PSC 551: State Building and Conflict

Tuesdays, 2–4:40
Harkness 329

Instructors
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Bethany Lacina

Readings

- Journal articles are available through the library.
- Book selections are available through Dropbox links below.
- You should purchase the following books:

Academic honesty

Students and faculty at the University must agree to adhere to high standards of academic honesty in all of the work that we do. The College Board on Academic Honesty provides further information on our policies and procedures: www.rochester.edu/college/honesty.

In this course the following additional requirements are in effect: You are encouraged to discuss course readings and assignments with your fellow students. However, all written work must be done independently and not in collaboration with another. All written work must properly format quotations, use citations, and include a bibliography where necessary. Cases of plagiarism will be referred to the Academic Honesty Board.

Class schedule

Jan 21: Introduction to the course

Jan 28: Peace and Violence Without the State

Reading for the week:


Further reading:


Feb 4: Primary states

Reading for the week:


Further reading:


Feb 11: Consolidating the provision of violence


**Further reading:**


**Feb 18: State formation without provision of order**


**Further reading:**


**Feb 25: Expansion and empire**


**Further reading:**


**Mar 3: Sovereignty and territoriality**


**Further reading:**


**Mar 10: Spring Break (no class)**

**Mar 17: State capacity**


**Further reading:**


Mar 24: Constraining the State I


Further reading:


Mar 31: Constraining the State II


Further reading:


Apr 7: Legitimacy and compliance


**Further reading:**


**Apr 14: State collapse and revolution**


**Further reading:**


Skocpol, Theda. 1979. *States and Social Revolutions*. Cambridge University Press.


**Apr 21: Nationalism I**


**Further reading:**


**Apr 28: Nationalism II**


**Further reading:**


Graduates work in governments and intergovernmental organizations such as the State Department and the United Nations, focusing on interstate war, civil war, intelligence and diplomacy, international security, international business, and global trade and investment. They also work in nongovernmental organizations such as Amnesty International and Greenpeace, addressing terrorism, forced migration and peacekeeping efforts. REQUIRED COURSES 15 hours. PSC 150 Introduction to International Relations PSC 242 Introduction to Comparative Politics PSC 280 Introduction to Empirical Methods of Political Science. We find that internal conflicts deteriorate state capacity both at the country and municipal level, and that more intense conflicts have a stronger negative impact. In this sense, wars are a rare moment of national unity, which is essential to build states. The work of Tilly (1990), among many others, reaches this conclusion based on the experiences of the U.S. and Western Europe. Conflict-led investments in state capacity, one could argue, are particularly likely if either internal conflict is weak enough that internal division is not important, or if it is intense enough that popular discontent with rebel groups pushes the government to invest in building up its capacity. To test this proposition we look at the possibility that the effects of conflict intensity.