

Political Science 7941: Civil War

Fall 2014

Class Meetings: Tuesday 9:00-11:50

Class Location: 210 Stubbs

Professor: David Sobek (dsobek@lsu.edu)

Office Phone: 578-2134

Office Location: Stubbs 211

Office Hours: Thursday 9:00-10:00

Wednesday 9:00-10:00

Summary:

Civil war research is a broad and diverse literature both in terms of research questions and methodological approaches. In terms of research questions, these can range from why civil wars begin to how long they last to their effects on the state, society, and economy. Methodologically, researchers have used qualitative, quantitative, game theoretical, and simulations in their attempts to answer these questions. The goal of this course is to provide you with an in depth knowledge of the most frequently asked research question (the onset of civil wars) and expose you to the range of methods. The literature is much broader than the onset of civil war but a deep dive into this question should provide you with the skills to understand the other questions that surround civil wars.

Course Requirements:

Attendance and Participation (20%): Attendance and participation account for 20% of your final grade. It is vitally important for you to come to class prepared, i.e. having carefully read the assignments. Simply showing up for class is not sufficient. You will need to consistently contribute to class discussion in order to satisfy the participation aspect of this part of your grade.

2 Reviews and Presentations (25% each): Two times in the semester you will be required to do an in depth analysis of the readings and the topic of the week (about 5 pages in length). During these weeks you need to prepare a summary of the topic, which would include a discussion of the required readings as well as a minimum of 8 additional articles (a book would count as 4 articles). The goal of this review is to be able to present both the basic literature on the topic as well as highlight the important research questions that are left unanswered. You will also be expected to present (using power point or something similar) a summary of this to the class (about 10-15 minutes). The written reviews need to be sent to me by 5:00 PM the Monday before the class.

Paper Assignment (30%- 5% research question and 25% paper): During the semester you will be required to write one 18-22 page research paper (due last week of class). This paper is essentially the first half of what would be in a research paper. You will be required to have a literature review, theory section, and research design. You do not need to analyze the data but it has to be a "doable" analysis. If your paper is of sufficient quality and you wish to continue the project, we can discuss an independent study for the spring semester where you would complete the paper and submit it for publication. As part of the writing process you will be required to write a one page summary of the research question (due to me on week 7) and present it to the class (on week 8).

Required Books:

- Bello, Walden. 2009. *The Food Wars*. London: Verso Books. ISBN 978-1-84467-331-5
- Humphreys, Macartan, Jeffrey D. Sachs, and Joseph E. Stiglitz, editors. 2007. *Escaping the Resource Curse (Initiative for Policy Dialogue)*. New York: Columbia University Press. ISBN 0231141963.
- Huntington, Samuel. 1968. *Political Order in Changing Societies*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. ISBN 0-300-01171-7
- Kalyvas, Stathis M. 2006. *The Logic of Violence in Civil War*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 978-0-521-67004-3
- Olson, Mancur. 1971. *The Logic of Collective Action*. Boston: Harvard University Press. ISBN: 0674537513.
- Peterson, Roger D. 2002. *Understanding Ethnic Violence: Fear, Hatred, and Resentment in Twentieth-Century Eastern Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN:0-524-00774-7
- Ross, Michael. 2012. *The Oil Curse: How Petroleum Wealth Shapes the Development of Nations*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. ISBN: 0691145458
- Tarrow, Sidney. 1998. *Power in Movement: Social Movements and Contentious Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 052115572X.
- Toft, Monica Duffy. 2005. *The Geography of Ethnic Violence: Identity, Interests, and the Indivisibility of Territory*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. ISBN: 0691123837

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: The Fundamental Problem

Olson, Mancur. 1971. *The Logic of Collective Action*. Boston: Harvard University Press.

Week 3: Solving the Problem

Tarrow, Sidney. 1998. *Power in Movement: Social Movements and Contentious Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Traditional Explanations of Civil Wars

Week 4: Wealth and Civil War

Blattman, Christopher and Edward Miguel. 2010. "Civil War." *Journal of Economic Literature*. 48(1): 3-57.

Mousseau, Michael. 2012. "Capitalist Development and Civil War." *International Studies Quarterly*. 56(1): 1-14.

Humphreys, Macartan, Jeffrey D. Sachs, and Joseph E. Stiglitz, editors. 2007. *Escaping the Resource Curse (Initiative for Policy Dialogue)*. New York: Columbia University Press. ISBN 0231141963.

Week 5: Resource Curse

Ross, Michael. 2012. *The Oil Curse: How Petroleum Wealth Shapes the Development of Nations*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. ISBN: 0691145458

Week 6: Greed Versus Grievance

Collier, Paul, and Anke Hoeffler. 1998. "On Economic Causes of Civil War." *Oxford Economic Papers* 50 (+): 563-573.

Collier, Paul, and Anke Hoeffler. 2002. "On the Incidence of Civil War in Africa." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 46 (1): 13-28.

De Soysa, Indra. 2002. "Paradise Is a Bazaar? Greed, Creed, and Governance in Civil War, 1989-99." *Journal of Peace Research* 39 (4): 395-416.

Humphreys, Macartan. 2005. "Natural Resources, Conflict, and Conflict Resolution: Uncovering the Mechanisms." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 49 (+): 508-537.

Ross, Michael L. 2004a. "How do Natural Resources Influence Civil War? Evidence from Thirteen Cases." *International Organization* 58(1):35-67.

Ross, Michael L. 2004b. "What do we Know about Natural Resources and Civil War?" *Journal of Peace Research* 41 (3): 337-356.

Fearon, James D. 2005. "Primary Commodity Exports and Civil War." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 49 (+): 483-507.

Week 7: Ethnic Conflict, Part I

Peterson, Roger D. 2002. *Understanding Ethnic Violence: Fear, Hatred, and Resentment in Twentieth-Century Eastern Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN:0-524-00774-7

Research question due to me.

Week 8: Ethnic Conflict, Part II

Toft, Monica Duffy. 2005. *The Geography of Ethnic Violence: Identity, Interests, and the Indivisibility of Territory*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. ISBN: 0691123837

Research questions presented to the class.

The State and Civil War

Week 9: The Type of State

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): 291-316.

Hegre, Havard, Tanja Ellingsen, Scott Gates, and Nils Petter Gleditsch. 2001. "Toward a Democratic Civil Peace? Democracy, Political Change, and Civil War, 1816-1992." *American Political Science Review* 95 (1): 33-48.

Fearon, James D., and David D. Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War." *American Political Science Review*. 97(1): 75-90.

Vreeland, James Raymond. 2008. "The Effect of Political Regime on Civil War: Unpacking Anocracy." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 52(3): 401-25.

Geddes, Barbara. 1999. "What do we know about democratization after twenty years?" *Annual Review of Political Science*. 2: 115-144.

Fjelde, Hanne. 2010. "Generals, Dictators, and Kings: Authoritarian Regimes and Civil Conflict, 1973-2004." *Journal of Peace Research*. 27(3): 195-218.

Week 10: The Strength of State, Part I

Huntington, Samuel. 1968. *Political Order in Changing Societies*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. ISBN 0-300-01171-7

Week 11: The Strength of State, Part II

Special Issue on State Capacity and Civil War. 2010. *Journal of Peace Research*. 47(May).

New Direction of Civil War Research

Week 12: A Climate for Violence

Homer-Dixon, Thomas F. 1991. "On the Threshold: Environmental Changes as Causes of Acute Conflict." *International Security*. 16(2): 76-116.

Buhaug, Halvard. 2010. "Climate Not to Blame for African Civil Wars." Proceedings of the National Academy of Science. 107: 16477-16482.

Hsiang, Solomon M., Kyle C. Meng and Mark A. Crane. 2011. "Civil Conflict are Associated with the Global Climate." *Nature*. 476:438-441.

Special Issue on Climate Change and Conflict. 2012. *Journal of Peace Research*. 49(+)

Week 13: Will Fight for Food

Bello, Walden. 2009. *The Food Wars*. London: Verso Books. ISBN 978-1-84467-331-5

Sobek, David and Charles Boehmer. 2014. "If They Only Had Cake: The Effect of Food Supply on Civil War Onset, 1960-1999." Manuscript

Week 14: Micro-Foundations of Civil War, Part I

Kalyvas, Stathis M. 2006. *The Logic of Violence in Civil War*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 978-0-521-67004-3

Week 15: Micro-Foundations of Civil War, Part II

Hegre, Havard, Gudrun Ostby, and Clionadh Raleigh. 2009. "Poverty and Civil War Events: A Disaggregated Study of Liberia." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*: 53(4): 598-623.

Do, Quy-Toan, and Lakshmi Iyer. 2010. "Geography, poverty and conflict in Nepal." *Journal of Peace Research* 47(6): 735–748.

Raleigh, Clionadh, Andrew Linke, Havard Hegre, and Joakim Karlsen. 2010. "Introducing ACLED: An Armed Conflict Location and Event Dataset." *Journal of Peace Research*. 47(5): 651-660.

Buhaug, Halvard, Kristian Skrede Gleditsch, Helge Holtermann, Gudrun Ostby, and Adreas Foro Tollefsen. 2011. "It's the Local Economy, Stupid! Geographic Wealth Dispersion and Conflict Outbreak Location." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 55 (5): 814-840.

Voors, M.J., E.E.M. Nillesen, E.H. Bulte, B.W. Lensink, P. Verwimp, and D.P. van Soest. 2012. "Violent Conflict and Behavior: a Field Experiment in Burundi." Forthcoming in *American Economic Review*.

<http://www.tilburguniversity.edu/research/institutes-and-research-groups/tsc/news/paperdaan.pdf>

Paper due.