

What is an Intra-State Conflict?

Parties Government vs non-government actor

25 battle-related deaths a year

Has to be fought over governing territory. Otherwise usually not counted

Fragile States

Fragile state index En index with states and a respective number. Higher number = more fragility = more conflict prone

States with insufficient will or capacity to meet the needs of its people. States that are less able to deal with crisis and more vulnerable to political and violent conflicts

"Failed States" Cannot sustain themselves or their population

Perception US 2003 That failed states are more dangerous than states with ambitions of conquest. (With hindsight can one say that Somalia is more dangerous than Russia?)

Critique Simplistic tool

Does fragility cause conflict or does conflict cause fragility?

Conflict is part of the index

UN's Role

Security Council Council consisting of 5 members and 10 chosen members. Legitimises and is legally binding

UN's Role (cont)

UN The great legitimiser for use of force or any controversial political choice for that matter

Why care if you can do it? If you do it without mandate can backfire (Tony Blair)

Article 51 for self-defence

Problem Inherent problem is that the UN cannot be like NATO, it cannot do war. It relies on being respected, which it traditionally has been, but not so much anymore

Only works when P5 agrees

UN Peacekeeping it is a peace operation Carried out by the UN

Prevention, observation and assisting

Peacekeeping does Edict levels of violence

Prevents the spread of violence

Helps mediation and negotiation

Maintain peace in the aftermath of conflict

Peacekeeping does not Establish democracy or economic growth

Solve the underlying causes of conflict

Tend to fight well

Moreover: scandals galore

Does Peacekeeping work? Depends on expectations and thresholds

Not a "quick fix", but a good tool for keeping peace

Causes of Civil War - Walter 2009

Structural Approach Civil War happening is a probability with several factors

Large population, low GDP, horizontal inequalities (across groups), inconsistent democratic institutions, low coercive ability, rough terrain

Process Based Approach Civil War as result of process where different actors want different things

Bargaining theory - War is a very inefficient way to solve conflict, but when civil war occurs it occurs for 3 reasons

1. Private info, incentives to misrepresent Parties withhold information in order to get a better deal in settlements or to prevent good defence. Esp rebel groups

Decreases chances of settlement



Causes of Civil War - Walter 2009 (cont)

2. Commitment and Credibility Issues states cannot agree on a post-war solution in a pre-war situation because it might be hard to commit to such a solution. Hard for the government to not suppress the opposition. The promise the government is making is hard for the opposition to trust.

3. Indivisible stakes Symbolic areas - Kosovo, Jerusalem. Technically you can divide it, but would population let you?
Who will get throne after king dies? Daughter, Brother or Son from second marriage

State Capacity - Fjelde, De Soysa

Government options Coercion, co-optation or cooperation

threat capacity, economic capacity, and integrative capacity of states

Every state has grievances, few have opportunities

more money into society (co-optation) - less likely civil war

If the system functions, you are less likely to rebel

Co-optation > coercion

Third-Party Intervention

International intervention illegal, Interference in the territory or domestic affairs of another state with military force, typically in a way that compromise a sovereign government's control over its own territory and population

R2P - Right to protect (from genocide and intervene if one goes on)

Humanitarian Intervention Entry into a country by the armed forces of another country or international organisation with the aim of protecting citizens from violation of their human rights

So interference but in the name of humanity (conflict between sovereignty and human rights)

Multilateral Peace Operation Operations conducted under UN authority and or the Security Council

a) facilitating implementation of peace agreements that are already in place. b) supporting a peace process. c) assisting conflict prevention and/or peacebuilding effects.

UN Peacekeeping Keeping up peace

Third Party Intervention - Kalyvas

After the Cold War Civil Wars are fought differently Normal Intrastate down

Internationalised intrastate up

How conflict forms based on tech of parties High tech rebels + high tech state= conventional

Low tech rebels + high tech state= irregular

High tech rebels + low tech state= coup

Low tech rebels + low tech rebels= symmetrical nonconventional

Aid Aid increases win probability of side supported

Third Party - Balch-Lindsay 2008

Intervention 1000 troops on the ground counted as intervention

Intervention for government, rebels, both parties

Government Government more likely to win, slightly negotiated solution

Rebels Rebels more likely to win, though still not very likely. Negotiated solution

Balanced (salt) Long wars, not likely negotiated solution

Takeaway Involvement one-sided increases probability of one party winning and negotiated solution