

Research Seminar: Political Order and Conflict

MACIS Optional Seminar, Spring Term 2012

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Aims and organization

This seminar builds on the MACIS seminar on “political violence” and covers the literature on civil war and other types of conflict in the contemporary world. We will cover topics such as ethnic violence, political economy perspectives on war, the role of political institutions, and the international dimensions of civil conflict. The students will develop an original research question to be dealt with in a research paper.

The seminar will run for one term and will expose students to the literature on political order and conflict. This course will provide an overview of core topics and readings, although students are highly encouraged to consult readings not covered on the syllabus when developing their projects. Students will write a research design, which may eventually turn into a full-length paper or thesis, and are expected to present their design during the final sessions of the course.

Requirements and grading

Students will have to fulfill the following requirements:

- Participate at the sessions of the seminar.
- Read the required readings assigned for each meeting.
- Write three short memos on the topics. The memos should develop a critique and analysis of the week’s readings. These memos are due on Monday evening of the week in which this topic is scheduled. Students need to be prepared to briefly present the main arguments appearing in their memos in class.
- Prepare a research design (due in week 12) that outlines the research question and the relevant literature for the research paper (see below).
- Discuss a research design of another student.
- Write a research paper on a topic chosen by the students (in agreement with the instructors).

Grades for the research seminar will consist of the following elements:

- 70 % term paper
- 10 % weekly memos
- 20 % research presentation and class participation

All readings are available at:

<http://www.cederman.ethz.ch/teaching/poc2012/>
(User Name & Password: "poc2012")

Political Order and Conflict -- Schedule

Week 1 (February 23rd). Introduction

Week 2 (March 2nd). Concepts

Themnér, Lotta & Peter Wallensteen, 2011. Armed Conflict, 1946-2010. *Journal of Peace Research* 48 (4): 525-536.

Sambanis, Nicholas. 2004. What Is Civil War? Conceptual and Empirical Complexities of an Operational Definition. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 48 (6): 814-858.

Kalyvas, Stathis, and Laia Balcells. 2010. International System and Technologies of Rebellion: How the End of the Cold War Shaped Internal Conflict. *American Political Science Review* 104 (3): 415-429.

Week 3 (March 9th). Grievances and Conflict

Gurr, Ted. 1968. Psychological Factors in Civil Violence. *World Politics*. 20(2):245-278

Tilly, Charles. 1978. *From Mobilization to Revolution*. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley Publishing. Chapters 3, 4.

Gurr, Ted. 1994. Peoples Against States: Ethnopolitical Conflict and the Changing World System. *International Studies Quarterly*. 38: 347-377

Week 4 (March 16th). Rationalism and the Security Dilemma

Posen, Barry R. 1993. The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict. In *Ethnic Conflict and International Security*, ed. M. E. Brown. Princeton University Press. pp. 103-124.

Rui de Figuerido and Barry Weingast, 1999. The Rationality of Fear: Political Opportunism and Ethnic Conflict. In *Civil Wars, Insecurity and Intervention*, ed Barbara Walter and Jack Snyder. (New York: Columbia University Press). 261-302

Kalyvas, Stathis. 1999. Wanton and Senseless? The Logic of Massacres in Algeria. *Rationality and Society* 11 (3): 243-85.

Week 5 (March 23rd). Political Economy Approaches

Weinstein, Jeremy M. 2005. Resources and the Information Problem in Rebel Recruitment. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 49 (4): 598-624.

Ross, Michael. 2006. A Closer Look at Oil, Diamonds, and Civil War. *Annual Review of Political Science* 9: 265-300

Collier, Paul, Anke Hoeffler, and Dominic Rohner. 2009. Beyond Greed and Grievance: Feasibility and Civil War. *Oxford Economic Papers* 61: 1–27.

Week 6 (March 30th). Ethno-Nationalist Conflict

Horowitz, Donald L. 1985. *Ethnic Groups in Conflict*. University of California Press. pp. 141-184

Cederman, Lars-Erik, Wimmer, Andreas, and Min, Brian. 2010. Why Do Ethnic Groups Rebel? New Data and Analysis. *World Politics* 62(1): 87-119.

Cederman, Lars-Erik, Nils B. Weidmann, and Kristian Skrede Gleditsch. 2011. Horizontal Inequalities and Ethno-Nationalist Civil War: A Global Comparison. *American Political Science Review* 105 (3): 478-495.

Week 7 (April 6th). Secession and Irredentism

Walter, Barbara. 2006. Building Reputation: Why Governments Fight Some Separatists but Not Others. *American Journal of Political Science*. 50 (2): 313:30.

Horowitz, Donald L. 1985. *Ethnic Groups in Conflict*. University of California Press. Chapter 6.

Cederman, Lars-Erik, Kristian Skrede Gleditsch, Idean Salehyan, and Julian Wucherpfennig. 2011. Transborder Ethnic Kin and Civil War. (unpublished manuscript)

Week 8 (April 13th). Federalism and Power-sharing

Brancati, Dawn. 2006. Decentralization: Fueling the Fire or Dampening the Flames of Ethnic Conflict and Secessionism. *International Organization* 60: 651-85.

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

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.

Recommended

Hale, Henry. 2004. Divided We Stand: Institutional Sources of Ethnofederal State Survival and Collapse. *World Politics* 56: 165–193.

Week 9 (April 20th). Democracy and Democratization

Hegre, H., T. Ellingsen, S. Gates and N. P. Gleditsch. 2001. Toward a Democratic Civil Peace? Democracy, Political Change and Civil War. *American Political Science Review* 95 (1): 33-48.

Gleditsch, Nils Petter, Havard Hegre, and Havard Strand. 2009. Democracy and Civil War. In Manus I. Midlarsky (ed.) *Handbook of War Studies III: The Intrastate Dimension*. University of Michigan Press. pp. 155-192.

Cederman, Lars-Erik, Simon Hug, and and Lutz Krebs. 2010. Democratization and Civil War - Empirical Evidence. *Journal of Peace Research* 47 (4): 377-394

Week 10 (May 4th). International Diffusion

Lake, David A. and Donald Rothchild. 1998. Spreading Fear: The Genesis of Transnational Ethnic Conflict. In *The International Spread of Ethnic Conflict: Fear, Diffusion, and Escalation*, David A. Lake and Donald Rothchild (eds.), Princeton University Press. pp. 3-34.

Gleditsch, Kristian. 2007. Transnational Dimensions of Civil War. *Journal of Peace Research*. 44 (3): 293-309.

Salehyan, Idean. 2007. Transnational Rebels: Neighboring States as Sanctuary for Rebel Groups. *World Politics* 59 (2): 217-242

Week 11 (May 11th). Peacebuilding

Doyle, Michael W. and Nicholas Sambanis. 2000. International Peacebuilding: A Theoretical and Quantitative Analysis. *American Political Science Review* 94 (4): 779-801.

Humphreys, Macartan and Jeremy M. Weinstein. 2007. Demobilization and Reintegration. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 51 (4): 531-567.

Fortna, Virginia Page and Lise Morje Howard. 2008. Pitfalls and Prospects in the Peacekeeping Literature. *Annual Review of Political Science* 11: 283-301.

Week 12 (May 18th). Partition

Kaufmann, Chaim. 1999. When All Else Fails: Evaluating Population Transfers and Partition as Solutions to Ethnic Conflict. In *Civil Wars, Insecurity and Intervention*, Barbara Walter and Jack Snyder (eds.), Columbia University Press. pp. 221-260.

Chapman, Thomas and Philip Roeder. 2007. Partition as a Solution to Wars of Nationalism: the Importance of Institutions. *American Political Science Review*. 101 (4): 677-691.

Sambanis, Nicholas and Jonah Schulhofer-Wohl. 2009. What's in a Line?: Is Partition a Solution to Civil War?. *International Security* 34 (2): 82-118.

Recommended

Fearon, James D. 2004. Separatist Wars, Partition, and World Order. *Security Studies* 13 (4): 394-415.

Week 13 (May 25th). Student presentation I

Week 14 (June 1st). Student presentations II

Final Papers Due: July 16th