

Political Science XXX, Spring 2017
Course: T, 12:15-2pm
Professor Dawn Brancati
Office Hours: T, 11-12pm, #
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Political Science XXX 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, natural disasters, and democratization. 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, including child soldiers, gender-based violence, attacks on civilian populations. 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, peacekeeping and other forms of third-party interventions, reintegration programs, power-sharing, 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:

Final Paper (60%)
Final Paper Outline and Bibliography (10%):
Final Paper Oral Presentation (10%):
Weekly Discussions (20%)

Deadlines

Grades in this course are based on the following:
Paper Topic 14.02.2017
Paper Outline and Bibliography: 07.03.2017.
Revised Outline and Bibliography (10%): 28.03.2017.

Class Presentations:19.04.2017; 25.04.2017
Paper Deadline: TBD.

Assignments:

Paper Outline and Bibliography

Final Paper: A 20-25-page research paper on a topic of your choosing. The topic must be pre-approved by the professor. The paper will be graded 1/3 of a grade down for each day late.. Extensions will only be granted in cases of an extended medical illness.

Class Presentations (15 minutes):

Introduction: What is civil war and why study it? 17.01.2017.

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

Theme# 1: Ethnic Identity, 24.01.2017.

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, pp. 285- 316

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.

Birnir, Jóhanna Kristín. 2006. Ethnicity and Ethnic Politics. New York: Cambridge University Press, Chapter 2 and 3.

Discussion Questions:

How is ethnic identity constructed? 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 role do elites play in constructing identity-based conflict?-What does this tell us about the possibility of managing ethnic conflict and secessionism in countries? Why kind of tools does this suggest are useful to prevent intra-state conflicts?

Theme #2: Economic Development, 31.01.2017.

Collier, Paul. 2000. Doing Well Out of War: An Economic Perspective. In *Greed and Grievance: Economic Agendas in Civil Wars*, edited by Mats R. Berdal and David Malone, New York: Lynne Rienner, pp. 91-112.

Nel, Philip and Marjolein Righarts. 2008. Natural disasters and the Risk of Violent Civil Conflict, 52(1): 159–185.

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

Blattman, Christopher and Jeannie Annan. Can Employment Reduce Lawlessness and Rebellion? A Field Experiment with High-Risk Men in a Fragile State. *American Political Science Review*. 110 (1): 1-17.

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? What ways do the economic conditions in countries or among individuals led to conflict? What does this tell us about the possibility of managing ethnic conflict and secessionism in countries? Why kind of tools do this suggest are to prevent intra-state conflicts?

Theme #3: Security Concerns, 07.02.2017.

Achvarina, Vera V. and Simon Reich. 2006. No Place to Hide: Refugees, Displaced Persons, and the Recruitment of Child Soldiers. *International Security*, 31(1): 127-164.

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: How do security concerns led to conflict? 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 and the tools useful to managing it?

Theme #4: Democratization and Elections, 14.02.2017

Aksoy, Deniz and David Carter. 2014. Electoral Institutions and the Emergence of Terrorist Groups, *British Journal of Political Science* 44(1): 181-204.

Hafner-Burton, Emilie M., Susan D. Hyde, and Ryan Jablonski, 2014. When Do Governments Resort to Election Violence?, *British Journal of Political Science*, 44(1): 149-179.

Lyall, Jason. 2010. Do Democracies Make Inferior Counterinsurgents? Reassessing Democracy's Impact on War Outcomes and Duration. *International Organization*, 64 (1): 167-92.

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

Discussion Questions: How does democratization led to civil war? What effect do elections have on conflict? Does the type of election make conflict more of less likely? How does democracy makes states vulnerable to internal conflict?

Theme #5: Strategies in the Conduct of Civil Wars, 21.02.2017

Stanton, Jessica A. 2016. *Violence and Restraint in Civil War: Civilian Targeting in the Shadow of International Law*. New York: Cambridge University Press., Chps. 1 and 3.

Weinstein, Jeremy. 2006. *Inside Rebellion: The Politics of Insurgent Violence*. New York: Cambridge University Press, Chp. 5 and 6.

Huang, Reyko. 2016. Rebel Diplomacy in Civil War, *International Security* 40(4): 89-126

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

Discussion Questions: Why do some rebel groups attack the civilian populations that say they represent? Why do some rebel groups launch overseas political campaigns to win internal wars? Why do they rape and attack women as a strategy of war? Are these strategies effective?

Theme #6: Third-Party Intervention/Peacekeeping, 28.02.2017

Autesserre, Séverine. 2010. *The Trouble with the Congo: Local Violence and the Failure of International Peacebuilding*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 3, 4, and 5.

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

Kydd, Andrew H. 2003. Which Side Are You On? Bias, Credibility and Mediation. *American Journal of Political Science* 47(4): 597-611.

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? When is diplomacy useful in getting actors to sign peace agreements? Does peacekeepers prevent renewed fighting? How?

PAPER SESSION: 07.03.2017

***** SPRING BREAK NO CLASS ON 14.03.17 *****

Theme #7: Courts, 21.03.2017

Jo, Hyeran Jo and Beth A. Simmons. 2016. Can the International Criminal Court Deter Atrocity? *International Organization* 70(3): 443-475.

Gibson James L. 2002. Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation: Judging the Fairness of Amnesty in South Africa. *American Journal of Political Science* 46(3):540-56

Minow M. 2000. The Hope for Healing: What can truth commissions do? *The morality of truth commissions*, eds. Robert I. Rotberg and Dennis Thompson, 235-260. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Snyder, Jack. 2003. Trials and Errors: Principle and Pragmatism in Strategies of International Justice. 28 (3): 5-44

Questions: XXXX

Theme #8: Reintegration, 28.03.2017.

Blattman, Christopher, Julian C. Jamison, Margaret Sheridan “Reducing Crime and Violence: Experimental Evidence from Cognitive Behavioral Therapy in Liberia,” NBER Working Paper No. 21204. <http://www.nber.org/papers/w21204>; See also: Aaron C. Davies Cities Begin to

Challenge a Bedrock of Justice: They're paying criminals not to kill. <http://tinyurl.com/zb3xbyy> (skim)

Blattman, Christopher. 2009. From Violence to Voting: War and Political Participation in Uganda, *American Political Science Review* 103(2): 231-247

Knight, Mark and Alpaslan Özerdem. 2004. Guns, Camps and Cash: Disarmament, Demobilization and Reinsertion of Former Combatants in Transitions from War to Peace, *Journal of Peace Research*, 41 (4): 499-516.

Levy Palluck, Elizabeth and Donald P. Green. 2009.-Deference, Dissent, and Dispute Resolution: An Experimental Intervention Using Mass Media to Change Norms and Behavior in Rwanda," *American Political Science Review*, 103 (4): 622-644

Discussion Questions: What strategies are effective in preventing former combatants from returning to fighting? What are the disadvantages of these strategies or negative externalities of these strategies for the communities in which former combatants reside.

Theme #9: Democracy and Elections, 04.04.2017

Brancati, Dawn and Jack L. Snyder. 2013. Time to Kill: The Impact of Election Timing on Post-conflict Stability (with). *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 57(5): 822-850.

Fortna, Virginia Page and Reyko Huang. 2012. Democratization after Civil War: A Brush-Clearing Exercise, *International Studies Quarterly* (2012) 56, 801–808

Huang, Reyko. 2016. *The Wartime Origins of Democratization: Civil War, Rebel Governance, and Political Regimes*. New York: Cambridge University Press, Chapter 2 and 3.

Matianock, Alia. 2016. *Electing Peace: Credibly Transitioning from Civil Conflict to Political Participation*. New York: Cambridge University Press, Chp. TBD.

Discussion Questions: Under what conditions are post-conflict countries most likely to democratize? Why do rebels participate in elections? How should elections be designed to prevent renewed fighting? ? When should the first post-conflicts elections be held?

Theme #10: Power-Sharing/Decentralization/Partition, 11.04.2017

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

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.

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: Does power-sharing prevent renewed fighting? Does decentralization prevent renewed fighting? What are the difficulties in implementing this system? Can partition prevent renewed fighting? When is partition feasible? What are the negative aspects of partition?

Class Presentations: 19.04.2017; 25.04.2017

PRELIMINARY