Nationalism, Ethnicity, and Violence

Class: TBD
Instructor: Costantino Pischedda
Instructor’s Office Hours: TBD
cp2417@columbia.edu

Course Overview
This is an undergraduate seminar on nationalism, ethnicity, and related forms of political violence. The course explores the causes and consequences of ethnic identification and nationalism as well as the causes of ethno-nationalist conflict and policy approaches to its management.

Goals
The course has two main goals. First, it intends to expose students to the main theoretical debates and empirical findings on ethnicity, nationalism, and associated forms of political violence. Second, the course aims to further students’ critical and creative thinking on theoretical and policy questions related to ethnicity and nationalism, through class discussion and a research paper.

Requirements
This course will be run as a seminar. Students are expected to do all the readings (except those listed as recommended) and thoughtfully participate in class discussion. Recommended readings are included as suggestions for students especially interested in a given topic.

Students will write a research paper (about 25 pages) on a topic related to the subjects of the course. The normal format for the paper will be to use case studies or statistical data to test a theoretically grounded hypothesis. A paper proposal (stating your research question and empirical strategy) is due before the 5th meeting of the class. The final draft is due one week after the last day of class. Late papers will be penalized.

Grading
Grading for the course will be as follows:
Class participation: 40%
Research paper: 60%

Prerequisites
- Introduction to International Relations or
- Introduction to Comparative politics
Class 1. Introduction: Definitions

**Nation**
**Ethnicity**
**Nationalism**
**Ethnic vs. civic nationalism**


**Recommended:**


Class 2. Theories of the Rise of Nationalism (I)

**Primordialism**
**Kinship and culture**
**Modernization**
**Industrialization or commercial capitalism?**

Anthony D. Smith, *The Ethnic Origins of Nations*, chaps. 1-3; browse the rest.

Azar Gat, *Nations*, chaps. 1 and 2, and browse the rest.


Class 3. Theories of the Rise of Nationalism (II)

*Did the state make the nation or the other way around?*

*Culture and boundary policing*

*Nationalist mythmaking*


Michael Hechter, *Containing Nationalism*, ch. 2.

Fredrik Barth, ed., *Ethnic Groups and Boundaries*, introduction.


**Recommended:**


Class 4. Nationalism, Violence, and Rationality

*Individual rationality vs. organizational rationality*

*Information and sanctions*

*Symbols*

*Culture and norms*

*Emotions*


Benjamin Valentino, *Final Solutions*, chaps. 3 and 5, condensed in Karen Mingst and Jack Snyder, eds., *Essential Readings in International Relations*.

Roger Petersen, *Western Intervention in the Balkans: The Strategic Use of Emotion in Conflict*, skim chapter 1, read chapters 2, 3, 6, 9-13, and browse 15, 16, 18.


**Recommended:**


Russell Hardin, *One for All*, chap. 3.


**Class 5. Insecurity: Cause or Effect of Ethno-nationalist Violence?**


**Recommended:**


Class 6. Micro-dynamics of Ethno-nationalist Violence


Alexandra Scacco, Anatomy of a Riot, manuscript, Introduction.


Adria Lawrence, Imperial Rule and the Politics of Nationalism, excerpts.

Recommended:
Steven I. Wilkinson, Votes and Violence: Electoral Competition and Ethnic Riots in India, chaps. 1, 2, 5, and 6.


**Class 7. Malleable or Durable Identities?**


**Recommended:**


**Class 8. Nationalism, Democracy and the Marketplace of Ideas**


Recommended:


Ted Gurr, *Peoples Versus States*, chap. 5.


**Class 9. Nationalism, Inequality, and Times of Economic Trouble**


Daniel Corstange, *The Price of a Vote: Ethnicity and Clientelism in the Middle East*, chap. 1


Recommended:


Peter Gourevitch, *Politics in Hard Times*.


**Class 10. Nationalizing States, Secessionists, and Third-Party Intervention**


**Recommended:**


Nicholas Sambanis and Branko Milanovic, “Explaining Regional Autonomy Differences in Decentralized Countries,” *Comparative Political Studies*, 2014.


Class 11. Religion and Ethno-nationalism: Is Religion Different?


Mark Juergensmeyer, Global Rebellion: Religious Challenges to the Secular State, from Christian Militias to al Qaeda, pp. 9-17, 26-36, 46-77, 205-211.


Ron Hassner, War on Sacred Grounds, chaps. 3 and 7, pp. 37-50, 113-133.


Recommended:

Anthony Marx, Faith in Nation: Exclusionary Origins of Nationalism, chap. 3.

Class 12. Managing Ethnic Conflict (I): Ethnofederalism

Rogers Brubaker, Nationalism Reframed, chap. 2.

Michael Hechter, Containing Nationalism, chaps. 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8.


**Recommend:**
Valerie Bunce, *Subversive Institutions*, chaps. 5 and 6.


Philip Roeder and Donald Rothchild, *Sustainable Peace: Power and Democracy after Civil War*, chaps. 1 and 2.


**Recommended:**


Philip Roeder and Donald Rothchild, *Sustainable Peace: Power and Democracy after Civil War*, chaps. 5, 7, 9, and 10.


**Class 14. Managing Ethnic Conflict (III): Partition, Peacekeeping, and Repression**


Daniel Byman, *Keeping the Peace*, chap. 5.

**Recommended:**


