Causes and Prevention of War / 17.423
Van Evera, Gabbitas and Lejlic / April 25, 2001

## SECOND SHORT PAPER ASSIGNMENT

Please write a paper of 4-6 typed doublespaced pages (with normal 1" margins and standard typeface) that answers the following question. Alternately, if you find this question confining and wish to cover another topic, please say so and we will consider it.

## The Nuclear Revolution and World War II in Europe

Imagine that nuclear weapons were invented in 1920 or so, and by 1933 Germany, Britain, France, the Soviet Union and the United States had nuclear second-strike countervalue capabilities as large as those possessed by the U.S. and Soviet Union in the late 1980s. No other powers possess nuclear weapons in 1933. Which causes of World War II in Europe would have been affected, and in what way? Which would not have been affected? Overall, would a war have been more or less likely in 1939? More or less intense? More or less likely to become a world war?

Your papers are due on **Thursday May 10**, at 11:00 (class time). You can bring them to class, or deliver them before the deadline to your TA's mailbox. You are not expected to do outside reading, but it is not discouraged.

You may confer with each other as you gather your thoughts.

Make sure your paper includes a **clear summary introduction**, of perhaps a paragraph. This paragraph should clearly state your question and should summarize your answer.

Also, please get a draft or outline of your paper to your TA by Friday, May 3, to get their feedback.

You should footnote statements of fact, using an abbreviated footnote style if you wish. Footnotes do **not** count toward the length-limit on your paper, so use them freely.