



SUMMER SCHOOL IN GLOBAL POLITICS, DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY 2021

Political Violence and Nonviolent Resistance

Instructor: Laia Balcells (Georgetown University)

Date: June 28 – July 2

Time: 3.30 pm – 5.30 pm (CEST, Barcelona time)

Format: online

In this course, we will study different forms of political violence: terrorism, protest violence, civil wars, and riots. We will explore the differences between these types of political violence as well as their commonalities. We will look into the geographic and temporal incidence of these different forms of political violence in the contemporary world and put the focus on particular cases (e.g., terrorism and civil war in Spain, civil war in Côte d'Ivoire, riots in India, and state repression in Myanmar). We will also study the alternative to political violence, nonviolent protest and resistance, and we will discuss its efficacy in promoting political change.

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 these types of political violence and civil wars.

Required reading:

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](#))

Kalyvas, Stathis. 2018. "The landscape of political violence." *The Oxford Handbook on Terrorism*. Oxford University Press.

Recommended reading:

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.

Sambanis, Nicholas. 2004. "What Is A Civil War? Conceptual and Empirical Complexities of an Operational Definition." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 48 (6): 814-858.

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's outbreak and analyse the differences between civil wars and other forms of political violence such as terrorism or communal violence.

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.

Recommended 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.

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

Sambanis, Nicholas, and Jonah Schulhofer-Wohl. 2019. "Sovereignty Rupture as a Central Concept in Quantitative Measures of Civil War." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 63(6):1542-1578.

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 armed conflict.

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). [You can read the book [in Spanish](#) if you prefer it].

Balcells, Laia and Jessica Stanton. 2021. [Violence Against Civilians During Armed Conflict: Moving Beyond the Macro- and Micro-Level Divide](#). *Annual Review of Political Science* 24:1.

Recommended reading:

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

Lake, David. 2002. "Rational Extremism: Understanding Terrorism in the 21st Century." *Dialogue International Organization* 1 (1): 15-29.

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.

Session 4. The international system, terrorism, and civil wars

The international system and civil wars. We will discuss the relationship between international relations and domestic civil strife (i.e. civil wars, terrorism), 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.

Recommended 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.

Sánchez-Cuenca, Ignacio. 2019. *The Historical Roots of Political Violence*. NY: Cambridge University Press.

Session 5. Nonviolence Resistance

We will discuss non-violent forms of resistance and their efficacy at achieving political goals, as compared to violent action.

Required reading:

Chenoweth, Erika and Maria J. Stephan. 2012. *Why Civil Resistance Works*. New York: Columbia University Press. pp. 3-91, 119-146, 192-227. [Scanned]

Ginsberg, Benjamin. 2013. [Why Violence Works](#). *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Pischedda, Costantino. 2020. "Ethnic Conflict and the Limits of Nonviolent Resistance." *Security Studies* 29(2): 362-391.

Recommended reading:

Thaler, Kai. 2019. [Violence Is Sometimes the Answer](#). *Foreign Policy*.

Lehoucq, Fabrice. 2016. "Does Nonviolence Work?" *Comparative Politics* 48 (2): 269–87.