

CS 407H: Assignment 3: Computers and War

Due: Monday, Oct. 31, 9 a.m. (electronically)

Goals:

- Demonstrate an understanding of how computing technology and global conflicts interacted in the 1940's and today.
 - Identify relevant authoritative sources to support claims, and employ MLA or APA citation format to report them.
1. Wartime pressures and priorities both accelerated and delayed the development of computing technology. Give two examples of each from World War II. These examples could have occurred in the U.S., Britain, Germany, or another country. Provide a citation for each of your examples.
 2. The workers hired to perform early computation, both manual calculations and in operating the early electromechanical and electronic machines, were preferentially female. Why was this? Provide two reasons, and supplement each one with a citation to support your claim.
 3. How are computers used in warfare today? Give two examples and, yes, provide citations.
 4. John von Neumann was quoted in *Life* magazine as saying, "If you say why not bomb them tomorrow, I say why not today? If you say today at 5 o'clock, I say why not one o'clock?" Describe the context for his statement (Who did he mean by "them"? When did this happen? What pressures or fears were in the air?). If you were sitting in the same room at that same moment, would you have agreed or disagreed with his statement? Explain your opinion and reasoning.

Tips:

- All citations should be in MLA or APA format.
- Citations may come from one of the assigned readings or from another source. While wikipedia can be an excellent starting point, it is not itself an authoritative source to cite. Follow its citations and look up the original material to determine for yourself if it is relevant to the point you wish to support.

How to submit your assignment:

- This assignment is due on Monday, October 31, at the start of class.
- Submit your assignment by email (to wkiri@eecs.orst.edu) in text or PDF format.
 - (Optional) I encourage you to also post your answer to question 4 to the class blog.