

Government 2757
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Violent and Non-Violent Conflict
Thursday, 3-5 pm
Knafel 450

Revised November 6, 2022

Politics is what happens when humans attempt to influence each other's behavior because they have conflicting goals. Influence can occur by violent or non-violent means, but it always occurs in the shadow of violence. Consequently, it is important that violence be viewed in relation to non-violent alternatives. States are purveyors of violence but their propensity to use it, against other states or their own or foreign citizens, varies across time and space. In this seminar we will endeavor to understand why. To this end we will explore many topics, including: human nature, interstate war, rebellion, international trade, peace-keeping, state building, ethnic rivalry, international and domestic law, and foreign interventions.

Required Texts:

Berman, Eli and David A. Lake. 2019. *Proxy Wars: Suppressing Violence Through Local Agents*. (Ithaca: Cornell University Press).

Blattman, Christopher. 2022. *Why We Fight*. (New York: Viking Press.)

Bowles, Samuel and Howard Gintis 2011 *A Cooperative Species: Human Reciprocity and its Evolution*. (Princeton: Princeton University Press)

Lake, David. *The State Builder's Dilemma: On the Limits of Foreign Intervention*. (Ithaca: Cornell UP.)

North, Douglass C., John Joseph Wallis, and Barry R. Weingast. 2009. *Violence and Social Order*. (New York: Cambridge University Press.) Chapters TBA

Walter, Barbara. 2002. *Committing to Peace: The Successful Settlement of Civil Wars*. (Princeton: Princeton University Press.)

Weeks, Jessica. 2014. *Dictators at War and Peace*. (Ithaca: Cornell UP).

Wood, Elisabeth Jean, 2003, *Insurgent Collective Action and Civil War in El Salvador*. (New York: Oxford University Press)

Office Hours - Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 2-3 pm.

Course Requirements -

I have argued that the modal paper in applied political economy answers five questions and that innovative papers often involve new answers to only one of those five questions. You will write three to four (you can decide, depending on your preference for feedback and your risk propensity) papers during the semester. Each of which will critically engage at least one of the readings from the preceding weeks and argue that the author's answer to one of the five questions is inadequate. You will then be expected to provide an alternative answer to that question that constitutes an improvement over the author's answer. For the first essay I will distribute a writing prompt that provides a few examples of how you might engage the work we have read. For the last two or three essays, you will be asked to critically engage a reading or set of readings (again, your choice) using a set of five questions that will be the central method for interrogating readings throughout the semester.

Schedule

September 1 Violence and non-Violence- An Introduction

- Blattman, Chapter 1,
- Clark, William Roberts, Matt Golder, and Sona Golder. 2017. An Exit, Voice, and Loyalty Model of Politics. *British Journal of Political Science* 47:719-748.
- Clark, William Roberts. 2020. "Asking Interesting Questions," 2020. in *The Sage Handbook of Research Methods in Political Science and International Relations*," edited by Luigi Curini and Robert Franzese.

September 8 The Relationship Between Violence and States.

- Tilly, Charles. 1985. "War Making and Statemaking as Organized Crime" in *Bringing the State Back In* edited by Peter Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer and Theda Skocpol. (Cambridge: Cambridge UP); 169-191.
- Skarbek, David. 2011. "Governance and Prison Gangs" *American Political Science Review*. 105(4).
- Introduction and Chapter 1 of Gambetta, Diego. 1996. *The Sicilian Mafia: the Business of Private Protection*. (Cambridge: Harvard University Press). (Available for free as preview *Amazon.com*.)
- Davenport, Christian. 2007. "State Repression and Political Order." *Annual Review of Political Science* 10:1-23.
- Bates, Robert, Avner Greif and Smita Sing. 2022. "Organizing Violence" *The Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 46(5): 599-628.
- Milner, Helen. 1991. "The Assumption of Anarch in International Relations Theory: A Critique." *Review of International Studies*. 17(1):67-85.

Suggested:

- Bates, *When Things Fell Apart: State Failure in Late Century Africa*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press). Part One. Pp.1-145.
- Gat, Azar. *War in Human Civilization*. 2006. (New York: Oxford University Press).

September 15 Uncertainty

- Blattman, Chapters 1 and 4
- Fearon, James 1995. "Rationalist Explanations for War" *International Organization* 49(3): 379-414.
- Debs, Alexandre and Nuno P. Monteiro. 2014. "Known Unknowns: Power Shifts, Uncertainty, and War." *International Organization* 68 (1); 1-31.

September 22 - NO Class

September 29 Unchecked interests

- Blattman, Chapter 2
- Berman, Eli and David A. Lake. 2019. *Proxy Wars: Suppressing Violence Through Local Agents*. (Ithaca: Cornell University Press)
- Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce and James D. Morrow, Randolph Siverson, and Alastair Smith. 1999. *American Political Science Review*. 93(4):791-807.

October 6 Intangible incentives Part I

- Blattman, Chapter 3
- Wood, Elisabeth Jean, 2003, *Insurgent Collective Action and Civil War in El Salvador*. (New York: Oxford University Press)

Paper one prompt will be distributed. Due Oct 13

October 13 Intangible Incentives Part II

- Fehr, Ernst and Simon Gächter. 2000. *Journal of Economic Perspective*. 14(3):159-181.
- Bowles, Samuel and Herbert Gintis, 2011. *A Cooperative Species: Human Reciprocity and Its Evolution*. (Princeton : Princeton University Press). Especially, Chapters 1-5, 8, 11 and 12

October 20 Commitment Problems

- Blattman, Chapter 5
- Powell, Robert. 2006. "War as a Commitment Problem." *International Organization* 60(1):169-203.

- Walter, Barbara. 2002. *Committing to Peace: The Successful Settlement of Civil Wars*. (Princeton: Princeton University Press.)

October 27 Misperceptions

- Blattman, Chapter 6.
- Slantchev, Branislav L. and Ahmer Tarar. 2011 "Mutual Optimism as a Rationalist Explanation of War." *American Journal of Political Science* 55(1):135-148.
- Jackson, Matthew O. and Massimo Morelli. 2007. "Political Bias and War" *American Economic Review* 97(4): 1353-1373.
- Hafner-Burton, Emilie, Stephan Haggard, David A. Lake, and David G. Victor. *International Organization* 71, Supplement 2017, pp. S1-S31.
- Benabou, Roland. 2013. "Groupthink: Collective Delusions in Organizations and Markets," *Review of Economic Studies* 80:429-462.

November 3 Interdependence - "The Commercial Peace"

- Blattman, Chapter 7.
- Gartzke, Erik. 2007. "The Capitalist Peace" *American Journal of Political Science* 51 (1): 166-191.
- Martin, Philippe, Mathias Thoenig, and Thierry Mayher. 2008. "Civil Wars and International Trade. *Journal of the European Economic Association* 6(2/3) Proceeding of the Twenty-Second Annual Congress of the European economic Association. Pp. 541-550.
- Martin, Philippe, Thierry Mayher, and Mathias Thoenig. 2008. Make Trade, Not War? *Review of Economic Studies* 75:865-900.
- Oneal, John R. and Bruce Russett. 2005. "Rule of Three Let it Be? When More Really is Better." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 22:293-310.

November 10 Checks and Balances

- Blattman, Chapter 8
- Weeks, Jessica. 2014. *Dictators at War and Peace*. (Ithaca: Cornell UP).

Suggested:

- Schultz, Kenneth A. 1999. "Do Democratic Institutions Constrain or Inform? Contrasting Two Institutional Perspective on Democracy and War." *International Organization* 53(2): 233-266.
- Choi, Seung-Whan. 2010. "Legislative Constraints: A path to peace?" *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 54(3):438-470.
- Cunningham, David E. 2006. "Veto Players and Civil War Duration." *American Journal of Political Science* 50(4):875-892.

November 17 Law (Part 1)

- Blattman, Chapter 9.
- North, Douglass C., John Joseph Wallis, and Barry R. Weingast. 2009. *Violence and Social Order*. (New York: Cambridge University Press.)

December 1 **Suggested Due Date for penultimate paper.**

Interventions and Alternative Explanations (Gender, Inequality, Age, Ethnicity)

- Blattman, Chapter 10 and 11.
- Lake, David. *The State Builder's Dilemma: On the Limits of Foreign Intervention*. (Ithaca: Cornell UP).
- Fortna, Virginia Page. 2004. "Does Peacekeeping Keep Peace? International Intervention and the Duration of Peace after Civil War. *ISQ* 48(2):

Due Date for all papers: December 15