Writing Topic and Discussion Focus Questions: Revolutionary Change, Terrorism, and Non-Violent Resistance

The readings and seminar meetings for the next several class meetings will focus on the use of violence to achieve political ends. The first block of readings on political violence will focus on the question of whether armed revolution, armed intervention from the outside, or nonviolent resistance is more likely to achieve positive, long-lasting change in cases where much or all of the population

Focus questions to prepare for our discussion session: As you prepare for classes, please make sure to review the focus questions in the unit's study guide. Even if you are not writing a paper this particular topic, the discussion day's material is covered on exams, and you are expected to come to our discussion section having completed the block's readings and prepared to fully participate in our discussion.

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Writing topic and directions: You will need to write only one more discussion topic paper after you have submitted your self-assessment essay. You will have several topics from which to choose, including this one.

This topic's writing prompt is:

>*When, if ever, is political violence likely to be successful in removing brutal governments? Under what circumstances should repressed citizens consider engaging in nonviolent resistance instead of armed struggle to challenge tyranny in their society?*

>*Note: Do not answer these questions one after another. Write an analytical essay that has a main argument that responds to the prompt's questions as a whole. Systematically develop and defend that argument using evidence from the week's readings.*

If you write on this topic, your paper needs to be at least 1,500 words in length. Keep in mind as you answer this question that the main purpose of this assignment is for you to make a reasoned, well-defended (by the readings and specific evidence wherever possible) argument that engages class concepts and materials. **For you to do well on the paper, it needs to be clear that you have carefully reviewed the relevant assignment from the full week's reading on this topic** (i.e., not just the readings for the discussion day). Please **do not use any outside readings or other sources unless you specifically have cleared doing so** (i.e., you may not use the internet, unassigned authors, or any other student's work, to help you write the paper).

To be considered as having been submitted on time, do the following:

(1) Email your paper as a PDF or MS Word or RTF attached document (if you send the document as an e-mail message, in pages format, or as a link to a cloud server document or drive—such as Google Docs/Drive—the paper will not be accepted until it submitted in one of the acceptable formats and late penalties will apply).
(2) Send the email and attachment to: msetzler@highpoint.edu. Include a short note explaining what the attachment is.
(3) Make sure the message's subject line is: PSC1010 paper 3.
(4) Submit a hard copy of the paper at the start of class. Ideally, your paper will be stapled, but at a minimum, it should be paperclipped. Use double-spacing, and number your pages.

Before you begin writing, carefully review the grading assessment criteria for this assignment (the grading rubric for essay grading in lower division courses is on the course website, under the "Student Resources" tab).

You also should review carefully the course website handouts addressing citation expectations and the syllabus policies on "Academic dishonesty" and "Using artificial intelligence assistants, including ChatGPT and similar technologies." I have elaborated a separate handout on the legitimate and effective use of AI resources in this class. You need to (re)read this document prior to starting any paper for this class:
https://marksetzler.org/generalissues/AI.htm

The paper's citations and bibliography must carefully follow one of three formats most used in the social sciences: University of Chicago, the APA, or the APSA. For your convenience, my website provides a handout with many formatting examples using the APSA style. You need to use page-specific citations so that your instructor can quickly verify your interpretation of cited material. Without exception, instances of plagiarism (see the syllabus statement) will be reported and punished according to university policy.

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