

Political Science 3090, Fall 2010
Course: M/W 10-11:30am
Professor Dawn Brancati
Office Hours: Wednesday, 11:30-12:30pm
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Political Science 3090: Civil War and Peace

Course Description

This course examines the causes and consequences of civil war as well as potential solutions to it, drawing on examples from countries throughout the world, including Bosnia-Herzegovina, India, Iraq, Russia, Rwanda, Spain, etc. In Part I of the course, we explore the possible causes of intra-state violence, including ethnic and religious identities, economic and security concerns, elite manipulation, and international diffusion. In order to understand the challenges countries face in recovering from conflicts, we examine in Part II of this course the different ways in which conflicts are conducted and their consequences, including economic underdevelopment, rape, child soldiers, and disease. Finally, in Part III, we use our knowledge of the causes and consequences of conflict to analyze the utility of different tools for managing intra-state conflict, including, but not limited to, minority representation, consociationalism, decentralization and partition.

Course Objective

- 1). To introduce you to the major issues and debates about the causes, consequences and management of civil war.
- 2). To instruct you to critically analyze these issues and debates, to formulate your own opinion of them, and to originate your own hypotheses.
- 3). To encourage you to use these theories to examine current events throughout the world.

Grades

Grades in this course are based on the following:

Conflict Spotlight: 15% (8-10 single space pages)
Midterm Exam (in-class): 10%
Midterm Exam (take-home essay): 15%
Final Exam (take-home essay): 30%
Final Exam (in-class): 20%
Class Participation: 10%

Due Date: Sept. 22rd
Due Date: Oct. 20th
Due Date: Oct. 20th
Due Date: Dec. 17th @ 4:30pm
Due Date: Dec. 20th

Assignments:

Exams: The in-class portion of the midterm and final exams will test your knowledge of the readings and lectures through short answers, multi-choice questions, etc. The take-home portion of the final exam will ask you to apply and evaluate existing theories, as well as formulate your own hypotheses about different theories discussed in class. The final take-home (not in-class) exam will be cumulative. I will only provide makeup exams under certain circumstances and on a case-by-case basis, such as religious holidays, serious personal illness, family death, etc. Please see me prior to the exam as early as possible to arrange a different time to take the exam.

Conflict Spotlight: Through responses to a series of questions, you will have an opportunity to apply existing theories about the causes and consequences of intra-state conflict to a conflict of your own choice.

Readings: Students are expected to read all articles before the first class on Monday. Required readings are available through Ares (password: peace).

Attendance/Lateness:

Attendance: Attendance is included in your class participation grade. I will not share/post power point presentations for students who do not attend class.

Lateness: Students should arrive to class on time. Late conflict spotlights are marked down 1/3 of a grade for each day late. Late take-home exams will not be accepted.

Part I. Origins of Ethnic Conflict and Secessionism

Introduction: What is civil war and why study it? (Wed., Sept. 1st and Wed., Sept. 8th)

Sambanis, Nicholas. 2004. What is Civil War? *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 48 (6): 814-858.
Conflict Spotlight Informational Session

***** **Labor Day Break (Mon., Sept. 6th)** *****

Theme# 1: Ethnic Identity and Primordialism (Mon., Sept 13th and Wed., Sept 15th)

Huntington, Samuel. 1993. The Clash of Civilizations. *Foreign Affairs*. 72/3 (Summer): 22-49.

Laitin, David. 1985. Hegemony and Religious Conflict: British Imperial Control and Political Cleavages in the Yorubaland. In *Bringing the State Back In*, edited by Theda Skocpol. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Posner, Daniel. 2005. The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas Are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi, *American Political Science Review*, 98 (4): 529-545.

Discussion Questions: Is identity determined by biology? Is ethnicity sufficient to cause ethnic conflict? If, so why are there not more ethnic conflicts in the world? What must be present for ethnicity to lead to conflict? What does this tell us about the possibility of managing ethnic conflict and secessionism in countries? Is this possible? Why kind of tools does this suggest are useful to prevent intra-state conflicts?

Theme #2: Economic (Under)Development (Mon., Sept. 20th and Wed., Sept 22nd)

Collier, Paul and Anke Hoeffler. 2002. On the Incidence of Civil War in Africa. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 46(1): 13-28.

Herrera, Yoshiko 2004. *Imagined Economies*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 5 and 6, pp 168-222.

Ross, Michael L. 2004. How Do Natural Resources Influence Civil War: Evidence from Thirteen Cases. *International Organization* 58 (Winter): 35-67.

Discussion Questions: Is conflict a result of the absolute level of development or the relative level of development? Are economic differences sufficient to cause ethnic conflict? If, so why are there not more ethnic conflicts in the world? What must be present for economic differences to lead to conflict? What does this tell us about the possibility of managing ethnic conflict and secessionism in countries? Is this possible? Why kind of tools do this suggest are to prevent intra-state conflicts?

Theme #3: Security Concerns (Mon., Sept. 27th and Wed., Sept. 29th)

Fearon, James and David Laitin. 2003. Ethnic Insurgency and Civil War. *American Political Science Review* 97.1 (February): 75-90.

Posen, Barry R. 1993. The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict *Survival* 35.1 (Spring): 27-47.

Walter, Barbara. 2006, "Building Reputation: Why Governments Fight Some Separatists but Not Others," *American Journal of Political Science* 50(2): 313-330.

Discussion Questions: Do security concerns have to be real or imagined for them to lead to conflict? What are the origins of these concerns? What does this tell us about the possibility of managing ethnic conflict and secessionism in countries? Is this possible? Why kind of tools does this suggest are useful for preventing intra-state conflicts?

Theme #4: Elite Manipulation (Mon., Oct. 4th and Wed., Oct. 6th)

Gagnon, Jr., V.P. 1994/1995. Ethnic Nationalism and International Conflict: The Case of Serbia. *International Security* 19 (Winter): 130-66.

Mueller, John. 2000. The Banality of Ethnic War. *International Security* 25: 42-70.

Snyder, Jack and Karen Ballentine. 1996. Nationalism and the Marketplace of Ideas. *International Security* 21(2): 5-40.

Film Clip (in class): The Milgram Experiments

Discussion Questions: What role do elites play in producing conflict? Can elites create conflict where there are not materialistic differences among groups? How? Why? What does this tell us about the possibility of managing ethnic conflict and secessionism in countries? Is this possible? Why kind of tools do this suggest are to prevent intra-state conflicts?

Theme #5: Democratization and Elections (Mon., Oct. 11th and Wed., Oct. 13th)

Hegre, Håvard, Tanja Ellingsen, Scott Gates and Nils Peter Gleditsch. 2001. Toward a Democratic Civil Peace: Democracy, Political Change and Civil War, 1816-1992. *American Political Science Review* 95.1 (March): 33-48.

Mansfield, Edward D. and Jack L Snyder. 2002. Democratic Transitions, Institutional Strength and War. *International Organization* 56 (2): 297-337.

Wilkinson, Steven. 2004. *Votes and Violence*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1 and Chapter 5.

Discussion Questions: What effect do elections have on conflict? Why? How can one create a democracy without the negative consequences of elections on conflict? What does this tell us about the possibility of managing ethnic conflict and secessionism in countries? Is this possible? Why kind of tools do this suggest are to prevent intra-state conflicts?

Theme #6: International Diffusion (Mon. Oct. 18th)

Salehyan, Idean and Kristian Skrede Gleditsch. 2006. Refugees and the Spread of Civil War *International Organization* 60 (2): 335-366.

Discussion Questions: Can conflict in another country leading to conflict in another? Through what mechanisms? What does this tell us about the possibility of managing ethnic conflict and

secessionism in countries? Is this possible? Why kind of tools do this suggest are to prevent intra-state conflicts?

*** Midterm Examination (Take Home Essay Due; In-class Exam): Wed., Oct. 20th ***

Part II. The Conduct and Consequences of Ethnic Conflict and Secessionism

Theme #7: Conduct/ Economic and Health Consequences (Mon., Oct. 25th and Wed., Oct. 27th)

Achvarina, Vera V. and Simon Reich. No Place to Hide: Refugees, Displaced Persons, and the Recruitment of Child Soldiers. *International Security*, 31(1): 127-164.

Wood, Elisabeth. 2006. Disaggregating the Study of Sexual Violence During War, *Politics and Society* (34): 307 - 342

Discussion Questions: What are the consequences of ethnic conflict? Why are the consequences greater in some countries than in others? Whose responsibility is it to improve post-conflict situations?

Part IV. Ending and Preventing Ethnic Conflict and Secessionism

Theme #8: Third-Party Intervention and Post-War Settlements (Mon., Nov. 1st and Wed., Nov. 3rd)

Fortna, Page. 2004. Interstate Peacekeeping: Causal Mechanism and Empirical Effects *World Politics* 56 (4): 481-519.

Gilligan, Michael and Stephen John Stedman. 2003. Where Do the Peacekeepers Go? *International Studies Review* 5(4): 37-54.

Regan, Patrick M. 2002. Third Party Interventions and the Duration of Intrastate Conflicts. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 46.1 (February): 55-73.

Discussion Questions: Does third party intervention help or hurt? Why do some countries intervene in foreign intra-state conflicts and others do not? Under what conditions do they intervene?

Theme #9: Consociationalism (Power-Sharing) (Mon., Nov. 8th and Wed., Nov. 10th)

Hartzell, Caroline and Matthew Hoddie. 2003. Institutionalizing Peace: Power Sharing and Post-Civil War Conflict Management, *American Journal of Political Science* 47 (2): 318-332.

Lijphart, Arend. 1977. *Democracy in Plural Societies: A Comparative Exploration*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Chapters 2-3.

Discussion Questions: Will consociationalism or power-sharing resolve or prevent ethnic conflict and secessionism? What are the positive and negative aspects of this system? What are the difficulties in implementing this system?

Theme #10: Elections (Mon., Nov. 15th and Wed., Nov. 17th)

Horowitz, Donald. L. 2003. Electoral Systems: A Primer for Decision Makers. *Journal of Democracy* 14 (4): 115-127.

Banducci, et al. 2004. Minority Representation, Empowerment and Participation, *Journal of Politics* 66 (2): 534-556.

Norris, Pippa. 2004. *Electoral Engineering: Voting Rules and Political Behavior*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 9, 209-229.

Discussion Questions: What is the best electoral system for preventing ethnic conflict and secessionism? What are its positive aspects? What are its negative aspects? When should the first post-conflicts elections be held?

Theme #11: Decentralization (Mon., Nov. 22nd and Mon., Nov. 29th)

***** **Thanksgiving Break (Wed., Nov. 24th)** *****

Bakke, Kristin and Erik M. Wibbels. 2006. Diversity, Disparity, and Civil Conflict in Federal States. *World Politics* 59 (October): pp.1-50.

Brancati, Dawn. 2006. Decentralization: Fueling the Fire or Dampening the Flames of Ethnic Conflict and Secessionism, *International Organization*, 60 (July): 651-685.

Hale, Henry. 2004. Divided We Stand: Institutional Sources of Ethnofederal State Survival and Collapse, *World Politics*, 56 (2): pp. 165-93.

Discussion Questions: Is decentralization a useful institution for preventing intra-state conflict? Why? Under what conditions does decentralization reduce ethnic conflict and secessionism and under what conditions does it fail?

Theme #12: Partition (Wed., Dec. 1st and Mon., Dec. 6th)

Byman, Daniel. 1997. Divided They Stand: Lessons about Partition from Iraq and Lebanon. *Security Studies* 7.1 (Autumn):1-29.

Kaufman, Chaim. 1996. Possible and Impossible Solutions to Ethnic War. *International Security* 20.4 (Spring): 136-175.

Sambanis, Nicolas. 2000. Partition as a Solution to Ethnic War: An Empirical Critique of the Theoretical Literature *World Politics* 52.4: 437-483.

Discussion Questions: When is partition feasible? Can partition prevent ethnic conflict and secessionism? What are the negative aspects of partition?

Wrap Up: Wed., Dec. 8th