# Research Seminar: Political Order and Conflict
MACIS Optional Research Seminar, Spring Term 2017

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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).

The final grade will be determined primarily by the term paper. However, class participation and the memos are also taken into consideration.

All readings are available at:

https://cederman.ethz.ch/teaching/poc2017/
(User Name & Password: "poc2017")

# Schedule and Readings

**Week 1 (February 22nd).  Introduction**

**Week 2 (March 1st).  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.

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

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

**Week 3 (March 8th). Political Economy and Natural Resources**

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

Ross, Michael. 2015. What Have We Learned about the Resource Curse? *Annual Review of Political Science 18: 239-259.*

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 15<sup>th</sup>). Ethnic Inequality**

Cederman, Lars-Erik, Kristian Skrede Gleditsch and Halvard Buhaug, 2013. *Inequality, Grievances and Civil War.* Cambridge University Press. Chapters 3-5.

Vogt, Manuel. Ethnic Stratification and the Equilibrium of Inequality: Ethnic Conflict in Post-colonial States. Manuscript accepted for publication in *International Organization*.

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

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

**Week 5 (March 22<sup>nd</sup>). Democracy, Democratization, and Conflict**

Mann, Michael. 1999. The Dark Side of Democracy: The Modern Tradition of Ethnic and Political Cleansing. *New Left Review* I/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 6 (March 29<sup>th</sup>). 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.

Buhaug, Halvard, and Kristian Skrede Gleditsch. 2008. Contagion or Confusion? Why Conflicts Cluster in Space. *International Studies Quarterly* 52(2): 215-233.


[Recommended reading:
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.]



**Week 7 (April 5<sup>th</sup>). Organization of and Participation in Civil War**

Kalyvas, Stathis N. and Matthew Kocher Kocher. 2007. How "Free" Is Free Riding in Civil Wars? Violence, Insurgency, and the Collective Action Problem. *World Politics* 59(2):177-216.

Wood, Elisabeth Jean. 2008. "The Social Processes of Civil War: The Wartime Transformation of Social Networks." *Annual Review of Political Science* 11:539-561.

Lyall, Jason. 2010. Are Coethnics More Effective Counterinsurgents? Evidence from the Second Chechen War. *American Political Science Review* 104 (01):1-20.


[Recommended reading:
Staniland, Paul. 2012. Organizing Insurgency: Networks, Resources, and Rebellion in South Asia. *International Security* 37 (1):142–177.

Tezcür, Günes Murat. 2016. Ordinary People, Extraordinary Risks: Participation in an Ethnic Rebellion. *American Political Science Review* 110 (2):247-264.]

**Week 8 (April 12th).  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.


**[Easter break]**


**Week 9 (April 26th). One-sided Violence and Genocide**

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

Straus, Scott. 2012. Retreating from the Brink: Theorizing Mass Violence and the Dynamics of Restraint. *Perspectives on Politics* 10 (02):343-362.

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.


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

Hagan, John, and Wenona Rymond-Richmond. 2008. The Collective Dynamics of Racial Dehumanization and Genocidal Victimization in Darfur. *American Sociological Review* 73 (6):875–902.]


**Week 10 (May 3rd). 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.

Gates, Scott, Benjamin A. T. Graham, Yonatan Lupu, Håvard Strand, and Kaare W. Strøm. Forthcoming. Power Sharing, Protection, and Peace. *Journal of Politics*.

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

Vogt, Manuel. 2014. Colonialism, Elite Networks, and the Origins of Ethnic Power-Sharing. Unpublished Manuscript. ETH Zurich


**Week 11 (May 10<sup>th</sup>). Territorial Power Sharing and Partition**

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

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.


[Recommended reading:
Cederman, Lars-Erik, Simon Hug, Andreas Schädel, and Julian Wucherpfennig. 2015. Territorial Autonomy in the Shadow of Conflict: Too Little, Too Late?  *American Political Science Review* 109 (2):354-370.]


**Week 12 (May 17<sup>th</sup>). 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 24<sup>th</sup>).  Student presentations I**


**Week 14 (May 31<sup>st</sup>).  Student presentations II**


**Final Papers Due: [<u>TBD</u>]**