

PS 188-12
UNDERSTANDING CIVIL WARS:
INTERNAL CONFLICTS AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES

Spring 2008
Time: 3:00-4:15pm
Class Location: Eaton 206
Office Hours: M,W 4:20-5:45pm

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Course Description: For the better part of the twentieth century, international security scholars and practitioners focused on the causes and consequences of war and peace *between* countries, particularly the prospects for conflict between the great powers. Nevertheless, since 1945 the vast majority of conflicts have been *within* countries rather than between them. This course surveys competing theories about the causes, conduct, and conclusion of the dominant brand of conflict in the world today and examines how the international community deals with these (enduring and often seemingly intractable) conflicts. Topics examined include conflict prevention, conflict mediation, military intervention, peace implementation, peacekeeping and peace enforcement, and refugee crisis management. The course combines theories from international relations and conflict resolution with case studies of recent and ongoing conflicts. The class has four goals:

- 1) to introduce students to competing theories of the causes (and catalysts) of internal conflicts, to aid them in...
- 2) better understanding the tough choices that policy-makers face when they contemplate or undertake conflict intervention, as well as better evaluate the consequences of actions taken and alternatives eschewed;
- 3) recognizing underlying ethical issues that are embedded in the decisions and actions of policy-makers and practitioners in the field of conflict management; and
- 4) identifying strategies and policy options for dealing with current and future conflicts, by drawing upon lessons from past conflicts and interventions.

Course Requirements: There are four requirements for this class. The first is attendance and active participation (10% of your grade). You are expected to do the readings, attend class, and participate in class discussions; however, you will not be graded on the absolute quantity of your participation, but rather on the quality of it. Also, please be aware that there is a significant amount of reading assigned in this course. If you are unwilling to assume this burden, you should NOT take this course. The second requirement is an in-class midterm (35% of your grade). The third is a final exam (40% of your grade). The final requirement is a brief group presentation (15% of your grade), in which you and the other members of your team will have an opportunity to creatively apply what you have learned during the course of the semester to a recent or ongoing conflict. Details of this assignment are outlined on the final page of this syllabus.

Prerequisites: PS 61 or equivalent

Significant portions of the following books are required reading:

Chester Crocker, Fen Osler Hampson, and Pamela Aall (editors), *Leashing the Dogs of War: Conflict Management in a Divided World* (Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace, 2007).

Stephen John Stedman, Donald Rothchild, and Elizabeth Cousens, *Ending Civil Wars: The Implementation of Peace Agreements* (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 2002).

Robert C. DiPrizio, *Armed Humanitarians: US Interventions from Northern Iraq to Kosovo*, 2nd edition (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005).

Additional readings will be available on-line through Tisch Library's databases and e-resources (hereafter referred to as "ER"), via Blackboard (hereafter "BL") or via links on the Web (noted below).

Please be aware that some case studies (and the accompanying readings) may be supplemented and/or adjusted, depending on the background and interests of the students taking this course. With this in mind, please do not be shy about sharing your own interests and ideas; I aim to make the course as interesting and fulfilling as possible.

Finally, please note that extensions will be granted and make-up exams scheduled ONLY at the *pre-approved* discretion of the professor and ONLY in the case of serious, *documentable* medical and/or family emergencies (e.g., colds do not count). Under no circumstances will extensions be granted or make-ups permitted due to the general stresses of academic life or the demands of other courses or extra-curricular activities. In the interest of equity and fairness for all students, no exceptions to these ground rules will be made, so please plan accordingly.

COURSE SCHEDULE

I. THE CAUSES AND CONDUCT OF INTERNAL CONFLICT

WEEK ONE

January 16 **Introduction and Overview of Course**

No required reading

WEEK TWO

January 21 **Martin Luther King Day celebrated (NO CLASS)**

January 23 **Conflict and its Management in the Post-Cold War World**

Lotta Harbom, et al., "Armed Conflict and Peace Agreements," *Journal of Peace Research*, vol. 43, no. 5 (2006), pp. 617-31 (ER).

Chapter 7: State Making, State Breaking, and State Failure (Ayoob); and Chapter 28: The United Nations and Conflict Management: Relevant or Irrelevant? (Mingst and Karns) in *Leashing the Dogs of War*.

WEEK THREE **Causes of Internal Conflict I**

January 28 and 30 **Structural and Political Factors**

Barry Posen, "The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict," *Survival*, vol.35, no.1 (1993), pp. 27-47 (ER).

Stephen Van Evera, "Hypotheses on Nationalism and War," *International Security*, vol. 18,

no. 4 (spring 1994), pp. 5-39 (ER).

Chapter 9: Minorities, Nationalists, and Islamists: Managing Communal Conflict in the Twenty-first Century (Gurr); Chapter 8: Power, Social Violence and Civil Wars (King); and *skim only* Chapter 10: Turbulent Transitions: Why Emerging Democracies Go to War (Mansfield and Snyder) in *Leashing the Dogs of War*.

Recommended:

Jeffrey Herbst, "Responding to State Failure in Africa," *International Security*, vol. 21, no. 2 (winter 1996-97), pp. 120-144 (ER).

WEEK FOUR Causes of Internal Conflict II

February 4 and 6 Economic/Social and Cultural/Psychological Factors

Chapter 12: Economic Causes of Civil Conflict and Their Implications for Policy (Collier); and Chapter 13: Motivations for Conflict: Groups and Individuals (Stewart and Brown) in *Leashing the Dogs of War*.

Saul Newman. "Does Modernization Breed Ethnic Political Conflict?," *World Politics*, vol. 43, no. 3 (April 1991), pp. 451-78. *Please skim only pp. 451-middle of 455. Read more closely the rest of the piece, paying specific attention to the theories proposed by each of the authors covered (e.g., Walker Connor argues that increased inter-group exposure → increased inter-group competition → increase in conflict.)* (BL).

Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations," *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 72, no. 3 (Summer 1993) and "Response: If Not Civilizations, What?—Paradigms of the Post-Cold War World," *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 73, no. 1 (November/December 1993). (*Huntington's article is required; the responses are recommended.*) (ER).

Also, review discussions of group identity and the potential dangers of nationalism in the Posen and Van Evera articles as well as the discussion of social causes of civil wars in the King article (assigned in Week Three).

Recommended:

John Mueller, "The Banality of 'Ethnic War'," *International Security*, vol. 25, no. 1 (summer 2000), pp. 42-70 (ER).

II. EXTERNAL INTERVENTION

WEEK FIVE

February 11 Prevention

Stephen John Stedman, "Alchemy for A New World Order," *Foreign Affairs* (May/June 1995), pp. 14-20; Michael Lund, "Underrating Preventive Diplomacy," *Foreign Affairs* (July/August 1995), pp. 160-163; and Atwood and Stedman letters in *Foreign Affairs* (September/October 1995), pp. 189-191 (ER).

"If War Is Not the Answer, What Is? The Peaceful Prevention of Deadly Conflict"; available at: http://www.fcni.org/issues/int/sup/ppdc_booklet.htm; OR Lee Feinstein and Anne-Marie Slaughter, "A Duty to Prevent," *Foreign Affairs* (January/February 2004) (ER).