

Critical Thought Paper #1

The Enemy & The State

The overarching theme of *Enemy & Security* is how states go about securing themselves from their perceived threats. The films and readings/video from *The Enemy & The State* were mostly from the American perspective. Your objective for this Critical Thought Paper is to consider the issues from the 'other' side. Based on what you viewed and read, what is the point of view on national security and who they define as the enemy for the following six countries:

- The Soviet Union—succeeded by Russia (be sure to use the correct reference)
- China
- Colombia
- The United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- (The fictitious) Syria
- Mexico

For each country, discuss two relevant films and two relevant readings/video. By the end of your paper, you must have discussed every film at least once (5 in all) and every reading/video at least once (5 in all).

Base your responses exclusively on the information you have from the films and readings/video, just as you did in the online discussion board posts. Be sure to consider that each of these countries is multifaceted, in that there are competing domestic actors and self-interests that impact national security policy decisions and identifying the enemy. While you should focus on the foreign enemy, some countries—in both the cinematic world and the real world—cannot be fully explained without considering threats from within a country.

To consider these countries' perspectives, think about the wide variety of international relations concepts from *The Enemy & The State* introduction and discussion board questions. These include:

- What constitutes providing national security for a state's population, and territory
- Where national security concerns come from (i.e., who or what is the enemy)
- Who is responsible for providing national security
- Hard and soft state power
- Balance of power
- Nuclear deterrence
- Human security
- Plausible deniability

- If you choose to discuss this, be absolutely certain you're using it correctly, as many DB posts on this concept were inaccurate.
- Geopolitical dynamics of the Cold War, post-Cold War, post-9/11, globalization
- Global North (GN) and Global South (GS) differences
 - Note that every one of the six countries on the list is a GS country- thus, you should consider their positions vis-à-vis GN countries

Paper Instructions

Review the Preparing Critical Thought Papers Guide linked to your course schedule for paper set-up and grading criteria, including common errors. No late papers will be accepted.

You are limited to **1600 words** (approximately 5 to 5 ½ pages). You will receive a 10% deduction for each block 50 words over the limit.

If you finished writing your paper and aren't close to the word limit, this indicates a need to develop the specific examples from the films/articles and/or better develop the connections to the concepts.

Uploading your Paper

You need to save your paper as a doc/docx or txt file extension. Do not submit a pdf or similar file or I can't open it to give you in-text feedback. Absolutely do not upload Cloud links or similar submissions or you will receive a zero.

Be sure to upload your paper to Canvas. You should click on the paper you uploaded to ensure it is visible in the text box. If it appears as a file, and I cannot open it, you will receive a zero for the assignment.

In the event that Canvas is down, send your paper as an email attachment to me (so I know you finished it on time) then submit via Canvas when it becomes available.