POLITICAL SCIENCE 566
Theories of Political Violence and Stability

M. Midlarsky   Spring 2017
Thursday 12:00-2:40   HCK-313
Office Hours: After the Seminar
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This seminar will explore the sources of political instability that lead to the mass killing of innocent civilians. State killing will occupy our attention as will the formation of extremist groups that engage in the killing of innocents. Terrorist groups and state leaders operate within a societal context that gives rise to the killing impulse. Consequently, theories of society and especially theories originating within social psychology are analytically central. Among these are prospect theory and theories of traumatic loss.

At the same time, rational choice explanations also will be explored in order to provide analytic contrasts and competing paradigms. Empirically, the seminar will be eclectic in the use of both comparative case studies, and where appropriate, large N data sets. As in the choice of theories, there are no empirical "silver bullets" that automatically provide completeness of explanation. Appropriate combinations of both theory and method are important; questions of research strategy will be carefully considered. Additionally, moral considerations, typically not raised in a seminar of this type, nevertheless will be examined and will yield explanatory power.

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, is an important predictor of whether it will experience political violence 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. Even mature democracies are not immune from the callous behaviors that can abet mass murder. Extremisms that condone mass killing including Nazism, Soviet Communism (the prototypical Communism), and radical Islamism are each in turn examined from the theoretical perspectives initially presented.

With the recent genocides in Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur, and the bloodlettings in Chechnya and Syria, it is clear that the world has not abandoned its occasional plunge into the depths of mass murder, exemplified in the past century by the Holocaust.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

       A single research paper is required that will be organized according to the theoretical and empirical preferences of the student, subject to the approval (usually liberal) of the instructor.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Finkel, Evgeny. 2017. *Ordinary Jews: Choice and Survival During the Holocaust.* Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Gerges, Fawaz A. 2016. *ISIS: A History.* Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Kershaw, Ian, and Moshe Lewin, eds. 1997. *Stalinism and Nazism: Dictatorships in Comparison.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Lake, David A. and Donald Rothchild, eds. 1998. *The International Spread of Ethnic Conflict.* Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Mann, Michael. 2005. *The Dark Side of Democracy.* New York: Cambridge University Press.

Midlarsky, Manus I. 2011. *Origins of Political Extremism: Mass Violence in the Twentieth Century and Beyond.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Robinson, Geoffrey. 2009. *"If You Leave Us Here, We Will Die": How Genocide Was Stopped in East Timor.* Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Snyder, Timothy. 2010. *Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin.* New York: Basic Books.

Straus, Scott. 2006. *The Order of Genocide: Race, Power, and War in Rwanda.* Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

Valentino, Benjamin A. 2004. *Final Solutions: Mass Killing and Genocide in the 20th Century.* Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

Wiktorowicz, Quintan. 2005. *Radical Islam Rising: Muslim Extremism in the West*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1 (January 19) **Organization of the Seminar and History of the Field**

Week 2 (January 26) **Ideology**

Sanin, Francisco G. and Elisabeth J. Wood 2014. "Ideology in Civil War: Instrumental Adoption and   Beyond". *Journal of Peace Research* 51(2): 213-226.

Mann (1-69)

Week 3 (February 2) **Strategy**

Straus (1-16); Valentino (1-90)

Week 4 (February 9) **Geopolitics I**

Shaw, Martin. 2013. "From Comparative to International Genocide Studies: The International Production of Genocide in 20th-century Europe". *European Journal of International Relations* 18(4): 645-668.

Wayman, Frank N and Atsushi Tago. 2010. "Explaining the Onset of Mass Killings, 1949-87". *Journal of Peace Research* 47(1): 3-13.

Kopstein, Jeffrey S. and Jason Wittenberg. 2011. "Deadly Communities: Local Political Milieus and   the Persecution of Jews in Occupied Poland". *Comparative Political Studies* 44(3): 259-283.

Week 5 (February 16) **Geopolitics II**

Robinson
Snyder (1-20)
Lake and Rothchild, 3-32, 107-116, 151-184, 203-226, 275-292

Week 6 (March 2) **Emotion**

Midlarsky (Origins, 1-196)

Week 7 (March 9) **Nazi Germany**

    Kershaw and Lewin:
        Mommsen (3)
        Kershaw (4)
        Bartov (7)
        Steinmetz (11)
        Mann (6)
        Snyder (155-337)

Week 8 (March 23) **The Soviet Union**

    Kershaw and Lewin:
        Suny (1)
        Lewin (2)
        Lewin (5)
        Bonwetsch (8)
        Snyder (21-154)

Week 9 (March 30) **Radical Islamism**

        Wiktorowicz
        Gerges

Week 10 (April 6) **Democratization and Ethnic Cleansing**

        Mann, 1-110

Week 11 (April 13) **Genocide**

        Mann, 111-317

Week 12 (April 20) **Politicide**

        Mann, 318-352

Week 13 (April 27) **Rescue and Prevention**

Braun, Robert. 2016. "Religious Minorities and Resistance to Genocide: The Collective Rescue of   Jews in the Netherlands during the Holocaust". *American Political Science Review* 110(1):   127-147.

Midlarsky, Manus I. 2014. "International Affinity and the Prevention of Genocide: Implications for R2P". *Global Responsibility to Protect* 6(4): 453-482.

Finkel (pp.???)

Week 14 (May 4) **Paper Presentations**