
Political Science 278
Foundations of Modern International Politics

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Office Hours: Wed. 1-2
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Course Info:
Spring 2017
Thursday 3:25-6:05
Morey 501

The bargaining model of war is the main theoretical tool in the study of international

Course Requirements

Course Outline

Thursday January 19

Class Introduction and Outline

Thursday January 26

1. The State of the Discipline

James D. Fearon, "Rationalist Explanations for War," *International Organization*, Vol.49 (3) (Summer 1995), 379{414.

Andrew Moravcsik, "Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics," *International Organization*, 1997. Vol. 51, No. 4 (Autumn), pp. 513-553.

Kenneth A. Schultz and Hein Goemans, "Aims, Claims and the Bargaining Model," unpublished ms.

Matthew S. Gottfried and Robert F. Trager, "A Preference for War: How Fairness and Rhetoric Influence Leadership Incentives in Crises." *International Studies Quarterly*, (2016) Vol. 60, No. 2, pp. 243{257.

Thursday February 2

2. A Historical Overview

Kalevi J. Holsti, *Peace and War: Armed Conflicts and international Order, 1648-1989*. New York: Cambridge University Press. 1996. http://www.amazon.com/Peace-War-Conflicts-International-1648-1989/dp/0521399297/ref=sr_1_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1440441268&sr=1-2&keywords=Kalevi+Holsti

Thursday February 9

3. Nationalism?

Andrew Bertoli, World Cup Qualification and International Conflict
Unpublished Ms.

Ernest Gellner, *Nations and Nationalism*. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 1983

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*, New York: Verso, New Edition, 2006. Chapter 10, Census, Map, Museum, pp.163{186.

[http://www.amazon.com/](http://www.amazon.com/Imagined-Communities-Reflections-Origin-Nationalism/dp/1844670864/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1314818088&sr=1-1)

[Imagined-Communities-Reflections-Origin-Nationalism/dp/1844670864/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1314818088&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Imagined-Communities-Reflections-Origin-Nationalism/dp/1844670864/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1314818088&sr=1-1)

Patrick J. Geary, *The Myth of Nations; the medieval origins of Europe*, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2003.

Thursday February 16

4. Nationalism, Ethnicity, Civilizations?

Alexander B. Murphy, "Historical Justifications for Territorial Claims." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* Vol. 80, No. 4, pp. 531-548.

Scott Abramson and David Carter, "The Historical Origins of Territorial Disputes," Unpublished ms.

Giacomo Chiozza, "Is There a Clash of Civilizations? Evidence from Patterns of International Conflict Involvement, 1946-97." *Journal of Peace Research*

Thursday March 16

Spring recess

Thursday March 23

7. **Territory?**

Paul R. Hensel, Sara McLaughlin Mitchell, Thomas E. Sowers II and Clayton L. Thyne. 2008. "Bones of Contention: Comparing Territorial, Maritime and River Issues." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 52, 1 (February): 117-143.

Paul Huth, *Standing Your Ground*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 1998.

Thursday March 30

8. **Leader's Survival?**

Giacomo Chiozza and Hein Goemans, *Leaders and International Politics*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011. Chapters 1-3, 6.

Thursday, April 6

9. **Factors that restraint conflict? { Law and Norms**

Paul K. Huth, Sarah E. Croco and Benjamin J. Appel. 2011. "Does International Law Promote the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes?" *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 55, 1 (February): 117-143.

Thursday April 20

11. **Factors that restrain conflict? { Regime Type**

Douglas M. Gibling, 2012. *The Territorial Peace: Borders, State Development, and International Conflict*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Thursday April 27

12. **Student Presentations { Simulation**

Thursday May 4

13. **Student Presentations**

Last day of class!

Other readings of potential interest

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 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 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 is what 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?

What does the provisionally accepted or revised theory say about questions of broad importance?