

Ethnic Conflict

M. Midlarsky
Rutgers University
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Course Description

This is a seminar designed to examine ethnic conflict in its various manifestations worldwide. Actually, I prefer the term "identity conflict" because it is more inclusive, but given the ubiquity of the term "ethnic", we will settle for that. Our focus here is on the explanation of the sources of ethnic or identity conflicts; to that extent, the origins of these conflicts will occupy the major share of our attention.

First, we need to understand what is meant by identity and ethnicity. The various readings in the *Ethnicity* reader assigned in Part I are designed to do that. They deal with issues of the primordial, instrumental, or indeed sometimes indeterminate nature of ethnicity that we need to traverse in order to begin the job of explaining the sources of these conflicts.

Beginning in Part II, we tackle the actual job of explanation. Here the idea of theory is very important because it is the principal vehicle for explanation. There exists a variety of explanations for ethnic conflict, ranging from the purely domestic sources to those originating in the international system. As we shall see, there is a broad range of theory that we will draw upon to explain the variety of ethnic conflicts that occur worldwide.

Democratization is extremely important because we have known for decades that democracies are more stable domestically than autocracies, experiencing a minimum of domestic political violence. We now know that democracies also do not wage war against each other, at least not in the contemporary period. Thus, whether a country is democratic, and equally important, whether its politically relevant environment is democratic, are important predictors of whether it will experience ethnic conflict either within its borders or in confrontation with surrounding states. The issue becomes even more complex when we consider democratization as a process in contrast to the condition of simply being a democracy.

With the recent genocides in Rwanda and Bosnia, it is clear that the world has not abandoned its occasional plunge into the depths of mass murder, exemplified in this century by the Holocaust. Readings in this section provide various perspectives on the origins of such practices, including among them the perspective of the relatively powerless condition of peoples in diasporas.

Because of its centrality in the experience of genocide, state collapse, and systemic war, Yugoslavia receives special attention. As we shall see, the events of the past several years in Yugoslavia are extremely complex and invite explanations from very different perspectives. As it is a model of what should not happen in the modern world, it is deserving of a separate analytic category.

International crises are of extreme importance, and therefore are attended to, followed by an examination of secessions as not uncommon efforts to resolve severe ethnic conflicts.

Finally, we examine ethnic conflicts in various regions of the world in order to gain the appropriate international perspective on what is, after all, an international phenomenon.

Course Requirements

There will be two papers required. The first, of approximately 10-15 pages in length, will focus on a

comparison of at least two explanations of ethnic conflict drawn from the materials in Parts II-VII. The second paper, slightly longer, about 15-20 pages, will focus on using the theories examined in the first paper to explain at least two ethnic conflicts mentioned in Part VII. Both papers are comparative in structure; in the first, theories are compared analytically, while in the application of those theories in the second paper, at least two ethnic conflicts are compared as to their origins. Each student will present his/her paper at least once during the semester. In addition, prior to each student presentation, all students in the seminar will be required to bring to class five questions related to that material, to be used in questioning the presenter, and then handed in at the end of the seminar session. There will be no examinations per se.

Course Reading

Michael E. Brown, ed. *Ethnic Conflict and International Security*. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1993).

Michael E. Brown, ed. *International Dimensions of Ethnic Conflict*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1996).

Michael E. Brown, et. al. eds. *Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict*. (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1996-97).

David Carment and Patrick James, eds. *War in the Midst of Peace: The International Politics of Ethnic Conflict*. (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1997).

Larry Diamond and Marc F. Plattner, eds. *Nationalism. Ethnic Conflict and Democracy*. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994).

John Hutchinson and Anthony D. Smith, eds. *Ethnicity*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1996).

Course Schedule

I. *Understanding Identity and Ethnicity*

Introduction, 3-14; Nash, 24-28; Eriksen, 28-31; Theories of Ethnicity, 32-34; Weber, 36-40; Geertz, 40-45; Eller, 45-52; Connor, 69-75; Barth, 75-82; Brass, 85-90; Hechter, 90-98; Banton, 98-104; McNeill, 107-111; Glazer and Moynihan, 135-138; Bell, 138-146; Gans, 146-155; James, 155-161; Krejci and Velimsky, 209-221; Landau, 221-226; Edwards, 227-229; Horowitz, 285-291; Kandiyoti, 311 -316; Hobsbawm, 355-358 in *Ethnicity*; Smith, 27-41 in *Ethnic Conflict*.

II. *Theories of Ethnic Conflict*

Brown, 3-26 in *Ethnic Conflict*

Brown, 1-31 and 571-601 in *International Dimensions*

Lake and Rothchild, 97-131 in *Nationalism*

Posen, 103-124 in *Ethnic Conflict*

Midlarsky, 61-81 in *Wars*

Kriesberg, 232-251 in *Wars*

Carment and James, 252-263 in *Wars*

III. *Democratization*

Nodia, 3-22; Fukuyama, 23-28; Avineri, 28-31 in *Nationalism and Democracy*

Horowitz, 35-55 in *Nationalism and Democracy*

Snyder and Ballentine, 61-96 in *Nationalism*

Welsh, 43-60 in *Ethnic Conflict*
de Nevers, 61-78 in *Ethnic Conflict*

IV. *Genocide*

Armstrong, 120-127; Smith, 238-241; Kuper, 262-270; Fein, 270
277; Esman, 316-320 in *Ethnicity*

V. *Yugoslavia*

Daalder, 35-68 in *International Dimensions*
Gagnon, 117-131 in *Nationalism and Democracy*
Pestic, 132-135 in *Nationalism and Democracy*
Gagnon, 132-168 in *Nationalism*
Posen, Midlarsky, Lake and Rothchild as in II above

VI. *Crises*

Brecher and Wilkenfeld, 164-193 in *Wars*

VII. *Secessions*

Young, 45-60 in *Wars*
Carment and James, 194-231 in *Wars*
Levine, 311-340 in *International Dimensions*

VIII. *Regions*

1. *Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union*

Kaufman, 169-199 in *Nationalism*
Snyder, 79-102 in *Ethnic Conflict*
Vachudova, 69-106 in *International Dimensions*
Taras, 341-345 in *Ethnicity*
Evangelista, 107-140 in *International Dimensions*
Bugajski, 102-116 in *Nationalism and Democracy*

2. *Sub-Saharan Africa*

Suberu, 56-70 in *Nationalism and Democracy*
Herbst, 374-398 in *Nationalism*
Howe, 399-430 in *Nationalism*
Stedman, 235-266 in *International Dimensions*

3. *Middle East and North Africa*

Bronson, 205-234 in *International Dimensions*

4. *Southwest Asia*

Ganguly, 141-172 in *International Dimensions*
Ganguly, 200-231 in *Nationalism*
Hardgrave, 71-85 in *Nationalism and Democracy*
Harrison, 294-301 in *Ethnicity*
Brass, 301-305 in *Ethnicity*

5. *Southeast Asia*

Brown, 305-311 in *Ethnicity*
Findlay, 173-204 in *International Dimensions*

6. *Latin America*

Mallon, 291-294 in *Ethnicity*
Chernick, 267-308 in *International Dimensions*

7. *Western Democracies*

Forbes, 86-101 in *Nationalism and Democracy*
Castles, et al, 358-367 in *Ethnicity*