

Master Research Project: Civil Conflicts

Course Catalogue Number
7324P207ZY

Credits
30 EC

Instruction language
English

Time Period(s)
2021, Semester 2
Blocks 4-6

13:00-16:00 Tuesdays

Instructor
Dr. Mike Medeiros
REC B10.05
Individual meetings via appointment: m.medeiros@uva.nl

Course Objectives & Learning Outcomes

Students will develop the ability to:

- Evaluate social science research related to the study of civil conflicts.
- Analyse past and present cases of civil conflicts.
- Articulate specific research questions and formulate hypotheses to answer them.
- Create research designs that incorporate quantitative and/or qualitative methods to evaluate empirical evidence and test hypotheses.
- Communicate their research conclusions, as well as their theoretical, methodological, and empirical underpinnings, to a non-specialist academic audience in both speech and writing.
- Write an academic-level article.

Course Content

Civil conflicts are a prominent demonstration of intergroup tensions. They can have dire consequences, representing a threat to social stability and harmonious social relations. Civil conflicts can manifest themselves in non-violent protests or can escalate to all-out war.

The course will explore the following questions: Why do civil conflicts occur? What explains variations in their level of intensity? Why can civil conflicts escalate into violence? How can civil conflicts be resolved?

The course will introduce students to a variety of concepts, theories and methodological approaches that will allow them to gain a profound understanding of the civil conflict phenomena. The course will challenge students to evaluate critically how well social science research explains a range of civil conflicts with diverging levels of intensity from different regions and time periods.

The course will also guide students in developing research questions and theoretical frameworks as well as the empirical analysis of cases.

Teaching Methods/Learning Formats

The course will be taught in the form of a seminar. The sessions will primarily consist of plenary discussions among the students. Therefore, students are expected to prepare for each class by 1) critically reading the assigned literature and 2) formulating questions and topics that they would like to introduce to the discussions.

Students will receive written feedback on their three submissions, their three in-class presentations and their thesis.

While Blok 5 is mostly devoted to individual research, students can schedule individual, or group, meetings if needed. This is particularly encouraged prior to undertaking field work (interviews, surveys, experiments, etc.) and/or to verify quantitative modelling strategies.

Manner & Form of Assessment and Assessment Requirements & Criteria

Active participation and presentations (20%), and MA Thesis (80%).

The student's participation will be evaluated in each session based on class presence as well as the quality of their comments and questions. Furthermore, each reading will be assigned to a student who will have to briefly summarize it and launch the discussion on it.

Rules regarding Fraud and Plagiarism

The provisions of the Regulations Governing Fraud and Plagiarism for UvA Students apply in full. Access this regulation at <http://www.student.uva.nl/preventfraud-plagiarism>. Plagiarism is presenting someone else's ideas as your own. Copying, paraphrasing or translating of text needs to be referenced according to academic standards. Plagiarism will be sanctioned severely.

Readings

Extensive use will be made of online journal resources via the digital library.

All of the readings are also available on Perusall. The student is encouraged to use Perusall to make the reading experience more interactive and educative.

Schedule

2 February Introduction to the Course

This meeting will firstly consist of a course presentation, a discussion of the assigned readings for this meeting, a brief presentation by the students of their (informal) proposed thesis (topic, research question, data, and dependent variable), and of a lecture on the structure of the thesis. There are no assigned readings for this session, but the student is highly encouraged to explore the recommended readings below.

Recommended Readings

2020-2021 UvA Political Science Thesis Manual.

Research

Quantitative research

Day, J., Pinckney, J. & Chenoweth, E. 2015. Collecting Data on Nonviolent Action: Lessons Learned and Ways Forward. *Journal of Peace Research* 52(1): 129-133.

Kellstedt & Whitten. 2018. *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research*. Cambridge University Press.

Qualitative research

Aberbach, J.D. & Rockman, B.A. 2002. Conducting and Coding Elite Interviews. *PS: Political Science & Politics* 35(4): 673-676.

Harvey, W.S. 2011. Strategies for Conducting Elite Interviews. *Qualitative Research* 11(4): 431-441.

King, Keohane & Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton University Press.

Ricks, J.I. & Liu, A.H. 2018. Process-Tracing Research Designs: A Practical Guide. *PS: Political Science & Politics* 51(4): 842-846.

Quantitative and qualitative research

Brians, Willnat, Rich & Manheim. 2018. *Empirical Political Analysis*. Routledge.

Understanding Civil Conflicts

Anderson, B., 2006. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. New York: Verso Books.

Angstrom, J. 2001. Toward a Typology of Internal Armed Conflict: Synthesising a Decade of Conceptual Turmoil. *Civil Wars* 4(3): 93 -116.

- Asch, S.E. 1955. Opinions and Social Pressure. *Scientific American* 193(5): 31-35.
- Connor, W. 1990. When is a Nation? *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 13(1): 92-103.
- Kalyvas, S. 2001. 'New' and 'Old' Civil Wars: A Valid Distinction? *World Politics* 54: 99-118.
- Kalyvas, S. 2003. The Ontology of 'Political Violence': Action and Identity in Civil Wars. *Perspectives on Politics* 1(3): 475-494.
- Milgram, S. 1974. *Obedience to Authority: An Experimental View*. New York: Harper.
- Newman, E. 2004. The 'New Wars' Debate: A Historical Perspective is Needed. *Security Dialogue* 35(2): 173-189.
- Sambanis, N. 2001. Do Ethnic and Nonethnic Civil Wars Have the Same Causes? A Theoretical and Empirical Inquiry (Part I). *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 45 3: 259-282.
- Sambanis, N. 2004. What is Civil War? Conceptual and Empirical Complexities of an Operational Definition. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 48(6): 814-858.
- Sherif, M. 1956. Experiments in Group Conflict. *Scientific American* 195(5): 54-59.

9 February

Causes of Conflict I: Ethnicity and Fear

Connor, W. 1993. Beyond Reason: The Nature of the Ethnonational Bond. *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 16(3): 373-389.

Reilly, B. 2000/2001. Democracy, Ethnic Fragmentation, and Internal Conflict: Confused Theories, Faulty Data, and the 'Crucial Case' of Papua New Guinea. *International Security* 25 (3): 162-185.

Lake, D.A. & Rothchild, D. 1996. Containing Fear: The Origins and Management of Ethnic Conflict. *International Security* 21(2): 41-75.

Lindemann, S. & Wimmer, A. 2018. Repression and Refuge: Why only Some Politically Excluded Ethnic Groups Rebel. *Journal of Peace Research* 55(3): 305-319.

Recommended

Brubaker, R. 2004. *Ethnicity without Groups*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Cederman, L.E., Girardin, L. & Gleditsch, K.S. 2009. Ethnonationalist Triads: Assessing the Influence of Kin Groups on Civil Wars. *World Politics* 61(3): 403-437.

Geertz, C. 1963. *Old Societies and New States*. New York. Free Press.

Isaacs, H.R. 1989. *Idols of the tribe: Group Identity and Political Change*. Harvard University Press.

Yavuz, M.H. 2001. Five Stages of the Construction of Kurdish Nationalism in Turkey. *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* 7(3): 1-24.

Gurr, T.R. 1993. Why Minorities Rebel: A Global Analysis of Communal Mobilization and Conflict since 1945. *International Political Science Review*, 14(2): 161-201.

Caprioli, M. 2005. Primed for Violence: The Role of Gender Inequality in Predicting Internal Conflict. *International Studies Quarterly* 49(2): 161-178.

Lawrence, A. 2010. Triggering Nationalist Violence: Competition and Conflict in Uprisings against Colonial Rule. *International Security* 35(2): 88-122.

Masullo, J. 2020. Civilian Contention in Civil War: How Ideational Factors Shape Community Responses to Armed Groups. *Comparative Political Studies*.

Recommended

Birnie, J.K. 2006. *Ethnicity and Electoral Politics*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Capoccia, G., Sáez, L. & De Rooij, E. 2012. When State Responses Fail: Religion and Secessionism in India 1952–2002. *The Journal of Politics* 74(4): 1010-1022.

Chandra, K. 2005. Ethnic Parties and Democratic Stability. *Perspectives on Politics* 3(2): 235-252.

Collier, P., Hoeffler, A. & Rohner, D. 2009. Beyond Greed and Grievance: Feasibility and Civil War. *Oxford Economic Papers* 61(1): 1-27.

Fair, C. C. 2005. “Diaspora Involvement in Insurgencies: Insights from the Khalistan and Tamil Eelam Movements.” *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* 11(1): 125-156.

Germann, M. & Sambanis, N. 2020. Political Exclusion, Lost Autonomy, and Escalating Conflict over Self-Determination. *International Organization*.

Giordano, B. 2000. Italian Regionalism or ‘Padanian’ Nationalism – The Political Project of the Lega Nord in Italian Politics. *Political Geography*, 19(4), 445-471.

Green, D.P. & Seher, R.L. 2003. What Role does Prejudice Play in Ethnic Conflict? *Annual Review of Political Science* 6(1): 509-531.

Horowitz, D. 1985. *Ethnic Groups in Conflict. Theories, Patterns, and Policies*. Berkeley.

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

Mähler, A., & Pierskalla, J.H. 2015. Indigenous Identity, Natural Resources, and Contentious Politics in Bolivia: A Disaggregated Conflict Analysis, 2000-2011. *Comparative Political Studies* 48(3): 301-332.

Medeiros, M. 2017. The Language of Conflict: The Relationship between Linguistic Vitality and Conflict Intensity. *Ethnicities*, 17(5): 627-645.

Ross, Michael L. 2004. How Do Natural Resources Influence Civil War? Evidence from Thirteen Cases. *International Organization* (58): 35–67.

23 February

Consequences of Conflict

Lacina, B. 2006. Explaining the Severity of Civil Wars. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 50(2): 276-289.

Steele, A. 2011. Electing Displacement: Political Cleansing in Apartadó, Colombia. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 55(3): 423-445.

Balcells, L. 2012. The Consequences of Victimization on Political Identities: Evidence from Spain. *Politics & Society* 40(3): 311-347.

Medeiros, M. 2019. National Frenemies: Linguistic Intergroup Attitudes in Canada. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 42(16): 3-22.

Recommended

Balcells, L. & Steele, A. 2016. Warfare, Political Identities, and Displacement in Spain and Colombia. *Political Geography* 51: 15-29.

Cunningham, D.E. 2006. Veto Players and Civil War Duration. *American Journal of Political Science* 50(4): 875-892.

Fearon, J.D. 2004. Why Do Some Civil Wars Last So Much Longer Than Others? *Journal of Peace Research* 41(3): 275-301.

26 February

****Submission of Research Question and Data Strategy****

Bakke, K.M. & Wibbels, E., 2006. Diversity, Disparity, and Civil Conflict in Federal States. *World Politics* 59(1): 1-50.

Lee, F.Y. and Lin, T.M. 2020. Institutions, Contexts, and Ethnic Violence in Comparative Perspective. *International Political Science Review*.

Beardsley, K., Cunningham, D.E. & White, P.B. 2019. Mediation, Peacekeeping, and the Severity of Civil War. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 63(7): 1682-1709.

Krause, J., Krause, W. & Bränfors, P. 2018. Women's Participation in Peace Negotiations and the Durability of Peace. *International Interactions* 44(6): 985-1016.

Recommended

Brancati, D. 2006. Decentralization: Fueling the Fire or Dampening the Flames of Ethnic Conflict and Secessionism? *International Organization* 60(3): 651-685.

Glassmayer, K. & Sambanis, N. 2008. Rebel Military Integration and Civil War Termination *Journal of Peace Research* 45(3): 365–384.

Greenhill, K. & Major, S.. 2006/2007. The Perils of Profiling: Civil War Spoilers and the Collapse of Peace Accords. *International Security* 31(3): 7-40.

Griffiths, R.D., & Wasser, L.M. 2019. Does Violent Secessionism Work? *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 63(5): 1310-1336.

Manekin, D., G. Grossman & T. Mitts. 2019. "Contested Ground: Disentangling Material and Symbolic Attachment to Disputed Territory." *Political Science Research and Methods* 7(4): 679-697.

Nussio, E., Rettberg, A. & Ugarriza, J.E. 2015. Victims, Nonvictims and their Opinions on Transitional Justice: Findings from the Colombian Case. *International Journal of Transitional Justice* 9(2): 36-354.

Paluck, E.L. 2009. Reducing Intergroup Prejudice and Conflict using the Media: A Field Experiment in Rwanda. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 96(3): 574-587.

Pettigrew, T.F., Wagner, U. & Christ, O. 2010. Population Ratios and Prejudice: Modelling Both Contact and Threat Effects. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 36: 635-650.

Röth, L. & Kaiser, A. 2019. Why Accommodate Minorities Asymmetrically? A Theory of Ideological Authority Insulation. *European Journal of Political Research*. 58(2): 557-581.

Sindre, G. M. 2018. "From Secessionism to Regionalism: Intra-Organizational Change and Ideological Moderation within Armed Secessionist Movements." *Political Geography* 64: 23-32.

Tannam, E. 2001. Explaining the Good Friday Agreement: A Learning Process. *Government and Opposition* 36: 493-518.

Walter, B.F. 1997. The Critical Barrier to Civil War Settlement. *International Organization* 51(3): 335-364.

9 March	In-Class Presentation of Thesis Proposal
12 March	Detailed Outline Submission
13 April	In-Class Presentation of Literature Review and Plan of Analysis
11 May	In-Class Presentation of Findings
14 May	Full Draft Submission
4 June	Deadline Submission Final Draft