

GLOBAL CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND RESOLUTION

CONF 340 003

Fall 2008

Tuesdays, 10:30 pm – 1:15 pm

Robinson Hall, Room A243

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Welcome to the course. Global conflicts, while better understood today than they were fifty year ago, still remain some of the most puzzling phenomenon of social scientific inquiry. Understanding that is gleaned from one instance of global conflict is not always useful in another. Still, there are some human realities that span levels and types of conflict (i.e. power dynamics, identity, values, etc.). This course is aimed at exploring these realities, because the fact is conflict is here to stay.

To the tireless workers for peace and social justice around the world conflict is an ever present and, at times, overwhelming aspect of humans' post-modern existence. To social scientists from various fields of study conflict is both an important agent of social change and a force of social destruction. Yet, despite one's perspective on a given conflict and/or the many examples of the difficulty in managing and transforming especially protracted varieties of conflict, at some minimum level analytical tools and practices do exist to better understand *and* attempt resolution of global conflicts. This course takes an interdisciplinary approach to the exploring and understanding global conflict analysis and resolution. Drawing on literature and research from the field of Conflict Analysis and Resolution, International Relations, Psychology, Sociology and Anthropology this class will examine the many theoretical and pragmatic approaches to conflict on the global level. Our goals for the course are to:

- Consider the causes and costs of intrastate, interstate, and transstate conflict;
- Increase our understanding of the various approaches to analyzing and resolving protracted violent social conflict on the above mentioned levels;
- Consider the effects of globalization, terrorism, and the 'war on terror' on conflict genesis and dynamics;
- Look at issues of self and collective identity as well as individual and state power as they related to global conflict;
- Look at terrorism the development of what some have called 'New Social Movements' in the modern international arena;
- Examine particular case studies of international and intrastate conflicts, mapping out the developments and dynamics and examining past and present resolution efforts; and
- Understand the importance of the field of Conflict Analysis and Resolution to the larger goal of a more peaceful global society.

In achieving these goals we may discuss topics such as: the relationship between globalization and conflict; outbreaks of civil war and their resolution; post-conflict reconstruction; social movements and mass mobilization; the role of violence in conflict episodes; and the emergence of new actors in 'post-realist' international relations.

Requirements

Participation: You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings. This means that you should have completed all the assigned readings prior to the class for which it is assigned (see schedule below). Because your participation in class activities and discussions is important, your attendance in class is crucial. ***Class participation will be worth 20% of your final grade.***

Reading Quizzes: You will have five reading quizzes during the course of the semester. Each one will be worth 5% of your final grade. I will drop the lowest grade and therefore the ***five reading quizzes will be worth 20% of your final grade.*** Each will cover the readings assigned for the day when the quiz is handed out and dates of these quizzes will not be announced prior to the quiz (i.e. these are pop quizzes). No make-ups of these quizzes will be allowed (so do not choose to skip class as you might miss a quiz and there are no make ups). Each quiz will take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete at the beginning of class.

Team Presentation: You will be a member of one of five teams. Each team will prepare a class presentation of a case study of an international conflict and approaches to its resolution. Each team will have 40 minutes to present their case study to the class. In your presentation you should provide an overview of the conflict, explain how that conflict was analyzed by the international community (broadly defined) and how the international community responded to the conflict. The ***team presentation will be worth 20% of your final grade.*** Some minimal amount of time will be provided during class meetings throughout the semester for the teams to prepare their presentations, but it is expected that groups will plan additional meeting(s) outside of class time to finalize presentations. Everyone is expected to attend all presentations and attendance of other's group presentations will be considered part of your final participation grade.

Research Paper: You will write a 12-15 page research paper on a topic related to the main themes we will be discussing during the course of the semester. In your research paper you will present the results of your research while incorporating the concepts we have studied in class. In analyzing your material you will draw upon ***at least one theoretical perspective*** we have studied in the course. Early in the semester I will provide you with more detailed guidelines for researching and writing this paper. It is always a good idea to start thinking about your topic early in the semester. If you have difficulties deciding what to research or would simply like to talk about your paper, I encourage you to come and discuss your ideas with me during my office hours or to schedule an appointment with me at another time. A one-paragraph typed proposal of what you plan to research is due by **September 30th (class #6)**. I will return your proposal to you within a week with comments and suggestion. The research paper is due on **Friday December 12th** by no later than 5:00 PM. ***It will be worth 40% of your final grade.*** You must leave the paper in my mailbox in the Conflict Analysis and Resolution (CAR) office (Robinson B365). Papers should be submitted in an envelope marked with the instructor's name and the course number. If the office is closed, the envelope can be dropped through the mail slot in the door.

Late papers will be accepted only in cases of documented personal illness or family emergency.

Required Text and Readings

Contemporary Conflict Resolution. 2nd Edition. (2007), Miall, Ramsbotham, et al.

All other course readings are accessible through GMU library databases, e-reserves/reserves or through websites indicated on the syllabus. Password for e-reserves will be handed out in class.

Classroom Etiquette, Honor Code, Plagiarism

Come to class on time and prepared. Turn off cell phones, pagers, beepers, etc. Do not leave the room during class unless you have an emergency. Do not disturb others by talking, passing notes, playing video games, surfing the web, etc. Computer are to be used for note taking only – if you are caught using the computer for other ends you forfeit the right to use a computer in class. Be mindful of the sensitivities of others in your comments in class; however, open discussion and dialogue are encouraged.

You are expected to abide by George Mason University's Honor Code in preparing all work for this class. If you have any questions about Honor Code issues (e.g., whether you are permitted to discuss an assignment with a fellow student) or are uncertain about how to cite a source, or if you have observed Honor Code violations, please contact Professor Rinker immediately and/or refer directly to the honor code which can be found at <http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies/#Anchor12>.

Student writers are often confused as to what should be cited. Some think that only direct quotations need to be credited. While direct quotations do need citation, so do paraphrases and summaries of opinions or factual information formerly unknown to the writer or which the writer did not discover him/herself. As a general rule, it is always important to keep the reader in mind and to think of citations as being “reader friendly.” In other words, writers should provide citations for all pieces of information that they think their readers may find new or interesting. Not only is this approach considerate of readers, it will almost certainly ensure that writers will never be guilty of plagiarism.

Possible Cases for Team Presentations

- 1. Israel-Palestine**
- 2. Darfur**
- 3. South African Truth and Reconciliation**
- 4. The ethno-political conflicts of Kosovo, Rwanda, Congo, Bosnia, Kenya, etc.**
- 5. Iraq/Afghanistan**
- 6. Iranian Nuclear Crisis**
- 7. Human Rights and _____ (the Olympics, immigrants, etc.)**
- 8. Other Global Conflict (broadly defined)?**

Meeting Schedule/Readings

(Subject to change)

Meeting One: August 26 – Introduction

Organization of the course, assignments, expectations, and getting to know your classmates exercise.

I. Understanding and Analyzing Global Conflict

Meeting Two: September 2 – Major Themes of Global Conflict

Chester A. Crocker, Fen Osler Hampson, and Pamela Aall, “Leashing the Dogs of War” (ch.1 in *Leashing*) – e-reserve

Michael E. Brown, “New Global Dangers” (ch.3 in *Leashing*) – e-reserve

Additional Suggested Readings:

Miall, et al., Chapter 2: “Conflict Resolution: Origins, Foundations and Development of the Field” pp.32-54.

Meeting Three: September 9 - Understanding the Sources of Global Conflict 1: Systemic Sources

Miall et al., Chapter 3: “Statistics of Deadly Quarrels” p.55-77.

Jack S. Levy, “International Sources of Interstate War” (ch.2 in *Leashing*) – e-reserve

Additional Suggested Readings:

Nordstrom, Carolyn. Shadows of War: Violence, Power, and International Profiteering in the 21st Century. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004. Chapter 4 and 5, Pp. 45-69. -e-reserve

(time reserved for group presentation meetings – about 30 minutes & Research Paper Guidelines Passed-out)

Meeting Four: September 16 – Understanding the Sources of Global Conflict 2: States and Internal Dynamics

Miall, et al., Chapter 4: “Understanding Contemporary Conflict” p. 78-105.

Mohammed Ayoob, “State Making, State Breaking and State Failure” (ch.7 in *Leashing*) – e-reserve

Additional Suggested Readings:

Brahm, Eric (2005) “Globalization” at beyondintractability.org
<http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/globalization/?nid=6563>

Charles O. Lerche III, “The Conflicts of Globalization,” *The International Journal of Peace Studies*, vol. 3, no. 1, January 1998 (<http://www.gmu.edu/academic/ijps/>)

Meeting Five: September 23 – The Dynamics of Global Conflict

Miall, et al., Chapter 1 & 5: “Introduction to Conflict Resolution: Concepts and Definitions” pp. 3-31.105-130.

Students read/play with the Minorities at Risk Website -
<http://www.cidcm.umd.edu/mar/resources.asp>

(time reserved for group presentation meetings – about 30 minutes)

II. Approaches to Global Conflict Management

Meeting Six: September 30 – Conflict Management (Peace-keeping)

Miall et al., Chapter 6: “Preventing Violent Conflict and Containing Violent Conflict: Peacekeeping” pp.131-158.

Last, David. “From Peacekeeping to Peacebuilding” *The Online Journal of Peace and Conflict Resolution*, Issue 5.1 Summer 2003. http://www.trinstitute.org/ojpcr/5_1last.htm

(time reserved for group presentation meetings – about 30 minutes)

Typed Statement of Research Intent DUE!

Meeting Seven: October 7 – Conflict Resolution (Peace-making)

Miall et al., Chapter 7: “Ending Violent Conflict: Peacemaking” p.159-184.

Fisher, Ronald. “Interactive Conflict Resolution: In Peacemaking In International Conflict: Methods and Techniques.” Eds. Zartman, W. and Rasmussen, L. USIP, 1997, Pp.239-272. -e-reserve

Additional Suggested Readings:

Saunders, Harold. 2000. Interactive Conflict Resolution: A View for Policy Makers on Making and Building Peace. In: International Conflict Resolution after the Cold War. National Academic Press. 251-293. -e-reserve

Meeting Eight: October 14 - No Class due to Monday Columbus Day Holiday.

Meeting Nine: October 21 – Conflict Transformation (Peace-building and Reconciliation)

Miall et al., Chapter 8-9: “Peacebuilding,” pp.185-230.

Haugerudbraaten, Henning. “Peacebuilding: Six dimensions and two concepts” African Security Review Vol. 7 No 6, 1998. <http://www.iss.co.za/Pubs/Asr/7No6/Peacebuilding.html>

Meeting Ten: October 28 – Reconciliation

Miall et al., Chapter 10: “Reconciliation,” p. 230.245.

Schirch, Lisa. 2001. “Ritual Reconciliation: Transforming Identity/Reframing Conflict.” In *Reconciliation, Justice, and Coexistence: Theory and Practice*. Mohammed Abu-Nimer, ed. New York: Lexington. Pp. 145-161 -e-reserves

(time reserved for group presentation meetings – about 30 minutes)

III. Exploring Various Cases Studies of Global Conflict

Meeting Eleven: November 4 – Genocide: Rwanda

Power, S. *A Problem From Hell: American and the Age of Genocide*. Chapter 10 (p. 329-335, 380-389) -e-reserve

Lambourne, Wendy. “Justice and Reconciliation: Postconflict Peacebuilding in Cambodia and Rwanda.” In *Reconciliation, Justice, and Coexistence: Theory and Practice*. Mohammed Abu-Nimer, ed. New York: Lexington. Pp. 311-337. -e-reserve

Movie/Discussion – “Ghosts of Rwanda”

Meeting Twelve: November 11 – Protracted Social Conflict: Israel-Palestine

Telhami, Shibley (2005). “Beyond Resolution? The Palestinian-Israel Conflict” pp.357-372 in *Grasping the Nettle: Analyzing Cases of Intractable Conflict*. Chester A. Crocker, Fen Osler Hampson, and Pamela Aall (eds). Washington: United States Institute of Peace Press. e-reserve.

Movie/Discussion – “Paradise Now”

Meeting Thirteen: November 18 – Global Mobilization against Social Discrimination: Caste in India

Milner, Murray (1994). *Status and Sacredness: A general theory of status relations and an analysis of Indian culture*. New York: Oxford University Press. Pp: 42-52 (e-reserve).

Wax, Emily (2007). “India’s Lower Castes Seek Social Progress in Global Job Market.” *Washington Post*, August 20, 2007. Front Page. (e-reserve)

Movie/Discussion: “India Untouched” and/or “Lesser Humans”

Meeting Fourteen: November 25 – Group Presentations Day I

Meeting Fifteen: December 2 Group Presentations Day II/Summing Up

Research Papers Due Friday December 12th by 5pm

List of E-Reserve Readings:

1. Ayooob, Mohammed. “State Making, State Breaking and State Failure” (ch.7 in *Leashing*) – e-reserve

2. Brown, Michael E. "New Global Dangers" (ch.3 in *Leashing*) – e-reserve
3. Chester A. Crocker, Fen Osler Hampson, and Pamela Aall, "Leashing the Dogs of War" (ch.1 in *Leashing*) – e-reserve
4. Fisher, Ronald. "Interactive Conflict Resolution: In Peacemaking In International Conflict: Methods and Techniques." Eds. Zartman, W. and Rasmussen, L. USIP, 1997, Pp.239-272. (e-reserve).
5. Lambourne, Wendy. "Justice and Reconciliation: Postconflict Peacebuilding in Cambodia and Rwanda." In *Reconciliation, Justice, and Coexistence: Theory and Practice*. Mohammed Abu-Nimer, ed. New York: Lexington. Pp. 311-337.
6. Levy, Jack S. "International Sources of Interstate War" (ch.2 in *Leashing*) – e-reserve
7. Nordstrom, Carolyn. Shadows of War: Violence, Power, and International Profiteering in the 21st Century. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004. Chapter 4 and 5, Pp. 45-69.
8. Power, Samantha. A Problem From Hell: American and the Age of Genocide. Harper Collins: New York, (Chapter 10) p. 329-335, 380-389, 2002.
9. Saunders, Harold. 2000. Interactive Conflict Resolution: A View for Policy Makers on Making and Building Peace. In: International Conflict Resolution after the Cold War. National Academic Press. 251-293.
10. Schirch, Lisa. 2001. "Ritual Reconciliation: Transforming Identity/Reframing Conflict." In *Reconciliation, Justice, and Coexistence: Theory and Practice*. Mohammed Abu-Nimer, ed. New York: Lexington. Pp. 145-161.
11. Telhami, Shibley (2005). "Beyond Resolution? The Palestinian-Israel Conflict" pp.357-372 in *Grasping the Nettle: Analyzing Cases of Intractable Conflict*. Chester A. Crocker, Fen Osler Hampson, and Pamela Aall (eds). Washington: United States Institute of Peace Press. e-reserve.