For this assignment, I’d like you to read and evaluate a paper recently published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* by Burke et al. (2009). This paper is a real scientific research paper; be sure to leave yourself plenty of time to digest and understand it. It might help to discuss it with your classmates (the grads have read this one also) – just be sure that your answers are written in your own words, of course!!

Once you’ve read this paper, I’d like you to answer the following questions about it. You can answer each question with either a paragraph or a set of bullet points. Please make sure your answer is done on a computer (not handwritten) and checked for spelling and grammar.

1. What is the goal of this study?
2. Describe the methods they used.
3. What is the mechanism that links war and global warming? In other words, why might there be a connection?
4. What other factors might be important in this relationship of war and warming and how do the authors account for these? In your opinion, is the link between war and warming strongly supported by this paper?
5. Obviously, the conclusion of this paper is a dramatic and (if true) highly significant one. But not all agree with it. At the following sites, you can find critical discussions of this paper. What are the key criticisms of the Burke paper??


6. In your opinion, what is the link between civil war and climate change that emerges from these readings? What is the evidence that you find most convincing, in support of your opinion?

**note that another paper in PNAS critiqued Burke – you can read it if you like, but it is not required for this assignment. That paper is Buhaug 2010, in the 9/7/10 issue, http://www.pnas.org/content/107/38/16477.full.pdf+html**