ECS 3130A Special Topics in Conflict Studies: Political Economy of Conflict
Syllabus, Winter 2014

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DESCRIPTION

Students will become aware of a number of conflict contexts in which an understanding of political economy is crucial to understanding the dynamics. These include areas where conflict is over resources and/or where resources play a significant role in fuelling conflict. The significance of the arms trade will be noted, including issues of arms research, arms production, and arms cascading. Global links among multinationals, diaspora groups, financial institutions, money shelters, tyrannical governments, and international organizations will be explored. Theoretical material will be introduced at the beginning of the course to help make sense of the conflict contexts; constructive approaches to dealing with the political economic dimensions of conflict will be introduced at the end.

GOAL

Students will become aware of the political economical aspects of conflict at different levels ranging from the community, to large intra national conflicts to the international level. They will have an understanding of key trends in political economic theory and a sense of the ethical and practical tools that can be used to address conflicts where the political economical aspects are significant.

OBJECTIVES

1. To become aware of, and contribute to, the theoretical and practical dimensions of the emerging field of political economy of conflict.
2. To compare political and economic dynamics of conflict at different levels: within Indigenous communities, between ethnic/tribal/religious identity groups at the intra national level, and international dynamics including coalitions, the United Nations, World Bank, International Monetary Fund.
3. To examine the relationship between economic and political structures, on the one hand, and violence in its various forms and manifestations, on the other.
4. To track cross-cutting issues such as gender, resources, justice, and values.
5. To place the economic and political dynamics of contemporary conflicts and how we understand them within an historical context.
6. To develop economically and politically based practices and policies to enhance conflict transformation, paying particular attention to intervention and development.
WORKLOAD AND EVALUATION

1. Weekly reflections (10) 10
2. Short analytical essay 10
3. Survey Reading 20
4. Research Paper 40
5. Final Exam or Assignment 20

SCHEDULE

THEORETICAL BASE
January 7 Mimetic Structures of Violence and of Blessing
January 14 From Adam Smith to Market Fundamentalism
January 21 From Karl Marx to Liberation Movements
January 28 Greed and Grievance

CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS
February 4 Arms Manufacturing and Conflict
February 11 Women and the Political Economy of Conflict
February 25 Resource Based Conflict
March 4 Corporations and Conflict
March 11 Globalization and Global Warming

INTERVENTION AND TRANSFORMATION
March 18 Economic Development Based on Reconciliation and Good Governance
March 25 Comprehensive Approach to Intervention
April 1 Corporate and Community Social Responsibility: An Ethical Vision

PRIMARY BOOKS FOR SURVEY READING

London.

INTERNET RESOURCES

Particular Papers


Institutional Resources
The Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC) project on The Role of External Actors in Civil War Economies in Sub-Saharan Africa, see http://www.bicc.de/projects/project_files/111_ecwarend_english.html.


The Fafo Institute project on The Economies of Conflict - Private Sector Activities and Armed Conflict, see http://www.fafono.nosp/ecocon.htm.

The Global Policy Forum documents on The Dark Side of Natural Resources, see http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/docs/minindx.htm.

The International Peace Academy program on Economic Agendas in Civil Wars, see http://www.ipacademy.org/Programs/Programs.htm (completed programs).

UNU-WIDER project (2001) on Why Some Countries Avoid Conflict While Others Fail, see http://www.wider.unu.edu/research/research.htm.

The World Bank research program on The Economics of Civil War, Crime and Violence, see http://econ.worldbank.org/programs/conflict.

http://www.gdrc.org/u-gov/governance-understand.html

The Commission on Growth and Development has a series of papers that can be downloaded at http://www.growthcommission.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=101&Itemid=198
http://wellbeing.econ.ubc.ca/helliwell/chronological.php

Bibliography


Manchester, William. (1967) *The Arms of Krupp*


Comparative Perspectives. Washington, D.C.: TraCCC.
Economics and Conflict. Conflict affects economic activities; Economic factors affect conflict; Conflict is a result of choice of economic agents; Conflict as an economic activity Slideshow...Â Topics in the Economic Analysis of Conflict â€¢ Sources of conflict: Are certain form of organization more likely to bring about conflict? Does increasing wealth make conflict more or less likely? â€¢ Equilibrium and comparative static: what are the determinants of equilibrium in a varying dimensions of conflict? When is repeated game-model applicable and how does it change solution? Is the wealthier side always at an advantage? That conflict featured two states with little economic interaction - indeed, the Soviet Union did not even have a market economy. Thus, specialists in security affairs could comfortably margin-alize economic relations, with some notable exceptions, such as the study of 'economic containment' (see, for example, Adler-Karlson, 1968; ? 1998Routledge0969-2290. This content downloaded from 128.197.140.161 on Mon, 10 Nov 2014 10:11:52 AM All use subject to JSTOR Terms and Conditions. Politicaleconomy in securitystudies. Mastanduno, 1992; Jentleson, 1986). Similarly, the possibility of militarily the Osh conflict in 2010 happened in the declining economy which was not only the result of the global economic crisis and difficulties in relations with Russia. The political short-sightedness of the Bakiyev regime in resolving problems with the air base at Manas led to complication of relations with Russia, which subsequently led to economic decline in Kyrgyzstan.Â Contrary to many media reports portraying conflicts in Central Asia as ethnic problems, recent literature insists that the existence of heterogeneous ethnicities "does not itself naturally pre-dispose to violence but is socially constituted". On the basis of empirical research most of conflicts originates from the fight over the material dominance and other seemingly represented phenomena.