

Research Seminar: Political Order and Conflict

MACIS Optional Research Seminar, Spring Term 2015

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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. It 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 % memos
- 20 % research presentation and class participation

All readings are available at:

<http://cederman.ethz.ch/teaching/poc2014/>

(User Name & Password: "poc2014")

Political Order and Conflict -- Schedule

Week 1 (February 18th). Introduction

Week 2 (February 25th). Concepts & Classical Approaches to Conflict

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

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. Chapter 3.

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

[Recommended reading:

Cederman, Lars-Erik, Kristian Skrede Gleditsch and Halvard Buhaug, 2013. *Inequality, Grievances and Civil War*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 2.]

Week 3 (March 4th). Political Economy and Natural Resources

Blattman, Christopher, and Edward Miguel. 2010. Civil War. *Journal of Economic Literature* 48 (1):3-57.

Ross, Michael. 2012. *The Oil Curse*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter 5.

Lujala, Päivi. 2010. The spoils of nature: Armed Civil Conflict and Rebel Access to Natural Resources. *Journal of Peace Research* 47(1): 15-28.

Week 4 (March 11th). Ethno-nationalist Exclusion

Horowitz, Donald L. 1985. *Ethnic Groups in Conflict*. University of California Press. Chapter 5 (pp. 185-228).

Cederman, Lars-Erik, Kristian Skrede Gleditsch and Halvard Buhaug, 2013. *Inequality, Grievances and Civil War*. Cambridge University Press. Chapters 3-4.

[Recommended reading:

Denny, Elaine K., and Barbara F. Walter. 2014. Ethnicity and Civil War. *Journal of Peace Research* 51 (2): 199-212.]

Week 5 (March 18th). Economic Inequality

Boix, Carles. 2008. Economic Roots of Civil Wars and Revolutions in the Contemporary World. *World Politics* 60 (April): 390-437.

Cederman, Lars-Erik, Kristian Skrede Gleditsch and Halvard Buhaug, 2013. *Inequality, Grievances and Civil War*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 5.

Vogt, Manuel. 2014. Ethnic Mobilization and Conflict in European Settler States: Race and the Equilibrium of Inequality. Unpublished Manuscript. ETH Zurich.

Week 6 (March 25th). Democracy, Democratization, and Conflict

Mann, Michael. 1999. The Dark Side of Democracy: The Modern Tradition of Ethnic and Political Cleansing. *New Left Review* 1/235.

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

Hegre, Håvard. 2014. Democracy and Armed Conflict. *Journal of Peace Research* 51 (2): 159-172.

[Recommended reading:

Hegre, Håvard, Tanja Ellingsen, Scott Gates, and Nils Petter Gleditsch. 2001. Toward a Democratic Civil Peace? Democracy, Political Change, and Civil War, 1816-1992. *American Political Science Review* 95 (1): 33-48.]

Week 7 (April 1st). Trans-border Relations and International Diffusion

Weiner, Myron. 1971. The Macedonian Syndrome: An Historical Model of International Relations and Political Development. *World Politics* 23 (4): 665-683.

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. 3-34.

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

Cederman, Lars-Erik, Kristian Skrede Gleditsch and Halvard Buhaug, 2013. *Inequality, Grievances and Civil War*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 6.

[Easter break]

Week 8 (April 15th). Duration and Termination

Fearon, James D. 2004. "Why Do Some Civil Wars Last So Much Longer Than Others?" *Journal of Peace Research* 41 (3):275-301.

Cunningham, David E., Kristian Skrede Gleditsch, and Idean Salehyan. 2009. "It Takes Two: A Dyadic Analysis of Civil War Duration and Outcome." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 53 (4):570-97.

Cederman, Lars-Erik, Kristian Skrede Gleditsch and Halvard Buhaug, 2013. *Inequality, Grievances and Civil War*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 8.

Week 9 (April 22nd). One-sided Violence

Valentino, Benjamin A. 2014. Why We Kill: The Political Science of Political Violence against Civilians. *Annual Review of Political Science* 17: 89–103.

Harff, Barbara. 2003. No Lessons Learned from the Holocaust? Assessing Risks of Genocide and Political Mass. *The American Political Science Review* 97 (1):57-73.

Humphreys, Macartan and Jeremy M. Weinstein. 2006. Handling and Manhandling Civilians in Civil War: Determinants of the Strategies of Warring Factions. *American Political Science Review* 100(3):429-447.

Valentino, Benjamin A., Paul Huth and Dylan Balch-Lindsay. 2004. Draining the Sea: Mass Killing and Guerrilla Warfare. *International Organization* 58(2):375-407.

Week 10 (April 29th). Governmental Power Sharing

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.

Rothchild, Donald, and Philip G. Roeder. 2005. "Dilemmas of State Building in Divided Societies." In *Sustainable Peace: Power and Democracy After Civil War*, ed. P. G. Roeder and D. Rothchild. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Roessler, Philip. 2011. "The Enemy Within: Personal Rule, Coups, and Civil War in Africa." *World Politics* 63 (2): 300-346.

Vogt, Manuel. 2014. Elite Networks, Ethnic Equality and Conflict: A Case Study of Côte d'Ivoire and Gabon. Unpublished Manuscript. ETH Zurich

Week 11 (May 6th). Territorial Power Sharing and Partition

McGarry, John, and Brendan O'Leary. 2009. Must Pluri-national Federations Fail? *Ethnopolitics* 8(1):5-25.

Cederman, Lars-Erik, Simon Hug, Andreas Schädel, and Julian Wucherpfennig. Forthcoming. Territorial Autonomy in the Shadow of Conflict: Too Little, Too late? *American Political Science Review*.

Kaufmann, Chaim. 1996. "Possible and Impossible Solutions to Ethnic Civil Wars." *International Security* 20 (4):136-175.

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.

Week 12 (May 13th). Peacekeeping

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

Fortna, Virginia Page, and Lise Morjé Howard. 2008. Pitfalls and Prospects in the Peacekeeping Literature. *Annual Review of Political Science* 11 (1):283-301.

Hultman, Lisa, Jacob Kathman, and Megan Shannon. 2014. Beyond Keeping Peace: United Nations Effectiveness in the Midst of Fighting. *American Political Science Review* 108 (04):737-753.

Week 13 (May 20th). Student presentations I

Week 14 (May 27th). Student presentations II

Final Papers Due: [TBD]