

POLITICAL VIOLENCE

PhD Seminar
INR 5934.1 | Spring 2026
Mo 2:30-5:00p | Bellamy 0113

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Course Description

This graduate seminar addresses the phenomenon of “political violence.” Why do politics sometimes turn violent? How is violence used to achieve political objectives? Who participates in political violence? What are the long-term legacies of violent conflict? What methodological and ethical principles guide social scientists studying political violence? We will examine these questions in the context of intra-state violence, including civil war, insurgency, revolution, genocide, riots, and crime. The goal of the course is to introduce you to key debates and methodologies so that you can critically engage with existing research and find inspiration for your own work.

Requirements

The course has four requirements: participation, weekly memos, a research design memo, and a research paper (or grant proposal).

Participation. You should come to class each week having completed all the required readings and prepared to participate in class discussion. Each week also includes a short *Skim & Revisit* section, and you should plan to spend roughly 15–30 minutes per item. These readings serve several purposes: introducing classic debates or perspectives relevant to the week’s topic; giving you exposure to a broader research program connected to the core readings; revisiting work from earlier in the course that speaks directly to the current material; or reviewing the empirical sections of articles that elaborate or test a theoretical argument we discuss in depth. I will provide guidance in the preceding class on what I expect you to take away from these readings.

Please contact me ahead of time if you anticipate being unable to participate on a given week.

Weekly Memos. You are required to submit a short memo each week that synthesizes and critically engages the readings for that week. Memos should be 1–2 pages in length (single spaced). I will drop the two lowest memo grades over the semester, which means you may skip submitting a memo for up to two weeks if you choose. Memos are due at Noon on Mondays each week EXCEPT the first week of class.

Each memo should address the following four components in about 1-2 paragraph each:

1. **Core puzzles and themes.** What are the central questions, puzzles, and themes that cut across the week's readings? Focus on shared concerns and points of disagreement rather than summarizing individual pieces. You should refer to most or all of the week's required readings in this section.
2. **What we learn.** What do you think are the most interesting lessons from this literature that improve our understanding about political violence, or politics more generally? Highlight insights you found especially compelling or useful, including connections to your own research interests where relevant.
3. **Open puzzles and limits.** Identify one or two unresolved puzzles raised by the readings. These might include:
 - a) An empirical pattern or real-world case that existing theories struggle to explain.
 - b) A theoretical assumption or logical move that you find unconvincing.
 - c) A missing perspective that could be applied from another literature to help clarify a debate.
4. **Discussion questions.** Pose 2–3 questions that would generate productive class discussion.

March Research Workshops. Each week in March, we will hold short research workshops focused on developing ideas for your final paper or research design. Each student will submit one workshop memo. A sign-up sheet will circulate in advance, with two students assigned per workshop week. Memos should be 1–2 pages (single-spaced) and submitted by Friday before class. This memo should lay out a research idea for your final paper. You should include a research question, argument/theory, hypotheses, and a research design.

During class, there will be no presentation, and each project will receive 10 minutes of rapid-fire feedback. If you are not presenting in a given week, you are expected to read the workshop memos carefully and come prepared to offer substantive comments and suggestions. Active participation in these discussions is required.

Research Paper or Grant Proposal. You will submit a full research proposal or paper, due on May 1. The format of submissions can vary from student-to-student, depending on the stage of your research project. A first draft of your proposal is due on April 10, and I will provide feedback by April 17.

If you are starting a new project, you may submit a research design in the format of an NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (DDRIG) proposal, using the formatting

requirements of the DDRIG. Alternatively, you may submit a draft of an article-length research paper. This option is recommended for students who are continuing an ongoing project.

The goal of this assignment is for you to make progress on a project that builds towards your goals in the program. Pick a project that you think will be part of your research agenda rather than one that will distract you from it.

Summary of Course Requirements

| | Due | Grade |
|------------------------------------|----------|-------|
| 1. Class Participation | | 30% |
| 2. Weekly Memos | | 25% |
| 3. Research Workshop | | 5% |
| 4. Research Proposal (First Draft) | April 10 | 5% |
| 5. Research Proposal (Final) | May 1 | 35% |

Generative AI Policy

Weekly Memos. You may **not** use generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT or similar systems) for any aspect of your weekly memos, with the exception of simple grammatical tools like Grammarly. These memos are intended to assess your independent engagement with the readings and your ability to identify puzzles, arguments, and theoretical connections. They will not be graded on writing quality, but on the substance of the ideas. Use of generative AI for weekly memos is prohibited.

Research Proposals and Final Papers. You may use generative AI tools for limited purposes such as improving clarity, organizing ideas, correcting grammar, or helping identify relevant sources. However, **any use of generative AI must be discussed with me in advance.** The goal of this requirement is transparency and learning: I want to understand how you plan to use AI and, where helpful, to offer guidance on how to use it effectively without short-circuiting the intellectual work a PhD program is designed to develop. Regardless of how AI is used, the ideas, research questions, arguments, theoretical contributions, and research design must be your own. AI may assist with brainstorming or communicating ideas, but it may not substitute for doing the intellectual work itself. [Note: ChatGPT helped me draft this language.]

Work that exhibits formulaic or content-thin prose (“AI slop”) will receive a very low grade, regardless of whether it formally violates the rules above. If I suspect use of generative AI outside the bounds outlined here, I reserve the right to request clarification and, if warranted, to refer the case to the university’s academic integrity process.

Book chapters

Blue – Available on library website

Yellow – Professor has book

Course Schedule

JAN 26 From Civil War to Political Violence

1. Starniland, Paul. 2023. “The Evolution of Civil Wars Research: From Civil War to Political Violence.” *Civil Wars* 25 (2–3): 187–207.
2. Posen, Barry R. 1993. “The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict.” *Survival* 35 (1): 27–47.
3. Fearon, James D, and David D Laitin. 2003. “Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War.” *The American Political Science Review* 97(1): 75–90.
4. Cederman, Lars-Erik, Andreas Wimmer, and Brian Min. 2010. “Why Do Ethnic Groups Rebel? New Data and Analysis.” *World politics* 62(01): 87–119.
5. Dube, Oendrila, and Juan F Vargas. 2013. “Commodity Price Shocks and Civil Conflict: Evidence from Colombia.” *The Review of Economic Studies* 80 (4): 1384–421.

Skim & Revisit

6. Davies, Shawn, Therése Pettersson, Margareta Sollenberg, and Magnus Öberg. 2025. “Organized Violence 1989–2024, and the Challenges of Identifying Civilian Victims.” *Journal of Peace Research* 62 (4): 1223–40.

Suggested Readings

1. Sambanis, Nicholas. 2004. “What Is Civil War? Conceptual and Empirical Complexities of an Operational Definition.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 48(6): 814–58.
2. Collier, Paul, and Anke Hoeffler. 2004. “Greed and Grievance in Civil War.” *Oxford Economic Papers* 56(4): 563–95.
3. Ross, Michael L. 2004. “What Do We Know about Natural Resources and Civil War?” *Journal of Peace Research* 41(3): 337–56.
4. Kalyvas, Stathis N, and Laia Balcells. 2010. “International System and Technologies of Rebellion: How the End of the Cold War Shaped Internal Conflict.” *American Political Science Review* 104 (03): 415–29.
5. Berman, Nicolas, Mathieu Coutenier, Dominic Rohner, and Mathias Thoenig. 2017. “This Mine Is Mine! How Minerals Fuel Conflicts in Africa.” *American Economic Review* 107 (6): 1564–610.

FEB 2 Violent Organizations

1. Tilly, Charles. 1985. “War Making and State Making as Organized Crime.” In *Bringing the State Back In*, edited by Dietrich Rueschemeyer, Peter B. Evans, and Theda Skocpol. Cambridge University Press.
2. Slater, Dan. 2010. *Ordering Power: Contentious Politics and Authoritarian Leviathans in Southeast Asia*. Cambridge University Press. || Chapters 1 & 4

3. Stamiland, Paul. 2014. *Networks of Rebellion: Explaining Insurgent Cohesion and Collapse*. Cornell University Press. || [Chapters 1, 2 & 4](#)
4. Lewis, Janet I., and Stephen Rangazas. 2025. "Political Entrepreneurs or Bandits? The 'Criminal' Origins of Peripheral Rebellions." *Perspectives on Politics*.
5. Barnes, Nicholas. 2017. "Criminal Politics: An Integrated Approach to the Study of Organized Crime, Politics, and Violence." *Perspectives on Politics* 15(4): 967–87.

Skim & Revisit

6. Larson, Jennifer M., and Janet I Lewis. 2018. "Rumors, Kinship Networks, and Rebel Group Formation." *International Organization* 72 (4): 871–903.

Suggested Readings

1. Bates, Robert, Avner Greif, and Smita Singh. 2002. "Organizing Violence." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 46 (5): 599–628.
2. De la Sierra, Raúl Sánchez. 2020. "On the Origins of the State: Stationary Bandits and Taxation in Eastern Congo." *Journal of Political Economy* 128 (1): 32–74.
3. Lewis, Janet I. 2020. *How Insurgency Begins: Rebel Group Formation in Uganda and Beyond*. Cambridge University Press.
4. Larson, Jennifer M., and Janet I Lewis. 2018. "Rumors, Kinship Networks, and Rebel Group Formation." *International Organization* 72 (4): 871–903.
5. Parkinson, Sarah E. 2021. "Practical Ideology in Militant Organizations." *World Politics* 73 (1): 52–81.
6. Christia, Fotini. 2012. New York Alliance Formation in Civil Wars. Cambridge University Press.
7. Blair, Christopher W., Erica Chenoweth, Michael C. Horowitz, Evan Perkoski, and Philip B.K. Potter. 2022. "Honor Among Thieves: Understanding Rhetorical and Material Cooperation Among Violent Nonstate Actors." *International Organization* 76 (1): 164–203.
8. Schubiger, Livia Isabella. 2023. "One for All? State Violence and Insurgent Cohesion." *International Organization* 77 (1): 33–64.
9. Shapiro, Jacob N. 2013. The Terrorist's Dilemma: Managing Violent Covert Organizations. Princeton University Press.
10. Malejacq, Romain. 2020. *Warlord Survival: The Delusion of Statebuilding in Afghanistan*. Cornell University Press
11. Carey, Sabine C., and Neil J. Mitchell. 2016. "Progovernment Militias." *Annual Review of Political Science* 20 (1): 1–21.
12. Stamiland, Paul. 2015. "Militias, Ideology, and the State." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 59 (5): 770–93.
13. Lake, David A. 2018. *The Statebuilder's Dilemma: On the Limits of Foreign Intervention*. Cornell University Press.
14. Autesserre, Severine. 2014. *Peaceland: Conflict Resolution and the Everyday Politics of International Intervention*. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge University Press.

FEB 9 Participation in Violent Organizations

1. Humphreys, Macartan, and Jeremy M Weinstein. 2008. "Who Fights? The Determinants of Participation in Civil War." *American Journal of Political Science* 52(2): 436–55.
2. Petersen, Roger D. 2001. *Resistance and Rebellion: Lessons from Eastern Europe*. Cambridge University Press. [|| Chapters 1 & 2](#)
3. Shesterinina, Anastasia. 2016. "Collective Threat Framing and Mobilization in Civil War." *American Political Science Review* 110(3): 411–27.
4. Hall, Andrew B, Connor Huff, and Shiro Kurikawa. 2018. "Wealth, Slaveownership, and Fighting for the Confederacy: An Empirical Study of the American Civil War." *American Political Science Review* 113 (3): 658–73.
5. Mitts, Tamar. 2019. "From Isolation to Radicalization: Anti-Muslim Hostility and Support for ISIS in the West." *American Political Science Review* 113 (1): 173–94.

Skim & Revisit

6. Wood, Elisabeth Jean. 2001. "The Emotional Benefits of Insurgency in El Salvador." In *Passionate Politics: Emotions and Social Movements*, eds. Goodwin, James M. Jasper, and Francesca Polletta. University of Chicago Press.
7. Kalyvas, Stathis N, and Matthew Adam Kocher. 2007. "How 'Free' Is Free Riding in Civil Wars? Violence, Insurgency, and the Collective Action Problem." *World politics* 59(02): 177–216.

Suggested

1. Gurr, Ted Robert. 1971. *Why Men Rebel*. Princeton University Press.
2. Scott, James C. 1977. *The Moral Economy of the Peasant: Rebellion and Subsistence in Southeast Asia*. Yale University Press.
3. Popkin, Samuel L. 1979. *The Rational Peasant: The Political Economy of Rural Society in Vietnam*. University of California Press.
4. Scott, James C. 1979. "Revolution in the Revolution: Peasants and Commissars." *Theory and Society* 7 (1–2): 97–134.
5. Wood, Elisabeth Jean. 2003. *Insurgent Collective Action and Civil War in El Salvador*. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge University Press.
6. Parkinson, Sarah Elizabeth. 2013. "Organizing Rebellion: Rethinking High-Risk Mobilization and Social Networks in War." *American Political Science Review* 107(03): 418–32.
7. Viterna, Jocelyn S. 2006. "Pulled, Pushed, and Persuaded: Explaining Women's Mobilization into the Salvadoran Guerrilla Army." *American Journal of Sociology* 112(1): 1–45.
8. Tezcür, Güneş Murat. 2016. "Ordinary People, Extraordinary Risks: Participation in an Ethnic Rebellion." *American Political Science Review* 110 (2): 247–64.
9. Huff, Connor. 2024. "Counterinsurgency Tactics, Rebel Grievances, and Who Keeps Fighting." *American Political Science Review* 118 (1): 475–80.

FEB 16 Civilians and (Counter)Insurgency

1. Mao, Zedong. 1937. *On Guerrilla Warfare*.
2. Berman, Eli, Jacob N Shapiro, and Joseph H Felter. 2011. “Can Hearts and Minds Be Bought? The Economics of Counterinsurgency in Iraq.” *Journal of Political Economy* 119 (4): 766–819.
3. Lyall, Jason, Graeme Blair, and Kosuke Imai. 2013. “Explaining Support for Combatants during Wartime: A Survey Experiment in Afghanistan.” *American Political Science Review* 107 (4): 679–705.
4. Blair, Christopher W. 2024. “The Fortification Dilemma: Border Control and Rebel Violence.” *American Journal of Political Science* 68 (4): 1366–85.
5. Mir, Asfandyar. 2018. “What Explains Counterterrorism Effectiveness? Evidence from the U.S. Drone War in Pakistan.” *International Security* 43 (2): 45–83.

Skim & Revisit

6. US-Army. 2007. “Field Manual 3-24: Counterinsurgency Field Manual.” *University of Chicago Press*. || Chapters 1 & 5
7. The ESOC “Worldview:” Berman, Eli, Jacob N Shapiro, and Joseph H Felter. 2018. *Small Wars, Big Data: The Information Revolution in Modern Conflict*. Princeton University Press. || Chapter 2
8. Haim, Dotan. 2026. *Conflict Brokers: How Local Politicians Make or Break Insurgencies*. Book Proposal

Suggested Readings

1. Giap, Vo Nguyen. 1961. *People’s War, People’s Army*. Foreign Language Publishing House.
2. Guevara, Ernesto Che. 1961. “Guerrilla Warfare.”
3. Ryan, Michael W.S. 2013. *Decoding Al-Qaeda’s Strategy: The Deep Battle Against America*. Columbia University Press
4. Thompson, Sir Robert. 1966. *Defeating Communist Insurgency: Experiences from Malaya and Vietnam*. Frederick A. Praeger.
5. Galula, David. 1964. *Counterinsurgency Warfare: Theory and Practice*. Praeger Security International.
6. US-Army. 2007. “Field Manual 3-24: Counterinsurgency Field Manual.” *University of Chicago Press*. || Chapters 1 & 5
7. Isaac, Jeffrey C, Stephen Biddle, Stathis N Kalyvas, Wendy Brown, and Douglas A Ollivant. 2008. “The New U.S. Army/Marine Corps Counterinsurgency Field Manual as Political Science and Political Praxis.” *Perspectives on Politics* 6 (2): 347–60.
8. Condra, Luke N, and Jacob N Shapiro. 2012. “Who Takes the Blame? The Strategic Effects of Collateral Damage.” *American Journal of Political Science* 56(1): 167–87.
9. Crost, Benjamin, Joseph Felter, and Patrick Johnston. 2014. “Aid Under Fire: Development Projects and Civil Conflict.” *American Economic Review* 104(6): 1833–56.

10. Dasgupta, Aditya, Kishore Gawande, and Devesh Kapur. 2017. “(When) Do Antipoverty Programs Reduce Violence? India’s Rural Employment Guarantee and Maoist Conflict.” *International Organization* 71(03): 605–32.
11. Lyall, Jason, Yang-Yang Zhou, and Kosuke Imai. 2020. “Can Economic Assistance Shape Combatant Support in Wartime? Experimental Evidence from Afghanistan.” *American Political Science Review* 114(1): 126–43.
12. Sexton, Renard, and Christoph Zürcher. 2024. “Aid, Attitudes, and Insurgency: Evidence from Development Projects in Northern Afghanistan.” *American Journal of Political Science* 68 (3): 1168–82.
13. Khalili, Laleh. 2012. *Time in the Shadows: Confinement in Counterinsurgencies*. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press.
14. Martin, Mike. 2014. An Intimate War: An Oral History of the Helmand Conflict, 1978–2012. Oxford University Press. || Introduction, Chapter 6 & Conclusion
15. Malkasian, Carter. 2021. *The American War in Afghanistan: A History*. Oxford University Press.
16. Petersen, Roger D. 2024. *Death, Dominance, and State-Building: The US in Iraq and the Future of American Military Intervention*. Oxford University Press.

FEB 23 Violence Against Civilians

1. Kalyvas, Stathis N. 2006. *The Logic of Violence in Civil War*. Cambridge University Press. || [Introduction & Chapters 5, 7, 9](#)
2. Balcells, Laia. 2017. *Rivalry and Revenge: The Politics of Violence During Civil War*. Cambridge University Press. || [Chapters 1-2 + skim Chapter 4](#)
3. Weinstein, Jeremy M. 2007. *Inside Rebellion: The Politics of Insurgent Violence*. Cambridge University Press. || [Introduction & Chapter 6](#)
4. Cohen, Dara Kay. 2013. “Explaining Rape during Civil War: Cross-National Evidence (1980–2009).” *American Political Science Review* 107(03): 461–77.

Skim & Revisit

5. Kalyvas, Stathis N. 2003. “The Ontology of ‘Political Violence’: Action and Identity in Civil Wars.” *Perspectives on Politics* 1(3): 475–94.
6. Valentino, Benjamin, Paul Huth, and Dylan Balch-Lindsay. 2004. “Draining the Sea’: Mass Killing and Guerrilla Warfare.” *International Organization* 58(2): 375–407.

Suggested

1. Gutiérrez-Sanín, Francisco, and Elisabeth Jean Wood. 2017. “What Should We Mean by ‘Pattern of Political Violence’? Repertoire, Targeting, Frequency, and Technique.” *Perspectives on Politics* 15 (1): 20–41.
2. Balcells, Laia, and Jessica A. Stanton. 2020. “Violence Against Civilians During Armed Conflict: Moving Beyond the Macro- and Micro-Level Divide.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 24: 45–69.
3. Valentino, Benjamin A. 2014. “Why We Kill: The Political Science of Political Violence against Civilians.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 17 (1): 89–103.

4. Sanin, Francisco Gutierrez, and Elisabeth Jean Wood. 2014. "Ideology in Civil War: Instrumental Adoption and Beyond." *Journal of Peace Research* 51(2): 213–26.
5. Humphreys, Macartan, and Jeremy M Weinstein. 2006. "Handling and Manhandling Civilians in Civil War." *American Political Science Review* 100 (3): 429–47.
6. Downes, Alexander B. 2006. "Desperate Times, Desperate Measures: The Causes of Civilian Victimization in War." *International Security* 30 (4): 152–95.
7. Salehyan, Idean, David Siroky, and Reed M Wood. 2014. "External Rebel Sponsorship and Civilian Abuse: A Principal-Agent Analysis of Wartime Atrocities." *International Organization* 68 (03): 633–61.
8. Kydd, Andrew H, and Barbara F Walter. 2006. "The Strategies of Terrorism." *International Security* 31(1): 49–80.
9. Gilbert, Danielle. 2022. "The Logic of Kidnapping in Civil War: Evidence from Colombia." *American Political Science Review* 116 (4): 1226–41.
10. Sun, Jessica S. 2025. "Strategic State Violence and Migration in Conflict." *American Journal of Political Science* 69 (4): 1317–34.
11. Manekin, Devorah S. 2020. *Regular Soldiers, Irregular War: Violence and Restraint in the Second Intifada*. Cornell University Press.
12. Wood, Elisabeth Jean. 2009. "Armed Groups and Sexual Violence: When Is Wartime Rape Rare?" *Politics and Society* 37 (1): 131–61.

MAR 2 Order, Governance, and Civilian Agency

1. Staniland, Paul. 2012. "States, Insurgents, and Wartime Political Orders." *Perspectives on Politics* 10 (2): 243–64.
2. Arjona, Ana. 2017. *Rebelocracy: Social Order in the Colombian Civil War*. Cambridge University Press. || Chapters 1, 3, 5
3. Kaplan, Oliver. 2017. *Resisting War: How Communities Protect Themselves*. Cambridge University Press. || Introduction & Chapters 5, 7
4. Magaloni, Beatriz, Edgar Franco-Vivanco, and Vanessa Melo. 2020. "Killing in the Slums: Social Order, Criminal Governance, and Police Violence in Rio de Janeiro." *American Political Science Review* 2 (114): 552–72.
5. Blattman, Christopher, Gustavo Duncan, Benjamin Lessing, and Santiago Tobón. 2025. "Gang Rule: Understanding and Countering Criminal Governance." *Review of Economic Studies* 92 (3): 1497–531.

Skim & Revisit

6. Loyle, Cianne E, Kathleen Gallagher Cunningham, Reyko Huang, and Danielle F Jung. 2021. "New Directions in Rebel Governance Research." *Perspectives on Politics* 21(1), 264-276.
7. Revkin, Mara Redlich. 2020. "What Explains Taxation by Resource-Rich Rebels? Evidence from the Islamic State in Syria." *The Journal of Politics* 82 (2): 757–64.

Suggested

1. Stewart, Megan A. 2021. *Governing for Revolution*. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge University Press.
2. Stewart, Megan A. 2018. "Civil War as State-Making: Strategic Governance in Civil War." *International Organization* 72 (1): 205–26.
3. Uribe, Andres, and Sebastian van Baalen. 2024. "Governing the Shadows: Territorial Control and State Making in Civil War." *Comparative Political Studies* 58 (10): 2095–129.
4. Grasse, Donald, Renard Sexton, and Austin Wright. 2024. "Courting Civilians During Conflict: Evidence from Taliban Judges in Afghanistan." *International Organization* 78 (1): 134–69.
5. Bruin, Erica De, Gabriella Levy, Livia I Schubiger, and Michael Weintraub. 2025. "Out-Competing Rivals: Armed Group Governance and Civilian Attitudes in Colombia." *American Political Science Review* 119 (4): 1792–805.
6. Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. 2016. *Informal Order and the State in Afghanistan*. Cambridge University Press.
7. Schubiger, Livia Isabella. 2021. "State Violence and Wartime Civilian Agency: Evidence from Peru." *Journal of Politics* 83 (4): 1383–98.
8. Khoury, Rana B., and Alexandra A Siegel. 2024. "Civil Organizing in War: Evidence from Syrian Facebook Communities." *Perspectives on Politics*, 1–23.
9. Moncada, Eduardo. 2020. "The Politics of Criminal Victimization: Pursuing and Resisting Power." *Perspectives on Politics* 18 (3): 706–21.
10. Lessing, Benjamin. 2021. "Conceptualizing Criminal Governance." *Perspectives on Politics* 19 (3): 854–73.
11. Skarbek, David. 2011. "Governance and Prison Gangs." *American Political Science Review* 105 (04): 702–16.

MAR 9 Conflict Termination and Aftermath

1. Walter, Barbara F. 2002. *Committing to Peace: The Successful Settlement of Civil Wars*. Princeton University Press. || [Chapters 1-2](#)
2. Lake, Milli. 2017. "Building the Rule of War: Postconflict Institutions and the Micro-Dynamics of Conflict in Eastern DR Congo." *International Organization* 71 (2): 281–315.
3. Zukerman-Daly, Sarah. 2016. *Organized Violence after Civil War: The Geography of Recruitment in Latin America*. Cambridge University Press. || [Chapters 1, 2, & 4](#)
4. Wyer, Frank. 2024. "Peace Versus Profit: Rebel Fragmentation and Conflict Resurgence in Colombia." *International Organization* 78 (4): 701–30.
5. Liu, Shelley X. 2022. "Control, Coercion, and Cooptation: How Rebels Govern after Winning Civil War." *World Politics* 74 (1): 37–76.

Skim & Revisit

6. Walter, Barbara F., Lise Morje Howard, and V. Page Fortna. 2021. "The Extraordinary Relationship between Peacekeeping and Peace." *British Journal of Political Science* 51 (4): 1705–22.

7. Thomas, Jakana L. 2024. "Sisters Are Doing It for Themselves: How Female Combatants Help Generate Gender-Inclusive Peace Agreements in Civil Wars." *American Political Science Review* 118 (2): 831–47.

Suggested Readings

1. Fearon, James D. 2004. "Why Do Some Civil Wars Last So Much Longer than Others?" *Journal of Peace Research* 41 (3): 275–301.
2. Cunningham, David E. 2006. "Veto Players and Civil War Duration." *American Journal of Political Science* 50 (4): 875–92.
3. Hartzell, Caroline, and Matthew Hoddie. 2003. "Institutionalizing Peace: Power Sharing and Post-Civil War Conflict Management." *American Journal of Political Science* 47 (2): 318–32.
4. Roeder, P.G. and Rothchild, D.S. eds., 2005. *Sustainable peace: Power and democracy after civil wars*. Cornell University Press.
5. Toft, Monica Duffy. 2010. "Ending Civil Wars: A Case for Rebel Victory." *International Security* 34 (4): 7–36.
6. Driscoll, Jesse. 2015. *Warlords and Coalition Politics in Post-Soviet States*. Cambridge University Press.
7. Matanock, Aila M. 2017. *Electing Peace: From Civil Conflict to Political Participation*. Cambridge University Press.
8. Martin, Philip A. 2025. *Strong Commanders, Weak States: How Rebel Governance Shapes Military Integration in Civil War*. Cornell University Press.
9. Doyle, Michael W., and Nicholas Sambanis. 2000. "International Peacebuilding: A Theoretical and Quantitative Analysis." *American Political Science Review* 94 (4): 779–801.
10. Fortna, Virginia Page. 2008. *Does Peacekeeping Work? Shaping Belligerents' Choices After Civil War*. Princeton University Press.
11. Carnegie, Allison, and Christoph Mikulaschek. 2020. "The Promise of Peacekeeping: Protecting Civilians in Civil Wars." *International Organization* 74 (4): 810–32.
12. Karim, Sabrina and Beardsley, Kyle. 2017. *Equal opportunity peacekeeping: women, peace, and security in post-conflict states*. Oxford University Press
13. Campbell, Susanna P., and Jessica Di Salvatore. 2024. "Keeping or Building Peace? UN Peace Operations beyond the Security Dilemma." *American Journal of Political Science* 68 (3): 907–26.
14. Loyle, Cyanne E. 2025. *Escaping Justice: Impunity for State Crimes in the Age of Accountability*. Cambridge University Press.
15. Bates, Genevieve. 2026. "Threats and Commitments: International Tribunals and Domestic Trials in Peace Negotiations." *American Political Science Review*, Forthcoming.

MAR 16 No Class (Spring Break)

MAR 23 Vertical Mobilization -- Anti-State Contention

1. Kuran, Timur. 1991. "Now Out of Never: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989." *World Politics* 44(1): 7–48.
2. Gade, Emily Kalah. 2020. "Social Isolation and Repertoires of Resistance." *American Political Science Review* 114(2): 309–25.
3. Pearlman, Wendy. 2013. "Emotions and the Microfoundations of the Arab Uprisings." *Perspectives on Politics* 11 (2): 387–409.
4. Wasow, Omar. 2020. "Agenda Seeding: How 1960s Black Protests Moved Elites, Public Opinion and Voting." *American Political Science Review* 114 (3): 638–59.
5. Manekin, Devorah, and Tamar Mitts. 2022. "Effective for Whom? Ethnic Identity and Nonviolent Resistance." *American Political Science Review* 116 (1): 161–80.

Skim & Revisit

6. Petersen, Roger D. 2001. *Resistance and Rebellion: Lessons from Eastern Europe*. Cambridge University Press. || [Chapters 1 & 2](#)
7. Skocpol, Theda. 1979. "State and Revolution: Old Regimes and Revolutionary Crises in France, Russia, and China." *Theory and Society* 7 (1–2): 7–95.
8. Scott, James C. 1985. *Weapons of the Weak: Everyday Forms of Peasant Resistance*. Yale University Press. || [Chapter 2](#)

Suggested

1. Lohmann, Susanne. 1994. "The Dynamics of Informational Cascades." *World Politics* 47 (1): 42–101.
2. Granovetter, Mark. 1978. "Threshold Models of Collective Behavior." *American Journal of Sociology* 83(6): 1420–43.
3. Siegel, David A. 2009. "Social Networks and Collective Action." *American Journal of Political Science* 53 (1): 122–38.
4. Steinert-Threlkeld, Zachary C. 2017. "Spontaneous Collective Action: Peripheral Mobilization During the Arab Spring." *American Political Science Review* 111 (2):
5. Aidt, Toke, Gabriel Leon-Abian, and Max Satchell. 2021. "The Social Dynamics of Collective Action: Evidence from the Diffusion of the Swing Riots, 1830–1831." *Journal of Politics*
6. Skocpol, Theda. 1979. *States and Social Revolutions*. Cambridge University Press.
7. Lawrence, Adria K. 2013. *Imperial Rule and the Politics of Nationalism: Anti-Colonial Protest in the French Empire*. Cambridge University Press.
8. Albertus, Michael, and Victor Gay. 2025. "State-Building and Rebellion in the Run-Up to the French Revolution." *American Political Science Review*, 1–28.
9. Littman, Rebecca, and Elizabeth Levy Paluck. 2015. "The Cycle of Violence: Understanding Individual Participation in Collective Violence." *Advances in Political Psychology* 6(1).
10. Scott, James C. 1985. *Weapons of the Weak: Everyday Forms of Peasant Resistance*. Yale University Press.
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APR 6 Crime and Policing

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APR 20 Legacies of Violence

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APR 27 Studying Political Violence

Discussion 1: Is "Political Violence" a coherent field of inquiry?

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Discussion 2: What does it take to get a job in the field?

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 - [CV](#)
3. Kim, James D. 2024. “Fear or Anger? Leaders’ Childhood War Trauma and Interstate Conflict Initiation.” *International Studies Quarterly* 68 (2): sqae069.
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4. Yousef-Butt, Narmin. 2025. “Voting for Collaborators: Evidence from Afghanistan.” *Working Paper*.
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5. Skim: Haim, Dotan. 2017. “Civilian Social Networks and Credible Counterinsurgency.” *Working Paper*. ([2017 Version](#))
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Discussion 3: Fieldwork in Political Violence: When, Why, and How?

6. Driscoll, Jesse. 2021. *Doing Global Fieldwork: A Social Scientist’s Guide to Mixed-Methods Research Far from Home*. New York: Columbia University Press. || Chapter 1
 - Skim Justine Davis’s syllabus on [Designing Fieldwork in Political Science](#)
7. Lake, Milli, and Sarah E Parkinson. 2017. “The Ethics of Fieldwork Preparedness.” *Political Violence at a Glance*.
 - Pick one article from the Advancing Research on Conflict (ARC) bibliography that most interests you and be prepared to present the core ideas to the class: <https://advancingconflictresearch.com/resources-1>. The articles listed below are good options if you’re unsure.

Suggested Readings

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3. Green, Amelia Hoover, and Dara Kay Cohen. 2020. “Centering Human Subjects: The Ethics of ‘Desk Research’ on Political Violence.” *Journal of Global Security Studies*.
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9. [ESOC Ethics Worksheet](#) Draft