

# **GLOBAL CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND RESOLUTION**

**CONF 340 005**

**Spring 2008**

**Wednesdays, 7:20 pm – 10:00 pm**

**Robinson Hall B, Room 203**

**Talha Kose**

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**Office Hours: Wednesdays, 6:00 pm – 7:20 pm**

**Robinson Hall B, Room 365**

**or by appointment,**

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Welcome to the course. Global conflict, while better understood today than it was fifty year ago, still remains one of the enigmas of social scientific inquiry. To the tireless workers for peace around the world it is ever present, to social scientists from various fields of study it is an agent of both social change and social destruction. Yet, despite one's aims and perspective when approaching global conflict, global instances of conflict are next to impossible to make universal statements about and often even harder to manage and transform. 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, International Development, Psychology, and Social Theory 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;
- Look at terrorism, the effects of the "Global war on Terror;" and the development of the panoply of New Social Movements in the international arena;
- Examine particular 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.

Included among the many topics we will examine are: the relationship between globalization and conflict; outbreaks of civil war and their resolution; post-conflict reconstruction; the role of violence in conflict episodes; and the emergence of new actors in international relations.

## **Requirements**

*Participation:* You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings. Active

participation based on thoughtful consideration of the literature and experience in class discussions will be expected. Class participation will be worth **10%** of your final grade.

*Reading Quizzes:* You will have four quizzes during the course of the semester. Each one will be worth 10% of your final grade. Each one will cover the reading material and class discussions to ensure that you are doing the readings. Dates of these quizzes will not be announced prior to the quiz (i.e. these are pop quizzes). I will drop the lowest grade and therefore the three quizzes will be worth **30%** of your final grade. No make-ups of these quizzes will be allowed (so do not choose to skip class). Each quiz will take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete.

*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 and how the international community responded to the conflict. Students are expected to be able to comment in class discussions throughout the semester whenever it is applicable to their selected case. The team presentation will be worth **20%** of your final grade. 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 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 proposal of what you plan to research with a tentative bibliography is due by **February 27<sup>th</sup>**. I will return your proposal to you within a week with comments and suggestion. The research paper is due on **May 13<sup>th</sup>** at 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.

### **Readings**

**Required Text:** "Contemporary Conflict Resolution". 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. (2007), Ramsbotham,

O., Woodhouse, T., and Miall, H. Cambridge: Polity Press.

**Recommended Text:** “Leashing the Dogs of War: Conflict Management in a Divided World,” (2007), Crocker, C. A., Hampson, F. O., and Aall, P. (eds.). Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press. (I strongly recommend the purchase of this book, several chapters from the book will be assigned during the course of the semester).

**Recommended Readings:** Recommended readings are included in the syllabus in order to help your research papers and group presentations. You are not responsible from the recommended readings in your reading quizzes.

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 Crisis**
- 3. South African Truth and Reconciliation**
- 4. The ethno-political conflicts of Kosovo, Bosnia, Macedonia, Rwanda, Congo, etc.**
- 5. Iraq/Afghanistan**
- 6. Iran Nuclear Crisis**
- 7. Other Global Conflict?**

## Meeting Schedule (Subject to change)

### **WEEK 1: JANUARY 23 – Introduction**

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

## **I. Understanding and Analyzing Global Conflict**

### **WEEK 2: JANUARY 30 – Conflict Resolution and the Changing Nature 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)

Samuel P. Huntington., Chapter1: “New Era in World Politics” in *Clash of Civilizations and Remaking of World Order*. Simon & Schuster. pp. 19-40. (e-reserve)

#### **Recommended**

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

### **WEEK 3: FEBRUARY 6 - Understanding the Sources of Global Conflict 1: Systemic Sources**

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

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

Martha Crenshaw, “Terrorism and Global Security” (ch.5 in *Leashing*). (e-reserve)

#### **Recommended**

Nordstrom, Carolyn. *Shadows of War: Violence, Power, and International Profiteering in the 21<sup>st</sup> 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)**

### **WEEK 4: FEBRUARY 13 – Understanding the Sources of Global Conflict 2: States and Internal Dynamics**

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

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

Ted Robert Gurr, “Minorities, Nationalist, and Islamists: Managing Communal Conflict in the Twenty-first Century,” (ch. 9 in *Leashing*). (e-reserve)

### **Recommended**

Brahm, Eric (2005) “Globalization” at [beyondintractability.org](http://www.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/>)

### **WEEK 5: FEBRUARY 20– The Dynamics of Conflict**

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

### **Recommended:**

Louis Kriesberg (2005). “Nature, Dynamics and Phases of Intractability,” pp. 65-99 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)

Students read/play with the Minorities at Risk Website -

<http://www.cidcm.umd.edu/mar/resources.asp>

(time reserved for group presentation meetings )

## **II. Approaches to Global Conflict Management**

### **WEEK 6: FEBRUARY 27 – Conflict Management (Peace-keeping & Military Intervention)**

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

### **Recommended:**

Diehl, Paul. F. (2000). “Forks in the Road: Theoretical and Policy Concerns for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Peacekeeping”. *Global Society*, Vol. 14 (3).pp. 337-360. (e-reserve)

Last, David. "From Peacekeeping to Peacebuilding" *The Online Journal of Peace and Conflict Resolution*, Issue 5.1 Summer 2003. (e-reserve)

[http://www.trinstitute.org/ojpcr/5\\_1last.htm](http://www.trinstitute.org/ojpcr/5_1last.htm)

**(time reserved for group presentation meetings)**

**WEEK 7: MARCH 5 – Conflict Resolution (Peace-making)**

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

Fisher, Ronald. (2007). "Interactive Conflict Resolution" in *Peacemaking in International Conflict: Methods and Techniques*. I. William Zartman, (ed)-Rev. ed. USIP, pp. 227-273. (e-reserve)

**Recommended**

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).

**MARCH 12: No Class. Have a Great Spring Break!**

**WEEK 8: MARCH 19 Conflict Transformation (Peace-building& Postconflict Reconstruction)**

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

**Recommended:**

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>

Daniel Serwer and Patricia Thomson, "A Framework for Success: International Intervention in Societies Emerging from Conflict" (chapter 21, in *Leashing*) pp. 369-387. (e-reserve)

**(time reserved for group presentation meetings)**

**WEEK 9: MARCH 26 –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-reserve)

**Recommended:**

Joseph V. Montville (2006). "Reconciliation as Realpolitik: Facing the Burdens of History in Political Conflict Resolution" in *Identity Morality and Threat: Studies in Violent Conflict*. Daniel Rothbart and Karina V. Korostelina (eds.), pp. 367-392. (e-reserve)

Martha Minow. (1998). *Between Vengeance and Forgiveness: Facing History After Genocide and Mass Violence*. Boston: Beacon Press. pp. 118-147. (e-reserve)

### **III. Exploring Various Cases Studies of Global Conflict**

#### **WEEK 10: APRIL 2 Rwanda-Guest presenter Jeremy Rinker**

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/Movie Clip – TBD (Possibly: "Sometimes in April," "Ghosts of Rwanda"…)

#### **WEEK 11: APRIL 9 Kosovo**

Mason, Whit (2006). "Kosovo: Unraveling the Knot." *World Policy Journal*, 23 (3), pp. 87-98.

Judah, Tim (2001). Greater Albania? *Survival*, 43(2), 7-18.

Kupchan, Charles (2005). "Independence for Kosovo." *Foreign Affairs*, 84 (6), pp. 13-<http://mutex.gmu.edu:2048/login?url=http://mutex.gmu.edu:2068/pqdweb?did=932950861&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=31810&RQT=309&VName=PQD> – you must type in your Mason e-mail Username and Password to access this article on line – follow the link.

Movie:

*"Kosovo: of Blood and History"*

#### **WEEK 12: APRIL 16 – Protracted Social Conflict: Israel-Palestine**

Stephen Cohen (2005). "Intractability and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict," pp. 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. pp 343-357. (e-reserve)

Shibley Telhami (2005). "Beyond Resolution? The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict" *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. pp. 357-375. (e-reserve)

Movie:

*Encounter Point*

**Recommended**

Palestine-Israel 101 (Background and discussion of 2 state solution)

<http://americantaskforce.org/resources.php?type=101>

**WEEK 13: APRIL 23 – Group Presentations Day I**

**WEEK 14: April 30– Group Presentations Day II & Wrap Up Revision**

Mial et.al. ch 16 pp. 316-331. “Future Directions Towards Cosmopolitan Conflict Resolution”

**Research Papers Due May 13<sup>th</sup> by 5pm**