

Course: 16: 790:556
Saturday 1:00pm – 3:40pm
Instructor: Ghaidaa Hetou Ph.D.
Email: ghaidaa.hetou@rutgers.edu
Office: By appointment only

State Building after Civil Wars: The Role of the United Nations & International Community*

Description

The recorded history of political violence, especially with regards to civil wars, reveals that civil wars have shaped the political hierarchy and guarded against territorial disintegration in some states, led to vulnerable sectarian settlements, or territorial disintegration in others. All civil wars have consistently however carried an unmistakable human cost of death and suffering in addition to wide range displacements of communities and destruction of vital infrastructure. This course will unpack the complexity of civil wars, its causes, why it persists, how civil wars end and what the reconciliation and rebuilding efforts entail. Our main case studies are Rwanda and the Lebanese civil wars, in addition to the Algerian, Iraq and Sudan civil wars.

Learning Objectives

- Understanding the evolution of theory on civil wars, revolutions, rebellion, ethnic and religious conflicts.
- Discussing the concept of prevention and the role of NGOs.
- Evaluating conceptions of authority, sovereignty, R2P, international intervention, and international law regarding government violence against citizenry.
- Understanding the pathways that lead to ending a civil war and the characteristics of peace settlements and transitional justice.
- Discussing state rebuilding and the role of the United Nations and the international community.

Expectations

- Attend all class sessions, your attendance is graded.
- Participate in discussions during class. You are graded on the quality of your participation, especially on comments that show you have read the material.
- Be respectful of your classmates.

Required Readings (Books)

Bruce Jentelson, *Opportunities Missed, Opportunities Seized: Preventive Diplomacy in the Post-Cold War World*

V. Page Fortna, *Does Peacekeeping Work? Shaping Belligerents' Choices after Civil War.*

Charles Call and Vanessa Wyeth, *Building States to Build Peace.*

Itmar Rabinovich, *The War for Lebanon, 1970-1985*, Cornell Paperbacks.

Scott Straus, *The Order of Genocide: Race, Power, and War in Rwanda.*

Krishna Kumar, *Rebuilding Societies After Civil War: Critical Areas for International Assistance.*

Gareth Evans, *The Responsibility to Protect: Ending Mass Atrocity Crimes Once and For All.*

Articles (Tentative)

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

What Causes Civil Wars? Integrating Quantitative Research Findings by **Jeffrey Dixon**, *International Studies Review*, 11 (2009), 707-735

Diplomacy and Other Forms of Intervention in Civil Wars by **Patrick Regan and Ayseql Aydin**, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 50, 5 (October 2006), 736-756

Armed Intervention and Civilian Victimization in Intrastate Conflicts by **Reed M. Wood, Jacob Kathman, and Stephen E. Gent**. *Journal of Peace Research*, 49, 5 (September 2012), 647-660.

Designing Transitions from Civil Wars: Demobilization, Democratization, and Commitments to Peace by Barbara Walter, *International Security*, 24, 1 (Summer 1999), 127-166

Isak Svensson, "Fighting With Faith: Religion and Conflict Resolution in Civil Wars," *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 51, 6 (December 2007), 930-949

The Consequences of Negotiated Settlements in Civil Wars, 1945-1993 by Roy Licklider, *American Political Science Review*, 89 (September, 1995), 681-690

Michael Ross, "How Do Natural Resources Influence Civil War? Evidence from Thirteen Cases." *International Organization*, 58 (Winter 2004): 35-67

Reinventing Governments: The Promise and Perils of United Nations Peace Building by Eva Bertram, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 39, 3 (September 1995)

Postconflict Reconstruction in Africa: Flawed Ideas about Failed States by Pierre Englebert and Denis M. Tull, *International Security*, 32, 4 (Spring 2008), 106- 139.

"The Impact of International Tribunals and Domestic Trials on Peace and Human Rights after Civil War" by James Meernik, Angela Nichols, and Kimi King, *International Studies Perspectives*, 11, 4 (November 2010), 309-334

Roy Licklider, "Ethical Advice: Conflict Management vs. Human Rights in Ending Civil Wars," *Journal of Human Rights*, 7 (2008), pp. 376-387

Grades

Attendance, Participation and Leading Discussions	28%
11 Quizzes on Readings (pass/fail)	22%
Research Paper	50%
Topic and Research Outline (5p)	5%
Study (30p)	35%
Critique (2p)	10%

Academic Integrity

The consequences of scholastic dishonesty are very serious. Please review the [Rutgers' academic integrity policy](#).

Academic integrity means, among other things:

- Develop and write all of your own assignments.
- Show in detail where the materials you use in your papers come from. Create citations whether you are paraphrasing authors or quoting them directly. Be sure always to show source and page number within the assignment and include a bibliography in the back.
- Do not fabricate information or citations in your work.
- Do not facilitate academic dishonesty for another student by allowing your own work to be submitted by others.

If you are in doubt about any issue related to plagiarism or scholastic dishonesty, please discuss it with your instructor.

All Rutgers students are expected to honor the following pledge, which is included in every assignment they are submitting in this course:

"On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this assignment".

Other sources of information to which you can refer include:

- [Rutgers' Academic Integrity website](#)
- [Code of Student Conduct](#)
- [Eight Cardinal Rules of Academic Integrity](#)

Turnitin

Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com (directly or via learning management system, i.e. Sakai, Blackboard, Canvas, Moodle) for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site.

Students who do not agree should contact the course instructor immediately.

Academic Support Services

- Rutgers has a variety of resources for academic support. For more information, check the [Academic Support website](#).
- Rutgers has Learning Centers on each campus where any student can obtain tutoring and other help. For information, check the [Learning Center website](#).
- Rutgers also has a Writing Center where students can obtain help with writing skills and assignments. Learn more at the [Writing Center website](#).
- Many library resources are available online. Assistance is available through phone, email, and chat. For information, check the [Rutgers Libraries website](#).

Rutgers Health Services

- Rutgers Health Services is dedicated to health for the whole student body, mind and spirit. It accomplishes this through a staff of qualified clinicians and support staff, and delivers services at a number of locations throughout the New Brunswick-Piscataway area. For more information, check the [Rutgers Health Services website](#).

Counseling, ADAP, and Psychiatric Services

- Undergraduate and graduate students experience a great many stresses in their lives - sorting out one's identity, establishing and maintaining important relationships, coping with anxiety and depression, working on changing relationships with parents and other family members, dealing with losses, handling new academic demands, and dealing with reactions to one's differentness. To help with these tasks, [Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services \(CAPS\)](#) provides a variety of psychological counseling services for all students of Rutgers University in New Brunswick/Piscataway, undergraduate and graduate. Services are free, and confidentiality is guaranteed within legal and ethical guidelines.

Veteran Services

- If you are a military veteran or are on active military duty, you can obtain support through the [Office of Veteran and Military Programs and Services](#).

Student Involvement

- The [Department of Student Involvement](#) can connect you with student engagement opportunities on campus.

Accommodations for Accessibility

Requesting accommodations

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation. More information can be found in the [Documentation Guidelines](#) section of the [Office for Disability Services](#) website. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the [Registration Form](#) on the Office for Disability Services website.

Go to the [Student section of the Office of Disability Services](#) website for more information.

Class Schedule

January 26

Introduction and syllabus review.

Understanding Complex Systems and Systemic Risk.

What are Civil Wars?

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

February 2

What are the causes of civil wars?

Violence, Revolts, Ethnic and Religious Conflicts.

February 9

Are civil wars preventable? What keeps a diverse society together?
What role do the local authorities and NGOs have?

February 16

International intervention, NATO and the United Nations' R2P.

Does intervention prolong civil wars?

The role of great power politics during civil strife.

Human rights violations, war crimes and accountability.

February 23

How do civil wars end?

Why and how are conclusions of civil wars context specific? What are the main obstacles to peace settlements?

How did diverse communities transition out of civil wars? What is the role of the United Nations?

March 2 Paper Outline is Due

What do peace settlements mean with respect to transitional justice and truth commissions?

Is it possible to reconcile peace settlements with conceptions of victory and justice?

March 9

The history of peace keeping.

Does it work?

The political economy of peacebuilding.

March 30

Understanding gender perspectives in civil wars and during the rebuilding period.

Women, children and minorities in civil wars.

Peacekeeping and violence against women.

April 6

State building and reconstruction.

Great power history in nation building.

Complexity and indigenous input during rebuilding efforts.

April 13

Reforming governments and rewriting constitutions after civil wars, a brief history.

Restructuring social contracts, winners and losers?

What does equity and fairness mean during institutional reform?

Conceptions of security after civil wars.

April 20

The United Nations and the universal principles of freedom and human rights.

What does democratization mean in terms of ending civil wars?

Authoritarianism, illiberal democracies, and representative democracies after civil wars.

April 27 Paper is Due

The merits of reconciliation, is it possible?

Does transitional justice always contribute to sustainable peace settlements.

The role of the ICC, international tribunals, and domestic trials.

The process of regenerating stability and coexistence.

May 4 Critiques are Due

General discussion of findings