

“Why the U.S. Can’t Win Wars Anymore”



“Morals and Markets” meets at 8PM Eastern
on the *fourth Thursday of every month.*

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Course Information:

<https://www.atlassociety.org/events/september-morals-markets-why-america-cant-win-wars-anymore>

Upcoming Events:

<https://www.atlassociety.org/education/morals-and-markets>

Next Session: Thursday, September 23rd from 8-9:30 ET

Meeting url: <https://myjunto.app/home/junto/the-atlas-society/discuss/10WGzs7N61fccCKtXx0w/pC1LvXc84JDDmLhRfSJj>

The U.S. won the “Cold War” but hasn’t won a “hot” war since World War II. It’s been 0-5 since 1945. Korea. Viet Nam. The Gulf War. Iraq. Afghanistan. Why? The U.S. has had a large, strong economy, the best weaponry, and superb soldiers; yet it loses to far-inferior foes, costing thousands of American lives, trillions in American wealth, and a large measure of national pride. Instead of being guided by national self-interest, U.S. foreign policy embodies the alleged “nobility” of self-sacrifice (altruism) and thereby appeases and emboldens enemies. Presidents and military leaders (“top brass”) have accepted much of the anti-Americanism preached for years at universities and even in military academies. This can be fixed, but it’ll require a moral revolution – a case for both realism and egoism in foreign affairs.

Suggested Readings/Sources:

- Richard M. Salsman, “Washington’s Anti-American Foreign Policy: Why America Can’t Win Wars Anymore,” *The Capitalist Advisor*, IFI, August 22, 2021 (PDF).
- Robert Tracinski, “[The Cold War With Iran Is Back](#),” *The Federalist*, May 9, 2018.
- Robert Tracinski, “[16 Years Later, Why Are We So Uneasy About 9/11?](#)” *The Federalist*, September 13, 2017.
- David Kelley, “[The Ideas That Promote Terrorism](#),” The Atlas Society, March 22, 2016.
- “[Position of the Atlas Society on 9/11](#),” April 4, 2010.
- Roger Donway, “[The War Over Libertarian Foreign Policy](#),” The Atlas Society, April 1, 2008
- Yaron Brook and Elan Journo, “[The Forward Strategy of Failure](#),” Ayn Rand Institute, Spring 2007.
- Yaron Brook and Alex Epstein, “[Just War Theory vs American Self-Defense](#),” *The Objective Standard*, Spring 2006.
- Richard M. Salsman, “[Turning Iraq into Another Iran](#),” *Capitalism Magazine*, April 23, 2003.
- Leonard Peikoff, “[End States that Sponsor Terrorism](#),” *New York Times* (Ad), October 2, 2001.
- David Kelly, “[The Assault on Civilization](#),” The Atlas Society, September 13, 2001.
- John David Lewis, “[Hatred of Western Civilization: Why Terrorists Attacked America](#),” *Capitalism Magazine*, September 12, 2001
- Robert Tracinski, “[The Case For Nation Building](#)” *The Tracinski Letter*, September 2, 2021
- David Kelley, “[20 Years Ago](#),” The Atlas Society, September 11, 2021

Host: Dr. Richard M. Salsman is an [assistant professor of political economy at Duke University](#), founder and [president of InterMarket Forecasting, Inc.](#), a [senior fellow at the American Institute for Economic Research](#), and a [senior scholar at The Atlas Society](#). In the 1980s and 1990s he was a banker at the Bank of New York and Citibank and an economist

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at Wainwright Economics, Inc. Dr. Salsman has authored three books: *Breaking the Banks: Central Banking Problems and Free Banking Solutions* (1990), *Gold and Liberty* (1995), and *The Political Economy of Public Debt: Three Centuries of Theory and Evidence* (2017). His most recent book, *Where Have all the Capitalist Gone?*, was published in 2021 by the American Institute for Economic Research. He is also author of a dozen chapters and scores of articles. His work has appeared in the *Georgetown Journal of Law and Public Policy*, *Reason Papers*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, *Forbes*, the *Economist*, the *Financial Post*, the *Intellectual Activist*, and *The Objective Standard*. Dr. Salsman earned his B.A. in economics from Bowdoin College (1981), his M.A. in economics from New York University (1988), and his Ph.D. in political economy from Duke University (2012). His personal website is <https://richardsalsman.com/>.

THE ATLAS SOCIETY

Morals and Markets

Exploring the intersections between ethics, politics, economics, and markets



Dr. Richard M. Salsman

— Testimonials

"Morals & Markets provides students of all levels an opportunity to engage with some of the most interesting (and sometimes difficult!) issues in philosophy, politics, and economics. Professor Salsman's experience as an outstanding educator and commitment to presenting a holistic view of contemporary tensions between public policy and moral philosophy encourage vibrant debate and an unparalleled learning experience. I am enthusiastic about Dr. Salsman's future iterations of *Morals & Markets* with the support of The Atlas Society!"

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"Dr. Salsman's lectures from *Morals and Markets* always leave me with a newfound framework to consider important ideas; they serve as some beacon of critical thinking in a world that needs it. The topics discussed are always fully engaging, both intellectually and practically and the discussion helps me orient my views of current political circumstances, historical trends, and political philosophy, more generally, in a rationally focused way. I hope *Morals and Markets* grows to become an institution – it certainly deserves to be one."

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- **Gaurav Sharma**