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Ortadoęu Enstitüsü  
معهد الشرق الأوسط  
Middle East Institute  
پژوهشگاه خاور میانه

# Proxy Warfare in the Middle East - Syllabus

Module Code: ODC 554 / MES 506  
Level : MA

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**Module Convenor: Associate  
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**NAME OF THE MODULE:**

ODC 554 / MES 506 – PROXY WARFARE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

**TERM:**

MA Module – Fall

**MODULE CONVENOR:**

Associate Professor Aytaç KADIOĞLU

**PLAN OF THE MODULE:**

Week 1: Introduction: War, Proxy and Proxy-Sponsor Relationships

Week 2: Proxies and sponsors

Week 3: The Use of Proxy Agents

Week 4: Private Military Companies

Week 5: Terrorist Groups

Week 6: Cyber Warfare

Week 7: Hybrid Warfare

Week 8: Benefits and Challenges of Proxy War

Week 9: Conventional war vs. Proxy Combatants

Week 10: Proxy War Typologies in the Middle East and North Africa

Week 11: The Iraq War

Week 12: The Syrian Civil War

Week 13: The Yemeni Civil War

Week 14: The Russia-Ukraine War

## **READING LIST**

### **Essential Reading**

- Mumford, A. (2013). *Proxy Warfare*. Cambridge: Polity.
- Berman, E., & Lake, D. A. (Eds.) (2019). *Proxy Wars: Suppressing Violence through Local Agents*. London: Cornell University Press.

### **Supplementary Reading**

- Groh, T. L. (2019). *Proxy War: The Least Bad Option*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Hughes, G. (2012). *My Enemy's Enemy: Proxy Warfare in International Politics*. Sussex: Sussex Academic Press.

## **WEEKLY READING LIST**

### **Week 1: Introduction: War, Proxy and Proxy-Sponsor Relationships**

This lecture will describe the content of the module, student reading and written requirements. The terms war, proxy, and proxy-sponsor relationships will be discussed.

### **Week 2: Proxies and sponsors**

- Mumford, A. (2013). *Proxy Warfare*. Cambridge: Polity [Chapter 1: What is Proxy War? And Chapter 2: Why Does Proxy War Appeal?]

### **Week 3: The Use of Proxy Agents**

- Mumford, A. (2013). *Proxy Warfare*. Cambridge: Polity [Chapter 3: Who Engages in Proxy War?]

#### **Week 4: Private Military Companies**

[Students should read both articles.]

- Mumford, A. (2013). Proxy Warfare and the Future of Conflict. *The RUSI Journal*, 158(2), 40-46.
- Mumford, A. (2013). *Proxy Warfare*. Cambridge: Polity [Chapter 5: The Future of Proxy War].

#### **Week 5: Terrorist Groups**

[Students should read both articles.]

- Maurer, T. (2016). 'Proxies' and Cyberspace. *Journal of Conflict and Security Law*, 21(3), 383-403.
- Olsen, G. R. (2014). Fighting Terrorism in Africa by Proxy: The USA and the European Union in Somalia and Mali. *European Security*, 23(3), 290-306.

#### **Week 6: Cyber Warfare**

[Students should read the first article. The second article is the additional source.]

- Borghard, E. D., & Lonergan, S. W. (2016). Can States Calculate the Risks of Using Cyber Proxies? *Orbis*, 60(3), 395-416.
- Turse, N. (2012). *The Changing Face of Empire: Special Ops, Drones, Spies, Proxy Fighters, Secret Bases, and Cyberwarfare*. Haymarket Books.

#### **Week 7: Hybrid Warfare**

[Students should read the first article. The second article is the additional source.]

- Renz, B. (2016). Russia and 'Hybrid Warfare', *Contemporary Politics*, 22:3, 283-300.
- Hoffman, F. G. (2014). Hybrid Warfare and Challenges. In *Strategic Studies* (329-337). Routledge.

### **Week 8: Benefits and Challenges of Proxy War**

[Students should read the first article. The remaining articles are supplementary sources.]

- Rauta, V. (2021). 'Proxy War'-A Reconceptualisation. *Civil Wars*, 23(1), 1-24.
- Mumford, A. (2013). Proxy Warfare and the Future of Conflict, *The RUSI Journal*, 158:2, 40-46.
- Rauta, V. (2020). Proxy Warfare and the Future of Conflict: Take Two. *The RUSI Journal*, 165(2), 1-10.

### **Week 9: Conventional war vs. Proxy Combatants**

[Students should read both articles.]

- Marshall, A. (2016). From Civil War to Proxy War: Past History and Current Dilemmas. *Small Wars & Insurgencies*, 27(2), 183-195.
- Fox, A. C. (2019). Conflict and the Need for a Theory of Proxy Warfare. *Journal of Strategic Security*, 12(1), 44-71.

### **Week 10: Proxy War Typologies in the Middle East and North Africa**

[Students should read the first article. The second book is the additional source.]

- Hanau Santini, R. (2017). A New Regional Cold War in the Middle East and North Africa: Regional Security Complex Theory Revisited. *The International Spectator*, 52(4), 93-111.
- Turse, N. (2015). *Tomorrow's Battlefield: US Proxy Wars and Secret Ops in Africa*. Haymarket Books.

### **Week 11: The Iraq War**

[Students should read the first article. The second book is the additional source.]

- Hansen, C. H. & T. B. Henningsen (2022). Whose Proxy War? The Competition among Iranian Foreign Policy Elites in Iraq, *Small Wars & Insurgencies*, 33:6, 973-998.
- Lake, A. D. (2019). Iraq, 2003-11: Principal Failure (238-263), in Berman, E., & Lake, D. A. (eds.) *Proxy Wars: Suppressing Violence through Local Agents*. Cornell University Press.

### **Week 12: The Syrian Civil War**

[Students should read the first article. The remaining articles are supplementary sources.]

- Hughes, G. A. (2014). Syria and the Perils of Proxy Warfare. *Small Wars & Insurgencies*, 25(3), 522-538.
- Phillips, C., & Valbjørn, M. (2018). 'What is in a name?': The role of (different) identities in the multiple proxy wars in Syria. *Small Wars & Insurgencies*, 29(3), 414-433.
- Kadioğlu, İ. A. (2018). The Proxy Warfare in Syria. *Political Reflection*. 4 (4). pp. 10-15.

### **Week 13: The Yemeni Civil War**

[Students should read all articles.]

- Hughes, G. (2015). A Proxy War in Arabia: The Dhofar Insurgency and Cross-border Raids into South Yemen. *The Middle East Journal*, 69(1), 91-104.
- Brewer, B. (2019). Yemen, 2001-11: Building on Unstable Ground, (210-237), in Berman, E., & Lake, D. A. (eds.) *Proxy Wars: Suppressing Violence through Local Agents*. Cornell University Press.
- Kadioğlu, İ. A. (2019). Yemen Civil War: A Conflict That Has Never Ended. *Political Reflection*. 5 (1). pp. 15-20.

#### **Week 14: The Russia-Ukraine War**

- Pfaff, C. A. (2022). Proxy War or not, Ukraine Shows Why Moral Hazards Matter. *Atlantic Council*, published on 09.06.2022, available at <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/proxy-war-or-not-ukraine-shows-why-moral-hazards-matter/>.