The most ancient work of history in the Western tradition—Herodotus’s *The Histories*—was about war. Since then, countless numbers of historians have written about organized warfare, exploring the role of military operations, organizations, technologies, and individuals. Starting in the 1960s, however, a growing number of military historians began to expand the scope of their research by focusing not only on war itself but on its interaction with society as a whole. Commonly known as “war and society,” this new field attracted scholars who asked wide-ranging and innovative questions, such as: does war make or destroy states? What is the relationship between military and civilian actors? How do societies commemorate war? How do individuals as well as countries transition from wartime to peacetime? What is the role of race, gender, and class in all this? These are some of the many questions that students will be introduced to in this seminar, which will focus on the post-Civil War United States.