The Cold War and the Social Sciences

AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Papers on the use of geographical information systems, global positioning systems, satellite image processing, ground-penetrating radar, and other Cold War-derived space technology in socio-cultural anthropology and archaeology.


Selective bibliography of 1300 books, journal articles, dissertations and government publications on the origins and nature of the Cold War, focusing on the period 1938–1950.


Concerns the confluence of missionary activity (Wycliffe Bible Translators, AKA Summer Institute of Linguistics) and counterinsurgency programs (some aided by anthropologists) and corporate-controlled development in the Amazon Basin and Southeast Asia. Discusses
the employment of applied anthropologists by a wide variety of U.S. agencies during WWII and the Cold War.


Examination of the evolution of Pacific Rim discourse in geopolitics in the mid-1970s until the end of the 1980s as a result of the stage of late capitalism in that time period and the economic and political situation of the U.S. in the Cold War.

Department of Social Science, Bodø Regional University. 1997 Cold War Forum.

Web site at Bodø Regional University, Norway. It offers a virtual tour of the Cold War Experience, highlights conferences, and discusses the Cold War Dome at the Norwegian Aviation Center, which, when completed, will house a major exhibit on significant northern hemisphere Cold War events. URL: http://www.hibo.no/asf/Cold_War/


Examines the case of a Russian anthropologist whose testimony secured the acquittal of an author of anti-Semitic, fascist texts, and the failure of the Moscow Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology to make its members more accountable to their colleagues.


Links the histories of American global power, computing machines, and mind and subjectivity, to explore the computer as a central technology of the Cold War and as a central metaphor in politics, psychology and culture in Cold War America.


Discusses the social, economic and environmental legacy of the Cold War and the change in the relationship between the American people and the U.S. government, where the public left policy formulation up to the politicians in exchange for protection from the perceived Soviet nuclear threat.
Discussion of the Department of Defense Legacy Resource Management Program to preserve military sites associated with the Cold War, including: Nike Ajax Missile Battery B-55, Blue Hills Reservation, MA; Missile Site 8, Green Valley, AZ; Bikini Atoll Lagoon, Marshall Islands.

Fried, Morton, Marvin Harris, and Robert Murphy, eds. 1968 War: The Anthropology of Armed Conflict and Aggression. Garden City, NY: The Natural History Press.

Edited book of expanded essays from a 1967 AAA plenary symposium addresses the biological effects of war, human aggression, war and disease, primitive and modern war, effects of war on social structure, psychological dimensions of war, war and recruitment, and alternatives to war.


Essays on the life and work of V. Gordon Childe, emphasizing the years in Australia during the Great War and the 1920s, when Childe’s political activist and pacifist views kept him underemployed in academe. A chapter on Childe and the Cold War discusses the effect of McCarthyism on Childe and his scholarship, including the State Department’s denial of a visa to Childe on the grounds that he was a Marxist.


Argues for integrated higher education curriculum that teaches the conflicts – assigning opposing viewpoints to students and having them engage in political debate. For a critical review see “‘Conflict Seems Vaguely Un-American’: Teaching the Conflicts and the Legacy of Cold War,” by Alan Filreis. URL: http://www.english.upenn.edu/~afilreis/graff.html


A history of twentieth century primatology, claims that our social concerns have influenced our interpretation of the behavior of living primates and of fossils. Of particular interest are chapters on Western primatology and physical anthropology following WW II.

Investigates the Cold War roots of international scholarship and exchange programs (and their organizational and funding bases) and the implications of the end of the Cold War on the scholarly community.


History of post-WW II science research at MIT and Stanford, focusing on the influence of military funding on scientists’ values, course content, textbooks, and the training of scientists brought about by defense research in the fields of aeronautical engineering, electronics, materials science and physics. No discussion of the political and social climate created by the Cold War and very little mention of the Cold War itself.


Edited volume containing essays on the military origins of information technology, and the military paradigm through which infotech redefines the social order and human identity. Chapters include discussion of cyborg soldiers, military electronics workers, Star Wars, artificial intelligence, the militarization of learning in U.S. education, and the military information society.


Using Stanford University as a case study, this work examines the roots of the military–industrial–academic complex and the emergence of the Cold War university, dependent on military and industrial patronage and money.
Describes the economic, environmental, medical, political and social debris (costs) of the Cold War on the United States and Russia, and that eliminating this debris (poorly maintained infrastructure, poor schools, inadequate housing, declining standard of living) will require massive amounts if funds.


Researchers in the archives of 2020 will be seeking to understand the 20th century as an age of technological and scientific discovery, the relationship between military invention and politics, and between printing and modern science and communications technology, as well as the evolution of ecology and the sense of the environment.


Describes the evolution from the Defense Department’s ARPAnet to the World Wide Web, and examines some of the issues which have evolved in the information society, including electronic publishing, copyright, intellectual property, and the governance of cyberspace.


How an applied anthropologist might help the U.S. government implement a defense program of national morale in 1941, taking into account American national character.


Examines how modern nation-states, through cumulated, unplanned decisions and actions, move their societies towards war.

Describes the ramifications of the Cold War on anthropology and anthropologists, on their intellectual and professional lives, and on the peoples studied. Contrasts the benefits of Cold War technologies on archaeology to the negative impact of such technologies in socio-cultural anthropology. One chapter in a book addressing the impact of the Cold War on such fields as English, area studies, history, political science and earth science.


Illustrated reference work containing some 700 entries to individuals (Dean Acheson), events (Tet Offensive), concepts (Vietnamization), and other terms associated with the Cold War. Has chronology of events from 1917 to 1991. Lacks bibliography.


Author discusses letter written by the Nootka tribe protesting the nonrenewal of Morris Swadesh’s contract by CCNY in 1949, following his indictment by the McCarthy Committee. Provides an outsider’s view of how the AAA treated the matter.

Price, David 1997 Cold War Hot Links: Web Sources Relating to the Cold War.

Cold War Web resources links compiled by an anthropology professor at St. Martin’s College, Lacey, Washington. URL: http://www.stmartin.edu/~dprice/cold.war.html

Shiva, Vandana. 1977 Biopiracy : the plunder of nature and knowledge Boston, MA : South End Press

Includes bibliographical references and index. Discusses biotechnology, patents, and in relation to indigenous peoples


Examination of the spatial and social boundaries separating some groups and individuals from society. Briefly addresses Cold War rhetoric in geopolitics, and the identity of an “other” — the Soviet Union as “evil empire,” Castro, Saddam Hussein, Quadaffi.
Compilation of symposium papers reviewing space–related biomedical experimentation using nonhuman primates, evaluating primate species as candidates for use in space research, defining animal support hardware requirements for space flights in the Space Shuttle Era and discussing the scientific objectives and requirements for Shuttle–Era (Shuttle and Spacelab) primate experimentation.


Essays by anthropologists on the social and ritual activities and tribal mentalities underlying the Cold War, the nuclear war and the Cold War, and anthropological research and the Cold War.


Report on an advisory committee on the need for a rhesus monkey spacelab research facility in order to conduct research on various problems regarding human safety, health and performance in space.

In-depth analysis of the documents relating to the “Thailand Controversy,” involving anthropologists whose work in Thailand in the 1960s was used by the U.S. in a counterinsurgency campaign, and the AAA investigation which followed.