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## Political Science 373/573 Territory and Group Conflict

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Harkness 337  
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**Course Info:**  
Fall 2016  
Wednesday 3:25{6:05  
Harkness 329

This seminar examines a topic undergoing a bit of a resurgence of interest in International Relations: the role of territory in group politics. The goal is to build a basic understanding of why, when, how and *which* territory becomes contested. We will read from a broad range of disciplines and students are required to read at least 250-300 pages a week and in some cases significantly more.

Territorial conflicts are often viewed as the most contentious and intransigent in international politics. Territorial conflict is also one of the most frequent causes of interstate and *intrastate* war. But why is it that states (or sub-national actors) fight over territory? Is it because they seek economic benefits to be gained by additional territory, because they identify with specific territory, because they fear a rival taking over the territory, or for some other reason? In this class, we will focus on various perspectives that suggest causes of territorial conflict. We will evaluate these arguments in terms of both their logical consistency and the empirical record of territorial conflict.

Each student is expected to write a short paper for one session of their choice picked in coordination with me not to exceed 1500 words. This paper should provide an independent commentary on some aspect of that week's readings. It is neither desirable nor necessary that you try to be comprehensive. Rather, you should select issues or angles that interest you, and develop your own thoughts about them. The paper must be circulated to the class via e-mail no later than Tuesday evening at 8:00 p.m. These papers will form the background against which we will discuss the readings in class.

In addition, each student is required to write a 20{25 page research paper, which focuses in depth on one of the discussed emerging research agendas. (Or, in exceptional cases, on an emerging research agenda of the student's choosing.) This paper is due at the end of the first week of December. In the last sessions we will try to organize some time to discuss drafts and/or outlines of these papers.

I will call on students and expect each student to be prepared to begin the discussion of each reading with a short description of the central question, central argument and competing explanations. If discussion does not arise naturally, I will assign students responsibility for leading a discussion of particular works.

### *Course Requirements*

Participation in the seminar comprises 25% of your grade. The short paper counts for another 25% of your grade, while the final paper counts for 50%.

I understand that students sometimes are faced with urgent situations, either of a personal or academic nature { e.g., a reading is not available or cannot be found } and in those cases, of course I welcome e-mails. Otherwise, I strongly prefer students show up for office hours, because dealing with 20 individual e-mails, and going back and forth, swallows enormous amounts of my time and concentration.

### *Books*

The following books will be required reading this semester. I recommend you buy your books through Amazon.

# Course Outline

Wednesday August 31

## Introduction

Wednesday September 7

### 1. Territoriality

Sack, Robert David. 1986. *Human territoriality: its theory and history*. New York: Cambridge University Press. pp.1{91; 154{168.

<http://www.amazon.com/>

Human-Territoriality-Cambridge-Historical-Geography/dp/0521311802/ref=sr\_1\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1314817758&sr=8-1

Hein Goemans, \Bounded Communities: territoriality, territorial attachment

Wednesday September 21

### 3. Territory and the State

James R. Akerman, 1995. "The Structuring of Political Territory in Early Printed Atlases," *Imago Mundi* Vol. 47 pp.138{154.  
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1151310>.

David Buisseret, "The Cartographic Definition of France's Eastern Boundary in the Early Seventeenth Century", *Imago Mundi*, Vol. 36 (1984), pp. 72-80  
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1150944>

Jordan Branch. 2011. "Mapping the Sovereign State: Technology, Authority, and Systemic Change." *International Organization* 65:1 (2011).

Peter Sahlins, Natural Frontiers Revisited: France's Boundaries since the Seventeenth Century, in *American Historical Review*, Vol. 45, No. 5, December 1990, pp. 1423{1451

Jordan Branch, *The Cartographic State: Maps, Territory, and the Origins of Sovereignty*. Cambridge University Press (2014). Cambridge Studies in International Relations. Amazon link: [http://www.amazon.com/Cartographic-State-Territory-Sovereignty-International/dp/1107499720/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1440442054&sr=1-1&keywords=Jordan+Branch](http://www.amazon.com/Cartographic-State-Territory-Sovereignty-International/dp/1107499720/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1440442054&sr=1-1&keywords=Jordan+Branch)

#### **Optional:**

Winichakul, Thongchai. *Siam Mapped. A History of the Geo-Body of a Nation*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press. 1994  
[http://www.amazon.com/Siam-Mapped-History-Geo-Body-Nation/dp/0824819748/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1314818278&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Siam-Mapped-History-Geo-Body-Nation/dp/0824819748/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1314818278&sr=1-1)

#### **Optional:**

M. Numa Broc, "Visions Medievales de la France." *Imago Mundi*, Vol. 36 (1984), pp. 32-47. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1150938>

Wednesday September 28

### 4. The Size of States

David Friedman, "A Theory of the Size and Shape of Nations," *Journal of Political Economy*, 1977, Vol. 85, No. 1, pp. 59{77

Elliott Green, "On the Size and Shape of African States," *International Studies Quarterly* (2012) 56: 229{244

Alberto Alesina and Enrico Spolaore. *The Size of Nations*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. 2003.

Wednesday October 5

## 5. Territorial Identity

Peter Sahlins, *Boundaries: the making of France and Spain in the Pyrenees*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press. First paperback ed., 1991

Wednesday October 12

## 6. Territory and Nationalism

Ernest Gellner, Nationalism in the Vacuum, Chapter 10 in Alexander J. Motyl, *Thinking Theoretically About Soviet Nationalities*, New York: Columbia University Press.

Katherine Cutts Dougherty and Margaret Eisenhart, The Role of Social Representations and National Identities in the Development of Territorial Knowledge: A Study of Political Socialization in Argentina and England. in *American Educational Research Journal*, Winter 1992, Vol. 29, No. 4, pp. 809{835

Andrew Bertoli (UC Berkeley Ph.D. Candidate), "Nationalism and Interstate Conflict: A Regression Discontinuity Analysis." Unpublished ms. presented at 2015 APSA in San Francisco.

Anthony D. Smith, Ethnic Identity and Territorial Nationalism in Comparative Perspective, Chapter 3 in Alexander J. Motyl, *Thinking Theoretically About Soviet Nationalities*, New York: Columbia University Press.

Oren Yiftachel. 2001. "The Homeland and Nationalism." In Alexander J. Motyl, (ed.), *Encyclopedia of nationalism*. New York: Academic Press. Vol. 1: 359{383.

Wednesday October 19

## 7. Territory, Borders and Nationalism

Philip G. Roeder, *Where Nation-States Come From; Institutional Change in the Age of Nationalism*, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2007. Selected Chapters.

Andreas Wimmer and Yuval Feinstein, "The Rise of the Nation-State across the World, 1816{2001," in *American Sociological Review*

Wednesday, October 26

## 8. **The Bases of Territorial Claims**

Nikolaus Wolf. 2005. "Path Dependent Border Effects: The Case of Poland's Reunification (1918-1939)." *Explorations in Economic History*. 42:414-438.

Nikolaus Wolf, Max-Stephen Schulze and Hans-Christian Heinemeyer. 2011. "On the Economic Consequences of the Peace: Trade and Borders after Versailles." *Journal of Economic History*. 71(4):915-949.

Ron Hassner. 2015. Barriers to Entry: Who Builds Fortified Boundaries and Why? with Jason Wittenberg, *International Security*, Vol. 40, No.1, Summer 2015.

David B. Carter and Paul Poast, 2015 "Why Do States Build Walls? Political Economy, Security, and Border Stability." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Published online before print September 1, 2015.

George Gavrilis. 2008. *The Dynamics of Interstate Boundaries*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Wednesday November 9

## 10. **Territory in International Relations: Conflict**

Wednesday November 16

## 11. **Territorial Con ict**

Paul Hensel. 1996. "Charting a Course to Con ict: Territorial Issues and Interstate Con ict, 1816-1992." *Con ict Management and Peace Science* 15, 1 (Fall): 43-73, 1996. Available at: <http://www.paulhensel.org/vita.html>

Paul Huth. 1996. *Standing Your Ground*



## Questions to consider in formulating and evaluating social science research

### 1. *What is the central question?*

Why is it important (theoretically, substantively)?

What is being explained (what is the dependent variable and how does it vary)?

How does this phenomenon present a puzzle?

### 2. *What is the central answer?*

What is doing the explaining (what are the independent variables and how do they vary)?

What are the hypotheses, i.e., what is the relationship between independent and dependent variables, what kind of change in the independent variable causes what kind of change in the dependent variable?

What are the causal mechanisms, i.e., why are the independent and dependent variables so related?

How do the independent variables relate to each other?

What assumptions does your theory make?

Is the theory falsifiable in concept?

What does this explanation add to our understanding of the question?

### 3. *What are the possible alternative explanations?*

What assumptions are you making about the direction of causality?

What other explanations might there be for the phenomenon of study, and to what degree do they conflict with the central answer?

Could the hypothesized relationships have occurred by chance?

### 4. *Why are the possible alternative explanations wrong?*

What is the logical structure of the alternative explanations (compare 2)?

What is the empirical evidence?

### 5. *What is the relationship between the theory and the evidence?*

What does the research design allow to vary, i.e., in this design are the explanations variables or constants?

What does your research design hold constant, i.e., does it help to rule out the alternative competing explanations?

How are the theoretical constructs represented empirically, i.e., how do you know it when you see it (measurement)?

### 6. *How do the empirical conclusions relate to the theory?*

How confident are you about the theory in light of the evidence?

How widely do the conclusions generalize, i.e., what might be the limitations of the study?