

BOOK/FILM/SERIES/DOCUMENTARY **TIPS!**



OUR RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHAT TO WATCH/READ THIS SUMMER CONNECTED TO YOUR NEW STUDY PROGRAMME SECURITY STUDIES!

This list is created by various teachers at the Institute of Security and Global Affairs at the Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs of Leiden University for prospective students of the Bachelor Security Studies..



**Universiteit
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Governance and Global Affairs

BOOKS

PERSEPOLIS - MARJANE SATRAPI

An autobiographical graphic novel about life in Iran during the Islamic Revolution.

COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM - TAHIR ABBAS

This book presents an understanding of the concept of Countering Violent Extremism from a critical terrorism studies perspective using case studies from different countries while examining the issues it raises.

INTERVENTIONS - KOFI ANNAN

With eloquence and immediacy, Annan writes about the highs and lows of his years at the United Nations: from shuttle-diplomacy during crises such as Kosovo, Lebanon and Israel-Palestine to the wrenching battles over the Iraq War to the creation of the landmark Responsibility to Protect doctrine. He is remarkably candid about the organization's failed efforts, particularly in Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. Ultimately, Annan shows readers a world where solutions are available, if we have the will and courage to see them through.

EMERGENCY SEX AND OTHER DESPERATE MEASURES, TRUE STORIES FROM WARZONES- KENNETH CAIN, HEIDI POSTLEWAIT, AND ANDREW THOMSON

Details the lives of three UN employees as they travel from conflict zone to conflict zone under the guidance of the UN. Going from Cambodia all the way to the Rwandan genocide and the War in Bosnia, the book depicts the shortcomings of the UN and the difficulties ground crews often face.

THE PEOPLE VS TECH - JAMIE BARTLETT

A good read on how the internet is killing democracy (and how we save it). Describes how our political system is threatened by the digital revolution.

INVISIBLE WOMEN - CAROLINE CRIADO PEREZ

Invisible Women reveals how in a world built for and by men we are systematically ignoring half of the population, often with disastrous consequences.

THE MAP OF SALT AND STARS - JENNIFER ZEYNAB JOUKHADAR

This book about the Syrian war tells the story of two women living centuries apart. The story moves between contemporary Syria and its past.

HOME FIRE - KAMILA SHAMSIE

This book centers around the topic of radicalisation and is based on the Greek tragedy Antigone but unfolding among British Muslims.

FRONTLINE - TONY REDMOND

A heroic doctor's unflinchingly honest and visceral tale of impossible choices in emergency medicine. Tony Redmond has deployed to wars, refugee crises, air crashes, earthquakes, typhoons, volcanoes, and disease outbreaks for over thirty years. Featuring tales of hope and redemption, as well as untold suffering and mismanagement, this raw, honest account could only have been written by someone who has for decades performed incredible feats of altruism.

BLINDED BY HUMANITY - MARTIN BARBER

Martin Barber, for many years a senior UN official and with decades of humanitarian experience, here argues that the explanation for UN 'failures' or only partial successes lies not with any lack of idealism or good intentions but with the constraints placed on aid workers by ill-considered policies and poor practical application - officials are 'blinded by humanity'

THE BLACK SWAN: THE IMPACT OF THE HIGHLY IMPROBABLE - NASSIM NICHOLAS TALEB

A groundbreaking exploration of everything we know about what we don't know. A black swan is a highly improbable event with three principal characteristics: It is unpredictable; it carries a massive impact; and, after the fact, we concoct an explanation that makes it appear less random, and more predictable, than it was.

TWILIGHT OF DEMOCRACY: THE SEDUCTIVE LURE OF AUTHORITARIANISM - ANNE APPLEBAUM

The 2020 book discusses the democratic decline and the rise of right-wing populist politics with authoritarian tendencies by using the case studies of Poland, the UK, and the US, with a discussion of Hungary. This is a very good reading if you wish to understand the broader context under which Euro-skepticism thrives as well as the current shifts in the political spirit within European countries (i.e., through the way parties challenge the rule of law in Poland and Hungary)

DOCUMENTARIES

BEFORE THE FLOOD

A 2016 documentary about climate change in which different prominent figures and world leaders discuss the topic of climate change.

SARAJEVO ROSES

Covers 24 years of conflict in Bosnia, focused on the capital city of Sarajevo during the siege and its aftermath through the eyes of 5 survivors.

FOR SAMA

For Sama (2019) is both an intimate and epic journey into the female experience of war. A love letter from a young mother to her daughter, the film tells the story of Waad al-Kateab's life through five years of the uprising in Aleppo, Syria as she falls in love, gets married and gives birth to Sama, all while cataclysmic conflict rises around her.

UN PAYS QUI SE TIENT SAGE

It tackles a lot about the gilets jaunes and the governmental response to the movement, including interesting perspectives on the legitimate use of force by the police.

VIRUNGA

A great documentary on Environmental security in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the intersection between the climate, the ongoing conflict, and big business.

TED TALKS

SCHNEIER, B. (2010, OCTOBER). THE SECURITY MIRAGE

The feeling of security and the reality of security don't always match, says computer-security expert Bruce Schneier. In his talk, he explains why we spend billions addressing news story risks, like the "security theater" now playing at your local airport, while neglecting more probable risks -- and how we can break this pattern.

ENSLER, E. (2005, JULY). WHAT SECURITY MEANS TO ME

Playwright Eve Ensler explores our modern craving for security -- and why it makes us less secure. Listen for inspiring, heartbreaking stories of women making change.

HICKS, G. (2016, MAY). I SURVIVED A TERRORIST ATTACK. HERE'S WHAT I LEARNED

Gill Hicks's story is one of compassion and humanity, emerging from the ashes of chaos and hate. A survivor of the London terrorist bombings on July 7, 2005, she shares her story of the events of that day -- and the profound lessons that came as she learned how to live on.

YOUTUBE

SHADOW COMPANY

This channel has documentaries about private military companies (with academic input).

FILMS

KUBRICK, S. (1964). DR. STRANGELOVE OR: HOW I STOPPED WORRYING AND LOVED THE BOMB.

A Cold War classic black comedy about the problems of nuclear weapons and mutually assured destruction.

LIORET, P. (2009). WELCOME.

Film showing the everyday impacts of the refugee crisis, through an emotional friendship between a French swimming teacher and a young Iraqi-Kurd refugee.

CAPTAIN PHILIPS

Details the kidnapping and hijacking of a freighter ship in the gulf of Aden and how the US military intervened to rescue him.

LES MISÉRABLES (2019)

It tackles police brutality and racism in poor regions in France

I, DANIEL BLAKE (2016)

A film that tackles a different side of security, namely individual security and vulnerability and the governance of poverty

SUZUME (2022)

A modern action adventure road story where a 17-year-old girl named Suzume helps a mysterious young man close doors from the other side that are releasing disasters all over in Japan.

VICE (2018)

The story of Dick Cheney, an unassuming bureaucratic Washington insider, who quietly wielded immense power as Vice President to George W. Bush, reshaping the country and the globe in ways that are still felt today.

THE MAURITANIAN (2021)

Mohamedou Ould Slahi fights for freedom after being detained and imprisoned without charge by the U.S. Government for years.

SERIES

WHEN THEY SEE US

Based on the real 1989 Central Park jogger case where five men of color were falsely accused of assaulting a woman.

CHERNOBYL

Details the greatest nuclear disaster in history, pretty accurately described by HBO and remains true to its source material.

PANDEMIC

About the coronavirus spreading across the world at the moment. It's a new Netflix documentary series that details how different organizations try to stop major pandemics from breaking out and the challenges they face.

PODCASTS

INTRODUCTION TO SECURITY STUDIES

The podcast series 'Introduction to Security Studies' gives you an inside look into the Bachelor's programme in Security Studies at Leiden University in The Hague, The Netherlands.

ARAB SPRING: A HISTORY

If you've ever wondered just what has been happening in the Middle East for the last few years, this is the podcast for you.

INVISIBLE WOMEN

A podcast about 8 women who worked in espionage during WW 2 from the American, British, French, and Polish military units to Belgium, Dutch and Polish resistance cells.

STRONGMAN

Strongman figures--those who rule by threats, force, and violence--are found at all levels of society: from an abusive romantic partner, to corrupt cops, terrorist leaders, and authoritarian governments. A series of intimate narratives from across the globe, about power and control.

DOSSIER AIVD [DUTCH ONLY]

Stel dat je mag rondsnoeffen bij de AIVD. Stiekem kijken wat onze Inlichtingen- en Veiligheidsdienst allemaal uitspookt. In deze spannende NPO Radio 1-podcast nemen we je mee achter de schermen.