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. After learning about patterns of civil war emergence and dynamics, 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 Colombian and Israeli/Palestinian conflicts.

Wednesdays, 12:30 - 3:00, Silver 508
Pre-requisites: Comparative Politics or Collective Action: Social Movements and Revolutions

Office Hours: Wednesdays 4:30 - 6:30 (sign up on office door), Rm. 715, Politics Department, 726 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. The review should be sent by email to the instructor and other class members by 7:00 p.m. Tuesday evening.

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.*
Two course readers will be available from New University Copy and Graphics, 11 Waverly Place.

Increasing incidence and duration since World War II. Patterns of resolution. The costs of civil war.

2. September 10. Civil war patterns: emergence and duration Challenges to social science analysis of civil wars: sources of bias, problems with data and measurement, motives vs. rationales.


Recommended


3. September 17. Civil war violence: resources and patterns. War commodities; patterns of violence: selective, indiscriminate, sexual, etc.


Recommended:

Daniel Byman, et. al. 2001. Diaspora Support for Insurgencies, Chapter 2 of Trends in Outside Support for Insurgent Movements. Santa Monica: RAND.


Anne Llewellyn Barstow, ed. War’s Dirty Secret: Rape, Prostitution, and Other Crimes Against Women. Pilgrim


Politics. APSA-CP Newsletter Winter 2001: 7-25. [Selections]

Recommended:


5. October 1. Civil war and genocide: Rwanda


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

Recommended:


6. October 8. Negotiated settlements


Recommended:


7. October 15. Revolutionary civil wars and their settlements


Recommended:


8. October 22. Negotiated settlements: a theoretical model


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

Recommended:


Recommended:


Recommended:


11. November 12. The Israeli/Palestinian conflict as a civil war.


Bassam Jarra, interview with Graham Usher. 1996. The Islamist Movement and the Palestinian Authority. Chapter 29 from Joel Beinin and Joe Stork, eds., Political Islam:
Essays from Middle East Report, pps 335-356. University of California.


Recommended:


Due: Outline of paper, statement of argument, bibliography


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

Due: Draft of paper

Recommended:


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


*November 26: no class meeting.*

**13 December 3. Conclusion.**

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