

Political Science 513
Seminar in Comparative Politics: Terrorism, Civil War, and Political Violence

Washington University
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Course Description

In this graduate seminar we will examine the growing formal and quantitative literature on political violence. The course will require careful reading of 2-4 moderately to fairly technical articles each week on topics including: terrorism, the causes of civil war, the duration and cessation of civil war, the transition from violence to democracy, violence and social order, violence and economic development, the institutional structure of insurgent organizations, government violence and expropriation, revolution, and ethnic violence. Almost all of the readings are available on the web either at JSTOR, the World Bank website, or the course website.

Course Requirements

There are three requirements for this course:

1. Relatively few articles are assigned each week. The expectation is that you will read the articles carefully, fully working through the mathematics of the models before coming to class. In weeks where more than two articles are included, the ones that you should focus on are marked with a *.
2. Response Papers. You should write three response papers during the semester. These response papers involve choosing one of the papers assigned and writing a detailed "referee's report" on the paper.
3. A seminar paper will be due at the end of the semester. Paper proposals will be due about two-thirds of the way through the course. One class period will be devoted to student presentations of their research proposals.

Prerequisites

Political Science 5071 (Game Theory) or equivalent course.

Civil War

Week 1. Civil Wars I

Fearon, James. "Why Do Some Civil Wars Last So Much Longer than Others."

Available at

<http://econ.worldbank.org/programs/conflict/topic/13191/library/doc?id=18171>.

Wood, Elizabeth. 2001. "Distributional Settlements and Civil War Resolution: Stakes, Expectations, and Optimal Agreements." NYU Working Paper. Available on the course website.

Week 2. Civil Wars II

Fearon, James. 1998. "Commitment Problems and the Spread of Ethnic Conflict." In David Lake and Donald Rothchild, eds. *The International Spread of Ethnic Conflict*. (Princeton: Princeton University Press).

Sambanis Nicholas. 2000. "Partition as a Solution to Ethnic War: An Empirical Critique of the Theoretical Literature." *World Politics* 52. Available from World Bank website at

<http://www.worldbank.org/research/conflict/papers/partition2.pdf>

Terrorism

Week 3. Terrorism and Mobilization

*Weingast, Barry and Rui de Figueiredo. 2001. "Vicious Cycles: Endogenous Political Extremism and Political Violence." *Institute of Governmental Studies Working Paper 2001-9*. Available at

<http://www.igs.berkeley.edu/publications/workingpapers/WP2001-9.pdf>

*Bueno de Mesquita, Ethan. 2003. "The Quality of Terror." Available at

http://www.artsci.wustl.edu/~ebuenode/PDF/terror_quality.pdf

Krueger, Alan B. and Jitka Maleckova. 2003. "Education, Poverty, Political Violence, and Terrorism: Is There a Causal Connection?" *NBER Working Paper* 9074. Available at <http://papers.nber.org/papers/W9074>

Week 4. Terrorists and Governments

*Kydd, Andrew and Barbara F. Walter. 2002. "Sabotaging the Peace: The Politics of Extremist Violence" *International Organization* 56(2).

*Lapan, Harvey E. and Todd Sandler. 1993. "Terrorism and Signaling." *European Journal of Political Economy* 9(3):383-397. Available on the course website

Violence and Social Order

Week 5. Property Rights and Predation

Muthoo, Abhinay. "On the Foundations of Basic Property Rights, Part 1: A Model of the State-of-Nature with Two Players." Available on the World Bank website at

<http://www.worldbank.org/research/conflict/papers/state.pdf>

Grossman Herschel I. and Minseong Kim. 1995. "Swords or Ploughshares: A Theory of the Security of Claims to Property." *Journal of Political Economy* 103(6). Available on JSTOR.

Week 6. Political Order

*Weingast, Barry R. "The Political Foundations of Democracy and the Rule of Law." *American Political Science Review* 91(2):245-263. JSTOR

*Ellman, Matthew and Leonard Wantchekan. 2000. "Electoral Competition Under the Threat of Political Unrest." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 115(2). JSTOR

Azam, Jean Paul, Robert Bates, Bruno Biais, Karen Ferree, and Smita Singh. 2002. "Predation, Inequality and the Political Economy of Development." Available at

http://www.cid.harvard.edu/cidpeople/bates/Predation_Inequality.pdf

Week 7. Violence and Economic Opportunism

Azman, Jean-Paul. 2000. "Looting and Conflict Between Ethno-Regional Groups: Lessons for State Formation in Africa." Available at <http://www.univ-tlse1.fr/ARQADE/ressources/Cahiers/2000/Looting.PDF>

Schnitzer, Monika. 1999. "Expropriation and Control Rights: A Dynamic Model of Foreign Direct Investment." *International Journal of Industrial Organization* 17. Available on the course website.

OR

Thomas, Jonathan and Tim Worrall. 1994. "Foreign Direct Investment and the Risk of Expropriation." *Review of Economic Studies* 61. Available on JSTOR.

Week 8. Violence, Economic Development, and Redistribution

*Grossman, Herschel I. "A General Equilibrium Model of Insurrections." *The American Economic Review* 81(4). Available from JSTOR.

*Acemoglu, Daron and James A. Robinson. 2001. "A Theory of Political Transitions." *American Economic Review* 91. Available from Acemoglu's website http://econ-www.mit.edu/faculty/acemoglu/files/papers/transitions_aerfinal.pdf

Murdoch, James C. and Todd Sandler. "Economic Growth, Civil Wars, and Spatial Spillovers." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 46(1).

Abadie, Alberto and Javier Gardeazabal. "The Economic Costs of Conflict: A Case-Control Study for the Basque Country." NBER Working Paper # w8478 available at <http://papers.nber.org/papers/W8478>

Week 9. Violence and Democratization

Wantchekan, Leonard and Zvika Neeman. 2002. "A Theory of Post Civil War Democratization." *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 14. Available at http://www.nyu.edu/gsas/dept/politics/faculty/wantchekan/research/JTP_2002.pdf

Acemoglu, Daron and James Robinson. "Democratization or Repression." Available at http://econ-www.mit.edu/faculty/download_pdf.php?id=158

Week 10. Proposal Presentations

Ethnic Conflict

Week 11.

Fearon, James and David Laitin. 1996. "Explaining Interethnic Cooperation." *American Political Science Review* 90(4). Available from JSTOR.

Casselli, Francesco and Wilbur John Coleman II. "On the Theory of Ethnic Conflict." Unpublished working paper available on the course website.

Mobilization and the Internal Structure of Insurgent Groups

Week 12.

*Parikh, Sunita and Charles Cameron. 2000. "Riot Games: A Theory of Riots and Mass Political Violence." Available on the course website.

*Lohman, Susanne. 1993. "A Signaling Model of Informative and Manipulative Political Action" *American Political Science Review*, 87(2). Available on JSTOR.

Gates, Scott. "Recruitment and Allegiance: The Microfoundations of Rebellion." Available at http://www.src.uchicago.edu/depts/polsci/research/orgs/Gates_s01.pdf

Revolution and Coups

Week 13.

*Ginkel, John and Alastair Smith. 1999. "So You Say You Want a Revolution: A Game Theoretic Explanation of Revolution in Repressive Regimes." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 43(3). Available on the course website.

*Galetovitch, Alexander and Ricardo Sanhueza. 2000. "Citizens, Autocrats, and Plotters: A Model and New Evidence of Coups D'Etat." *Economics and Politics* 12.

Roemer, John E. 1985. "Rationalizing Revolution Ideology." *Econometrica* 53(1). Available on JSTOR.

Some Generality

Week 14.

*Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, James Morrow, Randolph Siverson, Alastair Smith. 2002. "Political Institutions, Policy Choice and the Survival of Leaders." *British Journal of Political Science* 32(4).

*Powell, Robert. 2003. "The Inefficient Use of Power: Costly Conflict with Complete Information." Unpublished paper available on course website.

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, Alastair Smith, Randolph Siverson and James Morrow. 2003. *The Logic of Political Survival* (Cambridge: MIT Press). Chapter 8.