



SIS, International Peace & Conflict Resolution

SIS-696-020 Economics of Violence and Peace

Prof. Martha Starr
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Mondays, 8:10-10:40 pm, Ward 205
Spring 2007

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The Economics of Violence and Peace

This course examines economic dimensions of violence and peace. The study of economics concerns material aspects of human livelihoods, including the production and consumption of goods and services, employment, incomes, wealth, governing spending and revenues, and trade. The course covers: arms production and trade; the economics of terrorism; economic causes of civil wars, including economic grievances, resources, environmental problems, and poverty; economic consequences of war, and economic dimensions of conflict prevention and resolution, as well as post-conflict reconstruction. The course emphasizes the interaction between economic and non-economic factors, including identity, religion and culture, in explaining causes of violence and their resolution.

Required readings

Required readings for the course are listed on the course outline (see below). The outline refers to the following books, which are available through the AU bookstore:

Abbreviation in course outline	Book
<i>Profiting</i>	Karen Ballentine and Heiko Nitzschke (eds.), <i>Profiting From Peace: Managing The Resource Dimensions</i>
<i>Breaking</i>	Paul Collier et al., <i>Breaking the Conflict Trap: Civil War and Development Policy</i> ¹
<i>Cases 1</i>	Paul Collier and Nicolas Sambanis (eds.), <i>Understanding Civil War: Evidence and Analysis, Vol. 1 -- Africa</i>
<i>Cases 2</i>	Paul Collier and Nicolas Sambanis (eds.), <i>Understanding Civil War: Evidence and Analysis, Vol. 2 -- Europe, Central Asia, and other regions</i>

Other readings are available electronically in the “Course documents” section of the class Blackboard site.

¹ Note: This book is also available electronically (free) from the World Bank’s website => http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2003/06/30/000094946_0306190405396/Rendered/PDF/multi0page.pdf

Graded work

Item	Contribution to final grade (percent)	Due date
Reading-based short essays	15	Various
Case presentation	15	Feb. 19 or 26 (to be assigned)
Research paper (~20 pages) 1-page abstract due by Feb. 19	25	Due April 23
Brief presentation of research paper	10	April 23 or April 30 (to be assigned)
Final essays	25	Handed out April 23, due April 30 (last day of class)
Class participation	10	Throughout

NOTE: NO CLASS MONDAY APRIL 2nd.

Reading-based short essays

These are short writing assignment intended to help you organize your thoughts about assigned readings, given in the interest of (a) promoting reading with a critical eye, (b) encouraging the development of your own ideas about the issues being discussed, and (c) promoting fruitful and stimulating class discussion. They will be handed out one week before we discuss the readings in question and will be due at that time. Your answers need not be long (2-3 pages generally) and need not be highly polished -- but they ought to show clear thinking, reasonable grasp of the key ideas of the readings, and good expression of ideas.

Research paper

Detailed instructions will be handed out in a few weeks. The paper is intended to be an in-depth exploration of the role of economic factors in a given conflict or a given issue related to conflict, paying particular attention to the scope for changing conflict-promoting dimensions to peace-promoting ones. The specific topic is of your choice; a 1-page abstract explaining what you'd like to work on is due by Feb. 19. Students' papers will also be presented in the last two weeks of class.

CLASS POLICIES

- Attendance is important to realize the full benefits of this class.
- When emailing me, please put "sis-696 Violence and Peace" in the subject line.
- Please make every effort to submit work on time. Late work is accepted but will be marked down.
- American University's Academic Integrity code is in effect at all times. Make sure to avoid plagiarism of any type; violations will be prosecuted.

	COURSE OUTLINE	Dates & sources
I.	Overview: Economic dimensions of war and peace	1/22
	▪ Macartan Humphreys, "Economics and Violent Conflict" (2003)	BB
2.	Capitalism and conflict -- Production and sales of the means of deadly force (1/29
	• T. Hunt Tooley, "Merchants of Death Revisited: Armaments, Bankers, and the First World War," <i>Journal of Libertarian Studies</i> , Vol. 19, No. 1 (Winter 2005).	BB
	▪ Mark Phythian, "The illicit arms trade: Cold War and Post-Cold War," <i>Crime, Law and Social Change</i> , Vol. 33, Nos. 1-2 (2000).	BB
	▪ Owen Greene, "Examining international responses to illicit arms trafficking," <i>Crime, Law and Social Change</i> , Vol. 33, Nos. 1-2 (2000).	BB
	▪ Bob French, "The business of land-mine clearing," <i>EPS Journal</i> , Vol. 1, No. 2 (2006), pp. 54-56.	BB
3	The economics of terrorism	2/5
	• Alan Krueger and Jitka Maleckova, "Education, Poverty and Terrorism: Is There a Causal Connection?" <i>Journal of Economic Perspectives</i> , vol. 17, no. 4 (Fall 2003), pp. 119-144.	BB
	• David Gold, "The economics of terrorism"	BB
	• Donato Masciandaro, "Combating black money: Money laundering and terrorism finance, international cooperation, and the G8 role"	BB
4	Economics and civil war: Causes and consequences	2/12-3/5
	a. <u>Issues</u>	2/12
	• Collier et al., <i>Breaking the Conflict Trap</i>	<i>Breaking</i>
	▪ Re-visit => Macartan Humphreys, "Economics and Violent Conflict" (2003)	BB
	▪ Martha Starr, "Growth and Conflict in the Developing World: Neo-liberal Narratives and Social-Economy Alternatives," <i>Review of Social Economy</i> , Vol. 64, No. 2 (June), pp. 205-224.	BB
	• Phil Williams and John T. Picarelli, "Combating organized crime in armed conflict", pp. 123-152.	<i>Profiting</i>
	• Stephen Jackson, "Protecting livelihoods in violent economies", pp. 153-	<i>Profiting</i>
	▪ Michael Ross, "What Do We Know about Natural Resources and Civil War?" <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> , 2004 41: 337-356.	BB
	▪ Macartan Humphreys and Jeremy Weinstein, "What the Fighters Say: A Survey of Ex-Combatants in Sierra Leone"	BB
	b. <u>Case studies</u>	2/19-26
	▪ The Caucasus, pp. 259-298	Cases 1
	▪ Lebanese civil war, pp. 59-85	Cases 2
	▪ Bosnia's civil war, pp. 191-227	Cases 1
	▪ Endemic civil war: Sudan, pp. 193-219	Cases 1
	▪ Endemic violence: Colombia, pp. 119-159.	Cases 2

	▪ Low-intensity conflicts: Senegal and Mali, pp. 247-302.	Cases 1
	▪ Conflict averted: Macedonia, pp. 231-257.	Cases 2
	▪ Conflict averted: Nigeria, pp. 89-121	Cases 1
5	Economics and peace-making, -keeping, and -building	3/19-4/9
	a. <u>General</u>	3/19
	• Lloyd Dumas, “An economic approach to peacemaking and peacekeeping,” <i>EPS Journal</i> , Vol. 1, No. 2 (2006), pp. 7-12.	BB
	• Karen Balentine, “Peace before profit”, pp. 447-484.	<i>Profiting</i>
	• Doyle, Michael and Nicholas Sambanis, “Int’l. Peacebuilding: A Theoretical and Quantitative Analysis,” <i>American Poli. Sci. Review</i> (Dec. 2000): 779-802.	BB
	• Macartan Humphreys and Jeremy Weinstein, “Disentangling the Determinants of Successful Demobilization and Reintegration”	BB
	b. <u>The role of resource flows</u>	3/26
	• Macartan Humphreys, “Natural resources and armed conflict: Issues and options”, pp. 25-44.	<i>Profiting</i>
	• Ian Smillie, “What lessons from the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme?”, pp. 47-68	<i>Profiting</i>
	• David Gold, “The attempt to regulate conflict diamonds,” <i>EPS Journal</i> , Vol. 1, No. 1 (2006). pp. 49-52.	BB
	• Jonathan Winer, “Tracking conflict commodities and financing”, pp. 69-94	<i>Profiting</i>
	• Pierre Kopp, “Improving sanctions through legal means”, pp. 377-394.	<i>Profiting</i>
	c. <u>Waging war against war via corporate social responsibility</u>	4/9
	▪ Luc Zandvliet, “Assessing Company Behavior in Conflict Environments: A field perspective”, pp. 185-206.	<i>Profiting</i>
	▪ Mark Mansley, “Private financial actors and corporate responsibility in conflict zones”, pp. 207-233.	<i>Profiting</i>
	▪ Leiv Lunde and Mark Taylor, “Regulating business in conflict zones: Challenges and options,” pp. 317-343	<i>Profiting</i>
	▪ John Tepper Marlin, “The ‘No Dirty Gold’ Campaign: What economists can learn from and contribute to corporate campaigns,” <i>EPS Journal</i> , Vol. 1, No. 2 (2006), pp. 58-64.	BB
6	Economics and the war in Iraq	4/16
	▪ Bassam Yousif, “Economic aspects of peacekeeping in Iraq: what went wrong?” <i>EPS Journal</i> , Vol. 1, No. 2 (2006), pp. 24-30.	BB
	▪ Linda Bilmes and Joseph Stiglitz, “The economic costs of the Iraq War: An appraisal three years after the beginning of the conflict”	BB
	▪ Scott Wallsten and Katrina Kosec, “The economic costs of the war in Iraq” (2005)	BB