



SUMMER SCHOOL IN GLOBAL POLITICS, DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY 2018

Civil War and Substate Conflict

Instructor: Laia Balcells (Georgetown University)

Date: June 25 - 29

Time: 9.00 am - 11.00 am

Room: 24.224 - Mercè Rodoreda Building 24 (Floor 2)

In this course we will study the causes and consequences of substate armed conflict. We will attempt to understand the causes of civil wars, their dynamics and characteristics, and their consequences. We will start by defining civil war and discussing why should we study it as a distinct phenomenon from other forms of political violence and/or international war. We will explore micro and macro level approaches to the causes of civil wars, considering classical works in economics and political science, as well as some recent contributions in the field. We will consider the relationship between the international system and civil wars, bridging the literature on internal conflict with that of international relations. We will look at different types of civil wars, paying special attention to forms of warfare and to the relationship between ethnicity and conflict. We will then dig into civil war dynamics: tactics and repertoires of violence in conflict (including violence against civilians), characteristics of armed group organizations, the varying relationship between armed groups and the state, and rebel governance during wartime. Finally, we will explore the determinants of civil war duration and termination, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, the political and economic consequences of conflict, and the impact of transitional justice processes on postwar reconciliation.

Session 1. Civil War as one form of political violence

Civil War as a form of political violence. We will undertake an overview to the different varieties of political violence (e.g. terrorism, riots, protests) and the relationship between them and civil wars.

Required reading:

- Sambanis, Nicholas. 2004. "What Is A Civil War? Conceptual and Empirical Complexities of an Operational Definition." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 48 (6): 814-858.
- Balcells, Laia. 2015. "Political Violence. An Institutional Approach" In *Handbook on Political Institutions*. Edited by Jennifer Gandhi and Rubén Ruiz. (Available from Prof. Balcells's website)

Further reading:

- Kalyvas, Stathis N. 2007. "Civil Wars." In Carles Boix and Susan Stokes, eds. *Handbook of Political Science*. New York: Oxford University Press, 416-434. [available from Prof. Kalyvas website]
- Elbadawi, Ibrahim and Nicholas Sambanis. 2003. "Why are There so Many Civil Wars in Africa? Understanding and Preventing Violent Conflict." *Journal of African Economies* 9 (3): 244-269.
- Fearon, James. 1995. "Rationalist Explanations for War." *International Organization* 49 (3): 379-414.
- Lake, David. 2002. "Rational Extremism: Understanding Terrorism in the 21st Century." *Dialogue International Organization* 1 (1): 15-29.
- Gleditsch, Nils Petter, Peter Wallensteen, Mikael Eriksson, Margareta Sollenberg, and Havard Strand. 2002. "Armed Conflict 1946-2001: A New Dataset." *Journal of Peace Research* 39 (5): 615-637.
- Blattman, Christopher and Edward Miguel. 2010. "Civil War." *Journal of Economic Literature* 48 (1): 3-57.

Session 2. Causes of civil war

Causes of civil war. We will go over the main theories on the causes of civil war, both at the micro and the macro-level.

Required reading:

- Fearon, James and David Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War." *American Political Science Review* 97 (1): 75-90.
- Cederman, Lars-Erik, Kristian Skrede Gleditsch, and Nils B. Weidmann. 2011. "Horizontal Inequalities and Ethnonationalist Civil War: A Global Comparison." *American Political Science Review* 105 (3): 478-495.

Further reading:

- Muller, Edward and Mitchell Seligson. 1987. "Inequality and Insurgency." *American Political Science Review* 81 (2): 425-452.
- Lichbach, Mark. 1994. "What Makes Rational Peasants Revolutionary: Dilemma, Paradox, and Irony in Peasant Rebellion," *World Politics* 46 (1994): 383-418.

Vreeland, James Raymond. 2008. "The Effect of Political Regime on Civil War: Unpacking Anocracy." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 52 (3): 401-425.

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

Sambanis, Nicholas. 2004. "Using Case Studies to Expand Economic Models of Civil War." *Perspectives on Politics* 2 (2): 259-279.

Session 3. Violence against civilians during civil war

Why are noncombatants killed during internal conflict? In this session, we will explore different theories of violence against civilians during civil war.

Required reading:

Balcells, Laia. 2017. *Rivalry and Revenge. The Politics of Violence during Civil War*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5).

Further reading:

Kalyvas, Stathis N. 2006. *The Logic of Violence in Civil War*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Dube, Oendriela and Juan Vargas. "Commodity Price Shocks and Civil Conflict: Evidence from Colombia." *Review of Economic Studies* 80(4): 1384-1421.

Eck, Kristine and Lisa Hultman. "One-Sided Violence against Civilians in War: Insights from New Fatality Data." *Journal of Peace Research* 44 (2): 233-246.

Wood, Reed. 2010. "Rebel Capability and Strategic Violence Against Civilians." *Journal of Peace Research* 47 (5): 601-614.

Session 4. The international system and civil wars

The international system and civil wars. We will discuss the relationship between international relations and domestic civil strife, with a particular emphasis on the Cold War period and its end.

Required reading:

Kalyvas, Stathis N. 2001. "New and Old Civil Wars: A Valid Distinction?" *World Politics* 54 (1): 99-118.

Kalyvas, Stathis N. and Laia Balcells. 2010. "International System and Technologies of Rebellion: How the End of the Cold War Shaped International Conflict." *American Political Science Review* 104 (3): 415-429.

Further reading:

Kaldor, Mary. 1999. *New and Old Wars: Organized Violence in a Globalized Era*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Melander, Erik, Magnus Oberg, and Jonathan Hall. 2009. "Are new wars more atrocious?" *European Journal of International Relations* 15 (3): 505-536.

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

Ortiz, Roman. 2002. "Insurgent Strategies in the Post-Cold War: The Case of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia." *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism* 25 (2): 127-143.

Session 5. Civil war duration and termination

We will discuss civil war duration and civil war termination. What makes some civil wars longer than others? Why do some civil wars end in settlement while others end in victory? What is the role of peacekeeping missions and what are their consequences?

Required reading:

Fearon, James. 2004. "Why Do Some Civil Wars Last so Much Longer than Others?" *Journal of Peace Research* 41 (3): 275-301.

Lyall, Jason and Isaiah Wilson III. 2009. "Rage against the Machines: Explaining Outcomes in Counterinsurgency War." *International Organization* 63 (1): 67-106.

Balcells, Laia and Stathis N. Kalyvas. 2014. "Does Warfare Matter? Severity, Duration, and Outcomes of Civil Wars" *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 58(8): 1390-1418.

Further reading:

Cunningham, David E., Kristian Skrede Gleditsch, and Idean Salehyan. 2009. "It takes Two: A Dyadic Analysis of Civil War Duration and Outcome." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 53 (4): 570-597.