

# International Security

Political Science 284  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
Fall 2004  
Tuesday & Thursday 11:00-12:15, 1171 BSB

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Over the course of the twentieth century, a number of factors have shifted mass organized killing from the distant battlefield to the residential neighborhood. The percentage of war-time casualties who were civilians has thus risen from approximately 5% in World War I (1914-18), to 50% in World War II (1939-45), to 80% (!) in the conflicts of the 1990s. Much of this killing has been inter-communal, rather than inter-state, in nature. The lethal distinction between “us” and “them” has been drawn, in other words, not between the armies of states, but between groups of people (often living within the same state boundaries) distinguished by language, religion, social status, historical experiences or physical traits.

Such conflicts come to be known as “ethnic conflicts.” In recent years, the term “ethnic cleansing” has emerged to describe attempts to remove a particular group from a region through massacre, terror and/or forced deportations. When one group or community actually seeks the complete physical elimination of another, the phenomenon is called “genocide.” The face-to-face ethnic cleansing and genocide seen in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia are therefore just as important a part of modern warfare as are high-tech tank battles fought in the deserts of Arabia.

This course will focus on the dynamics of inter-communal conflict, with particular emphasis on the sources of such conflicts, the questions of whether, and when, “external” governmental and non-governmental actors should, or tend to, get involved, and what can be done to rebuild societies which have experienced such conflicts. We will examine such examples as the Bosnian ethnic-cleansing of 1992-94 and the Rwandan genocide of 1994, and consider the international community’s post-Holocaust commitment to “Never Again!”

A somewhat related new phenomenon in international conflict is the emergence of terrorism. We shall devote a section of the course to an examination of the characteristics, causes, and consequences of this phenomenon.

## Readings

The following books are available for purchase from the CCC Bookstore. Some additional readings may be distributed in photocopy format, for which a small fee may be charged.

- \* Michael E. Brown, ed., *Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict* REVISED EDITION (MIT Press, 2001)
- \* Gene M. Lyons and Michael Mastanduno, eds., *Beyond Westphalia? State Sovereignty and International Intervention*, (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995)
- \* Charles W. Kegley, Jr., ed. *The New Global Terrorism* (Prentice-Hall, 2003)

The following book is recommended readings, also available for purchase at the CCC Bookstore, and on Reserve in the UIC Library:

Michael Ignatieff, *Blood and Belonging*, (Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux, 1994)

## Requirements

This course will combine lectures, discussions, written assignments and oral reports. Grades will be based upon regular attendance and informed participation; possibly a midterm exam; a written assignment with an oral report; and a final exam.

The written assignment involves examination of a case study of ethnic conflict with international ramifications, including intervention. Some examples are: Kashmir, Sri Lanka, Quebec, Northern Ireland, the Basques (Spain), the Balkans (Kosovo, Bosnia), the former republics of the USSR, Afghanistan, the Middle East. The assignment will consist of three aspects:

1. Submission of a 1-3 page proposal outlining the case to be examined and including a preliminary bibliography. This is due September 14.
2. Presentation of a 10 minute oral report to the class. A specific schedule will be determined later.
3. Submission of the paper examining the case. This will be due November 18.

Grades will be calculated as follows:

|                            | With final exam: | : |
|----------------------------|------------------|---|
| Attendance & participation | 10 %             |   |
| Midterm                    | 25 %             |   |
| Oral & written report      | 35 %             |   |
| Final exam                 | 30 %             |   |

### OUTLINE

| TOPIC   | READINGS  |
|---|---|
| I. INTRODUCTION AND DEFINITIONS:                                |   |
|   | Brown, pp. 3-60.                                    |
| II. NATIONALISM, THE STATE, AND ETHNIC CONFLICT:                |   |
|   | Lyons, Chapters 1-2, 9.                             |
|   | Brown, pp. 61--160                                  |
| III. INTERVENTION: INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO INTERNAL CONFLICT: |   |
|   | Lyons, Chapters 3-5, 10.                            |
|   | Brown, pp. 163-192.                                 |
| IV. JUSTIFICATIONS FOR INTERVENTION:                            |   |
| A. HUMANITARIANISM  | Lyons, Chap. 6                                      |
| B. ENVIRONMENTALISM   | Lyons, Chap. 7                                      |
| C. WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION                                  | Lyons, Chap. 8                                      |
| V. ASPECTS OF CONFLICT AND INTERVENTION:                        |   |
| Military Responses  | Brown, pp. 193-266.                                 |
| Peace Keeping   | Brown, pp. 267-336, 366-414.                        |
| Refugees  | Brown, pp. 337-365, review pp. 193-232              |
| VI. AFTER THE CONFLICT:   |   |
| Peace and Reconstruction  | Brown, pp. 366-483.                                 |
| VII. SOME CASES:  |   |
| Class oral reports  | Recommended: Ignatieff, Blood and Belonging, parts. |
| VIII. TERROR  | Kegley, to be assigned                              |
| IX. CONCLUSION:   | Lyons, Chap. 11                                     |