Civil Wars and Negotiated Settlements

In this seminar, we will investigate why some civil wars are durably resolved through negotiated settlements and why others are long resistant to the efforts of international and domestic actors to end violence through negotiation. Class members will analyze scholarly arguments purporting to explain this puzzle and study several cases of civil war and settlement. The class will explore in more detail the obstacles to the negotiated resolution of the conflicts in the Middle East and Colombia.

Wednesdays, 12:30 - 3:00
Pre-requisites: Comparative Politics or Collective Action: Social Movements and Revolutions

Office Hours: Tuesdays 4:30 - 6:30 (sign up on office door, except for September 17 11-12:30, September 24 12-1 and 6:30-7:30, and November 26 11-1), Rm. 415, Politics Department, 715 Broadway, 998-8534

Requirements: Class members will be expected to participate actively in class. Over the course of the semester, each participant will write five one-page reviews reviewing the week’s readings and raising questions for discussion. Reviews should briefly summarize the argument and evidence in one or more of the week’s readings (1 paragraph), assess its/their strengths and weaknesses (1 or 2 paragraphs), and raise questions for discussion (1 or 2 paragraphs). Reviews should be one (or very occasionally two) single-spaced pages. One copy of the review should be left in the instructor’s mailbox by 6:00 p.m. Tuesday afternoon. Another copy should be sent by email to the instructor and other class members.

The principal writing requirement is a 15-20 page research paper exploring some topic related to civil wars and their resolution in greater depth. Participants will submit ancillary materials throughout the term, including an initial statement of interest, a bibliography, an outline, and a first draft.

Course Materials:
Books available for purchase at the NYU Book Center:

Philip Gourevitch. 1999. *We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will be Killed With Our Families: Stories from Rwanda.*

A course reader will be available from New University Copy and Graphics, 11 Waverly Place.
1. **September 4. Introduction.**
Increasing incidence and duration since World War II. Patterns of resolution. The costs of civil war.


2. **September 11. Social science, political violence, and civil wars.** Old wars vs. new wars? Challenges to social science analysis of political violence: sources of bias, problems with data and measurement, motives vs. rationales. Terrorism as a strategy. September 11 and its aftermath.


Mahmood Mamdani. N.d. Good Muslim, Bad Muslim – An African Perspective. [www.ssrc.org/sept11](http://www.ssrc.org/sept11)


Optional:

Recommended:


Recommended:


Europe. Harvard.


4. September 25. Civil wars and genocide

Philip Gourevitch. 1999. We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will be Killed With Our Families: Stories from Rwanda. Picador.

Recommended:


5. October 2. Civil war patterns: emergence, duration, and violence.

Patterns of violence: selective, indiscriminate, sexual, etc.


Recommended:


6. October 9. Negotiated settlements


Recommended:


7. October 16. Revolutionary civil wars and their settlements


Recommended:


8. October 23. Negotiated settlements: a theoretical model

Due: Short statement of paper topic (1 page) and initial bibliography

Recommended:


Recommended:


Optional: film

Recommended:


11. November 13. The Israeli/Palestinian conflict as a civil war.


Due: Outline of paper, statement of argument, bibliography
Recommended:
  Charles Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*.


**12. November 20. Prospects for a negotiated settlement to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.**


http://usinfo.state.gov/regional/nea/mitchell.htm

http://www.monde-diplomatique.fr/cahier/proche-orient/tabaminutes

film: *Shattered Dreams of Peace: The Road from Oslo*

Due: Draft of paper

Recommended:


**November 27: no class meeting.**

**13 December 4. Conclusion.**
Final paper due (no extensions without a medical excuse documented by a physician): December 10.