

# Civil War

Spring 2003  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Political Science 17.582  
Tuesday, 1-3  
Room: E51-165

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:30-5:30 or by appointment

## Course Overview

Course goals are twofold. First, the class provides a survey of the recent literature on the origins, course, end, and aftermath of civil war. Second, the course examines civil wars in a wide range of states. By the end of the course, the student is expected to be able to apply the theoretical and methodological material from the first weeks of the class to actual cases. Special emphasis is on the use of the comparative method for the analysis of civil war.

## Requirements

- 1) The course is a seminar. Therefore, all students are expected to read the materials before each session and be ready to engage in class discussion.
- 2) A two page position paper on an assigned topic will be due before most classes. This paper is due in my mailbox, or in my email inbox, by 3 pm on Monday.
- 3) A comparative paper of at least twenty pages is due at the end of the course. The student will discuss the design of this paper with the professor. This paper must include at least one of the cases from the course (Bosnia, Columbia, El Salvador, an African case).
- 4) Roughly, class participation and the position papers each account for one-quarter of the grade, while the comparative paper will account for one-half.

## Course Materials

- 1) A packet of readings is available for purchase Copy Tech (basement of E52).
- 2) Readings not in the packet will be available on reserve.
- 3) There are five required books:

a) Barbara Walter and Jack Snyder, *Civil Wars, Insecurity, and Intervention* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1999).

b) Steven L. Burg, *The War in Bosnia-Herzegovina: Ethnic Conflict and International Intervention* (Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 1999).

c) Nazih Richani, *Systems of Violence: The Political Economy of War and Peace in Colombia*. (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2002).

d) Taisier M. Ali and Robert O. Matthews, *Civil Wars in Africa: Roots and Resolution* (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1999).

e) Elisabeth J. Wood, *Forging Democracy from Below: Insurgent Transitions in South Africa and El Salvador* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000).

## Schedule

February 4: Introduction

February 11: Definitions and Concepts

1. James Fearon and David D. Laitin. Forthcoming, *APSR*. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War."
2. Harry Eckstein. 1964. "Introduction: Toward the Theoretical Study of Internal War," in *Internal War*, Harry Eckstein, ed. (New York: Free Press), pp. 1-32.
3. Thucydides, "The Civil War in Corcyra" in *The Peloponnesian War*, III: 69-85.
4. Charles Tilly. 2002. "Violence, Terror, and Politics as Usual." *Boston Review* Summer: 21-4.
5. Stathis Kalyvas. 2001. "New' and 'Old' Civil Wars. A Valid Distinction?" *World Politics* 54: 99-118.
6. Sammy Smooha and Theodor Hanf. 1992. "The Diverse Modes of Conflict-Regulation in Deeply Divided Societies," *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*, 33: 26-47.

February 18: NO CLASS, MONDAY SCHEDULE REPLACES TUESDAY SCHEDULE

February 25: Origins of Civil War I

### General:

1. Steven R. David. 1997. "Internal War: Causes and Cures," *World Politics* 49:4, 552-76.

### Ethnicity and Nationalism:

2. Nicolas Sambanis. 2001. "Do Ethnic and Nonethnic Civil Wars Have the Same Causes?" *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 45(4): 259-82.
3. Connor Cruise O'Brien. 1993. "The Wrath of Ages: Nationalism's Primordial Roots," *Foreign Affairs*, 72 (5): 142-149.
4. Rogers Brubaker and David D. Laitin. 1998. "Ethnic and Nationalist Violence," *Annual Reviews of Sociology* 24: 423-52.

### Cultural Breakdown

5. Hans Magnus Enzensberger. 1993. *Civil Wars: From L.A. to Bosnia* (New York: New Press), Section 1, pp. 9-71.

### Natural Resources

6. Indra De Soysa. 2002. "Paradise is a Bazaar? Greed, Creed, and Governance in Civil War, 1989-1999," *Journal of Peace Research*, 39 (4): 395-416.

### March 4: Origins of Civil War II

#### Security Dilemmas

1. Barry Posen. 1993. "The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict," *Survival* 35 (1): 27-47.

2. Russell Hardin. 1995. *One for All: The Logic of Group Conflict*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Selected Chapters.

3. Jack Snyder and Robert Jervis. 1999. "Civil War and the Security Dilemma," in Barbara Walter and Jack Snyder, *Civil Wars, Insecurity, and Intervention* (New York: Columbia University Press), pp. 15-37.

4. Nelson Kasfir. Forthcoming, 2003. "Domestic Anarchy, Security Dilemmas and Violent Predation: Causes of Failure," in Richard Rotberg, ed., *When States Fail: Causes and Consequences* (Princeton: Princeton University Press).

#### Institutional Breakdown

5. Valerie Bunce. 2000. *Subversive Institutions: The Design and Destruction of Socialism and the State* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), Chapters 1 and 6

6. Mark Beissinger. 2002. *Nationalist Mobilization and the Collapse of the Soviet State* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), Chapter 6.

### March 11: Course of Civil War I

#### Level of Violence/Brutality

1. Stathis Kalyvas. 1999. "Wanton and Senseless? The Logic of Massacres in Algeria," *Rationality and Society* 11(3): 243-85.

2. Stathis Kalyvas. *The Logic of Violence in Civil War*, unpublished manuscript, Chapters One through Four.

3. Matthew Krain. 1997. "State-sponsored Mass Murder: The Onset and Severity of Genocides and Politicides," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 41: 3:331-360.

4. Benjamin Valentino. 2000. "Final Solutions: The Causes of Mass Killings and Genocides," *Security Studies* 9 (3): 1-59.

#### How Violence is Sustained

5. Roger Petersen. 1993. "A Community-based Theory of Rebellion," *European Journal of Sociology* 34: 41-78.

6. John Mueller. 2000. "The Banality of 'Ethnic War'," *International Security*, 25 (1): 42-70.

## March 18: Course of Civil War II

### Identity Construction

1. James D. Fearon and David Laitin. 2000. "Violence and the Social Construction of Ethnic Identity," *International Organization* 54 (4): 845-877.
2. Stathis Kalyvas, *The Logic of Violence in Civil War*, unpublished manuscript, Chapter 7.

### Provocations, Use of Media

2. Warren Strobel. 1996. "The CNN Effect," *American Journalism Review*, pp. 32-34.
3. Steven Livingston. 1997. *Clarifying the CNN Effect* (Cambridge, MA: John F. Kennedy School of Government).
4. Bob Clifford. 1997 *The Marketing of Rebellion in Global Civil Society: Political Insurgencies, International Media, and Growth of Transnational Support*, (PhD Thesis, MIT), pp. 11-36.

## March 25: NO CLASS, SPRING BREAK

### April 1: Intervention

1. Chaim Kaufmann. 1996. "Intervention in Ethnic and Ideological Civil Wars: Why One Can be Done and the Other Can't," *Security Studies*, 6, (1): 62-100.
2. Ivo Daalder. 1996. "Knowing When to Say No: The Development of US Policy For Peacekeeping," in William Durch, ed., *UN Peacekeeping, American Politics, and the Uncivil Wars of the 1990s* (NY: St. Martin's Press), pp. 35-67.
3. Tony Smith. 1994. "In Defense of Intervention," *Foreign Affairs*, 73 (6): 34-46.
4. Michael Mandelbaum. 1996. "Foreign Policy as Social Work," *Foreign Affairs* 16-32.
5. Stanley Hoffmann. 1995. "The Politics and Ethics of Military Intervention," *Survival*, 37 (4): 29-51.

## April 8: The End of Civil Wars I

### General

1. Roy Licklider. 1993. "How Civil Wars End: Questions and Methods," in Roy Licklider, ed. *Stopping the Killing: How Civil Wars End*. New York University Press), pp. 3-19.
2. Barbara Walter. 1999. "Designing Transitions from Civil War," in Barbara Walter and Jack Snyder, *Civil Wars, Insecurity, and Intervention* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1999), pp. 38-72.

3. T. David Mason and Patrick J. Fett. 1996. "How Civil Wars End: A Rational Choice Approach," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 40 (4): 546-568.
4. Kaufmann, Chaim. 1996. "Possible and Impossible Solutions to Ethnic Civil Wars," *International Security* 20 (4):136-175.

#### Partition

5. Nicholas Sambanis. 2000. "Partition as a Solution to Ethnic War: An Empirical Critique of the Theoretical Literature," *World Politics* 52 (4):437-83.
6. Radha Kumar. 1997. "The Troubled History of Partition," *Foreign Affairs*, 76 (1): 22-34.

#### Aftermath

7. Roy Licklider. 1995. "The Consequences of Negotiated Settlements in Civil Wars, 1945-1993," *American Political Science Review*, 89 (3): 681-690.
8. Gary J. Bass. 2000. *Stay the Hand of Vengeance: The Politics of War Crimes Tribunals* (Princeton: Princeton University Press). Introduction and Conclusion, pp. 3-36, 276-285.

#### April 15: Bosnia

1. Mart Bax. 2000. "Warlords, Priests and the Politics of Ethnic Cleansing: A Case Study from Rural Bosnia Hercegovina," *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 23 (1):16-36.
2. Steven L. Burg. 1999. *The War in Bosnia-Herzegovina: Ethnic Conflict and International Intervention* (Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe).
3. Susan Woodward. 1999. "How not to End a Civil War," in Barbara Walter and Jack Snyder, *Civil Wars, Insecurity, and Intervention* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1999), p. 73-115.

#### April 22: NO CLASS, PATRIOTS DAY

#### April 29: Columbia

1. Nazih Richani. 2002. *Systems of Violence: The Political Economy of War and Peace in Colombia*. (Albany: State University of New York Press).
2. Marc W. Chernick. 1999. Negotiating Peace amid Multiple Forms of Violence: The Protracted Search for a Settlement to the Armed Conflicts in Colombia. In Cynthia J. Arnson, ed., *Comparative Peace Processes in Latin America*. (Stanford: Stanford University Press).

#### May 6: Africa

1. Taisier M. Ali and Robert O. Matthews. 1999. *Civil Wars in Africa: Roots and Resolution* (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press).

2. Stephen John Stedman. 1993. "The End of the Zimbabwean Civil War," in *Stopping the Killing*, in Roy Licklider, ed. *Stopping the Killing: How Civil Wars End*. New York University Press), pp. 125-163.
3. Pierre Atlas and Roy Licklider. 1999. "Conflict among Former Allies after Civil War Settlement: Sudan, Zimbabwe, Chad, and Lebanon," *Journal of Peace Research*, 36, (1): 35-54.
4. Bruce D. Jones. 1999. "Military Intervention in Rwanda's 'Two Wars': Partisanship and Indifference," in Barbara Walter and Jack Snyder, *Civil Wars, Insecurity, and Intervention* (New York: Columbia University Press), pp. 116-145.

May 13: El Salvador and South Africa

1. Elisabeth J. Wood. 2000. *Forging Democracy from Below: Insurgent Transitions in South Africa and El Salvador* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).