

Research Seminar: Political Order and Conflict

MACIS Optional Research Seminar, Spring Term 2014

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February 12, 2014

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

(User Name & Password: "poc2014")

Political Order and Conflict -- Schedule

Week 1 (February 19th). Introduction

Week 2 (February 26th). Concepts

Themnér, Lotta and Peter Wallensteen, 2012. Armed Conflicts, 1946-2011. *Journal of Peace Research* 49 (4): 565–575.

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 N. 2007. "Civil Wars." In *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics*, eds. Carles Boix and Susan C. Stokes. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Week 3 (March 5th). Classical Approaches to 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

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

Week 4 (March 12th). 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.

Aspinall, Edward. 2007. "The Construction of Grievance: Natural Resources and Identity in a Separatist Conflict." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 51(6): 950-972.

Week 5 (March 19th). Ethno-Nationalist Exclusion

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

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

Wucherpfennig, Julian, Philipp Hunziker, and Lars-Erik Cederman. 2012. "Who Inherits the State? Colonial Rule and Post-Colonial Conflict." Unpublished paper. ETH Zürich.

Week 6 (March 26th). 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.

Humphreys, Macartan, and Habaye ag Mohamed. 2005. "Senegal and Mali." In *Understanding Civil War, Evidence and Analysis, Vol. 1* edited by P. Collier and N. Sambanis. Washington D.C.: World Bank Publications. 247-302.

Vogt, Manuel. 2014. Ethnic Mobilization, Equality and the Risk of Ethnic Conflict in Ranked and Unranked Systems. Unpublished Dissertation Chapter.

Week 7 (April 2nd). 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.

Week 8 (April 9th). 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 16th). One-sided Violence

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.

Schirmer, Jennifer. 1998. *The Guatemalan Military Project: A Violence Called Democracy*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. Chapter 2.

[Easter break]

Week 10 (April 30th). Micro-level Approaches to 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.

Humphreys, Macartan and Jeremy Weinstein. 2008. "Who Fights? The Determinants of Participation in Civil War." *American Journal of Political Science* 52(2):436-455.

Kalyvas, Stathis N. 2008. "Ethnic Defection in Civil War." *Comparative Political Studies* 41, 8: 1043-1068.

Week 11 (May 7th). 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 Dissertation Chapter.

Week 12 (May 14th). Territorial Power Sharing: Federalism and Decentralization

Hale, Henry E. 2004. Divided We Stand: Institutional Sources of Ethnofederal Survival and Collapse. *World Politics* 56: 165-93.

Bunce, Valerie and Stephen Watts. 2005. Managing Diversity and Sustaining Democracy: Ethnofederal versus Unitary States in the Postcommunist World. In *Sustainable Peace: Power and Democracy After Civil Wars*. Eds. Philip G. Roeder and Donald Rothchild.

Cederman, Lars-Erik, Simon Hug, Andreas Schädel and Julian Wucherpfennig. 2013. "Territorial Autonomy in the Shadow of Conflict: Too Little, Too late?" Unpublished paper, ETH Zürich.

Week 13 (May 21th). Student presentations I

Week 14 (May 28th). Student presentations II

Final Papers Due: July 20th