

# **Economic Theories of Peace and War**

**Fanny Coulomb**

**R Routledge**  
Taylor & Francis Group

LONDON AND NEW YORK

# Contents

*List of illustrations*

## **Introduction**

### **PART 1**

#### **The economy, a factor of peace or war: a theoretical dichotomy which appeared with political economy during the eighteenth century**

##### **1 National power benefits from the economy**

*The mercantilist movement and the improbable peace 13*

*The economic bases of national security, according to List 25*

*The German historical school: for a pragmatic use of the economic and military power instruments in favour of the national interest 34*

##### **2 The economy as a factor of peace**

*The physiocrats or the desirable peace 39*

*The classical economists: free trade, a factor of peace and prosperity 49*

*The triumph of economics as a factor of peace 56*

##### **3 The hesitations and internal differences within each economic perspective as a factor of war and peace**

*The inopportune war 75*

*The avaricious peace: the pessimistic classical school 85*

*From James Mill to John Stuart Mill: from classicism to the renewal of the liberal economic analysis of international relations 97*

**PART 2**

**War or peace, resultant of an economic system: new economic analyses on defence-related issues since the mid-nineteenth century 101**

**4 War and the threat of war at the heart of the functioning of the capitalism system 103**

*Socialism through war or peace: Utopians' pacific reforms versus Marx's revolutionary war 103*

*Divergences of Marxist theories about the consequences of militarization on the stability of capitalism 124*

**5 'Turbulence' inherent to capitalism 145**

*The heterodoxies of the inter-war years: economists confronted with war 145*

*The economic study of both world wars and their theoretical repercussions 168*

*The diversity of post-1945 heterodox analyses on defence and war 181*

**PART 3**

**From new debates opened by economics on peace and war factors to a resurgence of the political economy perspective 187**

**6 Peace and war factors revealed by economic science 189**

*The economic analysis of defence strategies 189*

*Econometric and formalized analyses of military expenditure and disarmament 225*

**7 The strategic dimension of political economy and the concept of 'economic war' 252**

*The economic weapon: what efficiency? 252*

*The concept of economic war: support for a new definition of national security 258*

**8 Conclusion 266**

*Notes 269*

*Bibliography 270*

*Index 298*