies as "human?" Donnelly is a prolific writer who is often quoted by other human-rights writers, and he presents his material (and opinions) in an effective and simple manner. It's a good (and short!) reference book and will certainly spark your interest in a particular area of this dynamic field.

The Waste Land and Other Poems by T.S. Eliot

Submitted by Nirvana Bhatia, MA Candidate in International Human Rights

Eliot wrote this masterpiece in 1922, but its assessment of human despair and comprehensive reflection on history and culture remain relevant today. Culture and identity play an incredibly valuable role in international studies, and this poem is a beautiful expression of that.

"A Problem from Hell" America and the Age of Genocide by Samantha Power

Submitted by Joanna Miller, MA Candidate in International Human Rights

A required text for the Human Rights and International Security course, this book gives a great overview of the policy of the United States towards genocides, and includes case studies on Bosnia, Rwanda, Cambodia, and several others. Power raises the issue of how US foreign policy balances security concerns with human rights and the promise of the US to take whatever means necessary to prevent genocide.

International Law by Vaughn Lowe

Submitted by Joanna Miller, MA Candidate in International Human Rights

This book is a great introduction to international law for anyone who hasn't had experience in international and/or human rights law.

A Crime so Monstrous: Face-to-Face with Modern-Day Slavery by Benjamin Skinner

Submitted by Joanna Miller, MA Candidate in International Human Rights

Skinner's book is a must-read for anyone interested in modern slavery, human trafficking, and the role of the US Trafficking-in-Persons Office in fighting human trafficking across the globe.

Autonomy, Sovereignty, and Self-Determination by Hurst Hannum

Submitted by Kristin Hissong, MA Candidate in International Studies

A recent favorite that has been invaluable in my thesis writing process; combining international law with the cyclical issues of minority rights and self-determination, it is an interesting glance in to creation of ethnic nation-states that arose from the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Religious Foundations of Western Civilization by Jacob Neusner

Submitted by Kristin Hissong, MA Candidate in International Studies

A long but easy and enjoyable read, this book is a great insight in to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam and each faith's interaction with Western Civilization.

Torture and Democracy by Darius Rejali

Submitted by Kristin Hissong, MA Candidate in International Studies

This book has been a required text in multiple classes that I've taken at Korbelt and, as the title states, provides a fascinating examination of torture in democratic societies and how torture is perceived in various political systems.

Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation: Southern Europe, South America, and Post-Communist Europe by Juan Linz

Submitted by Kristin Hissong, MA Candidate in International Studies

This book analyzes past attempts at political transition in various regions and the effectiveness, or lack thereof, for democracy to ease transition and consolidation. It has become so essential to my graduate work that it is a continual point of reference for me in every class I take and lends invaluable insight to post-colonial transitions.

The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11 by Lawrence Wright

Submitted by Bailey Culp, MA candidate in International Security

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, this book will help students prepare for Korbel in that it paints an excellent, well-researched, picture of the rise of Al-Qaeda and documents failures in U.S. intelligence in foreseeing 9/11. It provides a detailed historical account of the rise of Al-Qaeda and other Islamic extremist groups.

The Return of Depression Economics and the Crisis of 2008 by Paul Krugman

Submitted by Nancy Clarkson, MA candidate in Global, Finance, Trade and Economic Integration (GFTEI)

This book provides a good summary of past Asian and Latin American crises leading up to the 2008 financial crisis, events which are often referenced in GFTEI classes.

The World of Yesterday by Stefan Zweig

Submitted by Jarrod Meyer, MA candidate in International Studies

This book gives a humanist perspective on the fall of Europe, its history and understanding the world.

The Next 100 Years: A forecast for the 21st century by George Friedman.

Submitted by Shane Hensinger, MA candidate in International Security

Friedman is the founder of America's premier private intelligence forecast service - Stratfor and as such has a unique perspective on the challenges and opportunities facing the US and the world over the next 100 years. His analysis encourages out-of-the-box thinking and turns much conventional wisdom on its head. He's also an engaging author.

Seeds of Terror: How Heroin is Bankrolling the Taliban and Al Qaeda by Gretchen Peters.

Submitted by Shane Hensinger, MA candidate in International Security

Gretchen is a Josef Korbel School student and a long-time observer of Afghanistan and Pakistan with years of residency in both countries. Her knowledge is real-world and not theoretical and as such she provides an invaluable picture of where US policy is going wrong in both countries and more importantly - how to make it right.

The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism by Naomi Klein.

Submitted by Shane Hensinger, MA candidate in International Security

A stinging rebuke of the neo-liberal philosophy which has dominated US and western development theory for decades now - Klein's book pulls no punches. Controversial but eminently well-researched, sourced and quoted The Shock Doctrine is a must read for any student who wonders why decades of "development" assistance through US and multilateral agencies has failed to address much of the world's endemic poverty.

Insurgency and Terrorism: From Revolution to Apocalypse by Bard O'Neill.

Submitted by Shane Hensinger, MA candidate in International Security

A bible of military and non-military analysts of the juxtaposition between terrorism and insurgency. O'Neill is a brilliant thinker who lays out compellingly the reasons why terrorism and insurgency arise and how they can be mitigated and defeated.

Inside Terrorism by Bruce Hoffman.

Submitted by Shane Hensinger, MA candidate in International Security

Hoffman is the world's preeminent theorist on terrorism and as such this book is a bible for students of the subject. He rationally and methodically lays out the reasons why individuals and groups take up terrorism as a tactic and demolishes many of the standard shibboleths around terrorism. The book has been expanded to include his take on the atomization of Al Queda.

Intelligence: From Secrets to Policy by Mark Lowenthal.

Submitted by Shane Hensinger, MA candidate in International Security

Required reading for all students and practitioners of the intelligence field. Lowenthal's book makes for compelling as well as informative reading and will lay the groundwork for those who wish to work in the intelligence field in the United States.

International Law: Sixth Edition by Malcolm N. Shaw.

Submitted by Shane Hensinger, MA candidate in International Security

Jus cogens? Customary International Law? The Geneva Conventions? All buzz words thrown around by people who usually have very little understanding of their meaning but who should really no differently. Shaw does know about these three subjects and a lot more and this book is one of the foundations of understanding the complex and sometimes contradictory web of international law.

The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What can be Done About it by Paul Collier

Submitted by Kyle Jordan, MA candidate in Global Finance, Trade, and Economic Integration

Heart of Darkness by Conrad

Submitted by Kyle Jordan, MA candidate in Global Finance, Trade, and Economic Integration

The Lexus and the Olive Tree by Thomas Friedman

Submitted by Kyle Jordan, MA candidate in Global Finance, Trade, and Economic Integration

The Cost of Living by Arundhati Roy

Submitted by Kyle Jordan, MA candidate in Global Finance, Trade, and Economic Integration

Boomerang! How our Covert Wars have Created Enemies across the Middle East and Brought Terror to America by Mark Zepezauer

Submitted by Kyle Jordan, MA candidate in Global Finance, Trade, and Economic Integration

The End of Poverty by Jeffrey D. Sachs

Submitted by Kyle Jordan, MA candidate in Global Finance, Trade, and Economic Integration

Plan B 2.0: Rescuing a Planet Under Stress and a Civilization in Trouble by Lester R. Brown

Submitted by Kyle Jordan, MA candidate in Global Finance, Trade, and Economic Integration

Promises Not Kept: Poverty and the Betrayal of Third World Development by John Isbister

Submitted by Kyle Jordan, MA candidate in Global Finance, Trade, and Economic Integration