

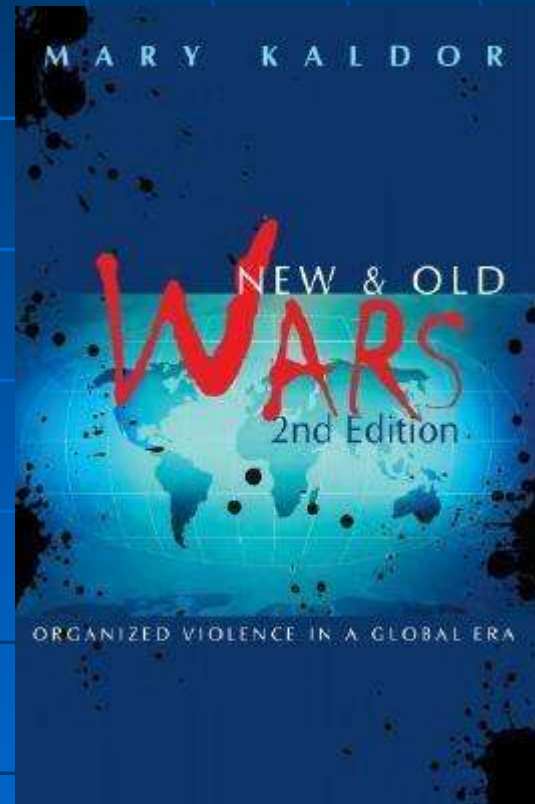
New War Masculinity and Sexual Violence

What focusing on manhood can
tell us about sexual violence in
the future of warfare

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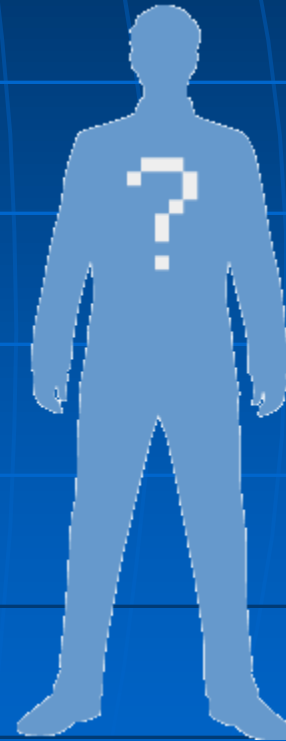
The New Wars

- A shift in the nature of war since the 1990s
- States no longer control of the use of violence
- From battles to massacre
- Changing motivations for warfare
- Globalised new war economies



Mary Kaldor on Sexual Violence

- Sexual violence is particularly framed in terms of ethnic cleansing
- Identity politics as the cause
- Attacks against civilians are directed against competing identities



Inability to Account for Gender

- No causal account
- Cultural context is missing
- Dichotomising identity politics with cosmopolitanism
- Identity as a black box for new war scholarship



Sexual Violence in New War



“Once I became a commander, I could choose any girl that I wanted [as a wife] ... If they weren’t willing to have sex with me ... I would force them ... I felt good. A woman is there to pleasure every man. (Boy)”

Myriam Denov *Child Soldiers* p.118

Masculinity and Warfare

- Gender can explain *why* sexual violence has instrumental value
- A feminist approach is able to explain the form that sexual violence has taken in contemporary new wars
- The insights of feminist and pro-feminist scholars have not been integrated into new war scholarship



15th Century Landsknechte

Masculinity as a Possible Causal Factor

- Struggles between men are not gender neutral
- Sexual violence has been used to construct masculine mythologies
- War as a social project is occluded by conventional accounts



Changing Masculinity in New Wars?

- There is evidence emerging that new wars create hyper masculine culture
- The interaction between pre-existing conceptions and military culture has not been explored in great depth
- More work is needed to explore whether the use of sexual violence comes top down or from the grass roots

The Need for Further Research

- How is the process of socialisation different in new wars?
- Do new warriors view their role in fundamentally different ways to conventional soldiers.
- What is the relationship between men's domestic abuse of women and the abuse on battlefield

Thank you for listening