

PSC250/250W      CONFLICT IN DEMOCRACIES

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PSC 250 focuses on different forms of political conflict in contemporary democracies. Why are some democracies able to keep the most of the expression of political disagreement within constitutional boundaries, while others are not? What features of the social, economic and constitutional setting affect the forms of conflict and the survival of democracies? What role is played by the system of political parties? How can we explain the choices of citizens and the strategies of leaders? What are the consequences of those choices?

We shall also keep in mind a fundamental promise of democracies: to enable citizens to control policymaking in their society. The competitive political election is the primary mechanism that is supposed to regulate this democratic connection between citizens and policymakers in modern nations. In theory and in practice elections can accomplish this connection in several ways. These are closely related to approaches to conflict management. The implicit "democratic bargain" assumes that citizens will use the constitutional processes and obey the laws because policymakers make policies under conditions of citizen control.

As we explore these issues, we shall examine comparative evidence on the different types of political conflict and different patterns of citizen control in many contemporary democracies. Theories about conflict and evidence from a wide range of democracies will be presented in the lectures and in the readings, especially in Huntington's The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late 20th Century. We shall begin with theories about the implications of the political setting and then turn to theories of choices made by citizens and leaders. These theories will be applied in trying to explain conflict in specific countries--and vice versa--in the readings and discussions about the contemporary politics of four political systems: Germany, Russia, Northern Ireland, and India. These systems have experienced important challenges to democratic government and responded to them with varying degrees of success.

The Tuesday sessions will usually present lecture material with some discussion. Thursday sessions will be devoted primarily to discussions of the readings. Grades will be based on midterm exams on February 22 (25%) and April 5 (25%) and a final examination scheduled on 10 May (50%), with an additional boost for class participation. Students may also choose as an option to write an original essay applying the concepts of the course to conflict in a democracy (current or historic) that is not among the four we are examining collectively. These essays should be about 3000 words long and are due our last class day, May 1. For these students, the grades will be based on 1<sup>st</sup> midterm 20%, 2<sup>nd</sup> midterm 20%, essay 20%, final 40%.

## NOTE: ALTERNATIVE COUNTRIES FOR APPLYING THEORIES OF CONFLICT

I have set up the readings and ordered the books to cover four democratic cases: Germany, Russia, Northern Ireland and India. Experience suggests that four is about the maximum number of countries that we can discuss comfortably in a semester. I think it will be useful to begin with Germany. Russia, Northern Ireland and India are all undergoing interesting challenges to democracy and illustrate the problems and possibilities of extremely different approaches to managing conflict. But I am glad to substitute another country for Russia or India, if there is strong sentiment for doing so. For example, the class might want to substitute an apparently successful new democracy such as South Africa or South Korea, or an extremely challenged democracy such as Nigeria or Venezuela, for Russia or India. We shall discuss this issue on the first day of class.

## REQUIRED READINGS

The works listed with a star (\*) are available for purchase in the bookstore. Other articles and book chapters will be on electronic reserve and can be accessed through the electronic version of the syllabus (under Course Resources and Reserves, PSC 250).

- Brown, David. Contemporary Nationalism. 2000, Ch. 1.
- \* Conradt, David. The German Polity. 2004.
- Dalton, Russell. "Politics in Germany." In Gabriel Almond, R. Dalton, G.B. Powell, and K. Strom Comparative Politics Today. 2006, Chapter 10.
- \* Huntington, Samuel. The Third Wave: Democratization in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. 1991.
- \* Kohli, Atul. The Success of India's Democracy. 2001.
- \* McKittrick & McVae, Making Sense of the Troubles. 2002.
- Mitra, Subrata. "Politics in India." In Gabriel Almond, et. al. Comparative Politics Today. 2006, Ch. 17.
- Nordlinger, Eric. Soldiers in Politics. 1977, Ch. 3.
- O'Leary & McGarry. The Politics of Antagonism. 1993, Ch. 2.
- Powell, G. Bingham. Contemporary Democracies. 1982, Ch. 5, 8.
- \* Remington, Thomas. Politics in Russia, 4th ed., 2005.
- Shleifer and Treisman, "A Normal Country," Foreign Affairs, March-April 2004.
- \* Snyder, Jack. From Voting to Violence: Democratization and Nationalist Conflict. 2000.
- Wilkinson, Steven. Votes and Violence. 2004. Ch. 1.

**NOTE: PSC250W REQUIREMENTS** Students taking the course as PSC 250W are required to write original essays. The PSC 250W course fulfills the University and departmental writing requirement; its essays must take the following form:

1. Two distinct essays.
2. Each essay at least 500 words.
3. One essay revised after correction and criticism.
4. Total essays add up to minimum of 3500 words.

Substantively, the essays should choose a democratic (or nearly democratic) country that is not among the four countries that we are discussing collectively and discuss democratic conflict in that country. Early in the course, I would like you to commit yourself to your country and start reading about it. I'll pass around a sign up sheet asking for that commitment. I can probably give you some help on sources and can also help with the design of your essays.

I. Essay I should be brief, 500-1000 words, explaining why you have chosen your country, some of its politically interesting features, and what you will write about in your subsequent essay. **This essay is due no later than Thursday, Feb. 15.**

II. Essay II should discuss one or more of the major "background" features of democratic conflict in your country: socio-economic setting, constitutional arrangements, party system. The essay should RELATE these conditions in your country to the theories of coercive and constitutional conflict we have been discussing in the course (in lectures, classes and readings). It should be at least 2500 words long. **This essay is due by Thursday, March 29.** I shall correct and return it with comments in within two weeks. The revised version is due on our last class, **Tuesday, May 1.**

THE TWO ESSAYS TOGETHER MUST TOTAL 3500 WORDS. The essays will be weighted by their relative length and will collectively count for 25% of the course grade, averaged at the end. For Essay II the final grade depends on the writing as well as the substantive quality of the revised essay.

**Please be aware of the issue of plagiarism; be sure your essays are original and appropriately document your sources. A memo on appropriate source material for Essay II, will be handed out.**

<u>Week</u>	<u>Lecture Topics</u>	<u>Discussion Topics</u>	<u>Required Reading</u> ( )=Recommended
Jan 18	Conflict in Democracies	Course Organization	Huntington 1991 Ch. 1,2,5 (Ch. 3,4)
Jan 23	Economic and Social Setting	Economy, Ethnicity and Democracy	Brown 2000 Ch. 1; Snyder 2000 Ch. 1,2 (3,4),5,6
Jan 30	Constitutional Arrangements in Democracies	Germany: Building a Democratic Culture	Conradt 2004 Ch. 1-4 (Dalton 2006.)
Feb 6	Germany: Overview	Germany: Party and Process	Conradt 2004 Ch. 5,6,7 (8,9),10
Feb 13	Democratic Party Systems	Parties in Democracies	Powell 1982, Ch. 5 Conradt 2004, Ch. 5
Feb 20	Review: Theory, Setting, Implications	<u>MIDTERM EXAM Feb 20</u> for Germany	EXAM WILL COVER LECTURES AND READINGS
Feb 27	Russia: A Democratic Beginning	Russia's New Democracy	Remington 2004, Ch.1-5
Mar 6	Russia: Democracy Failing	Can Russian Democracy Recover?	Remington 2004, Ch.6-9 Shleifer, <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 2004
Mar 13	<u>NO CLASSES THIS WEEK--SPRING BREAK</u>		
Mar 20	Choices of Conflict Actions	Northern Ireland: Origins, 1973-74 Peace attempt	O'Leary & McGarry 1993 Ch. 2 McKittrick 2002, Ch 1-5
Mar 27	Northern Ireland: Long War/Peace	NI: Seeking a Negotiated Peace	McKittrick 2002, Ch.6-end (esp. ch. 12 and tables)
Apr 3	Northern Ireland: Peace Prospects	<u>Second Midterm April 5</u>	Website <a href="http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/">http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/</a> (1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> background essays)
Apr 10	Elite-Based Violence & Response	Strategic Violence	Powell 1982 Ch 8 Nordlinger 1977 Ch. 3 Wilkinson 2004 Ch. 1
Apr 17	India: Impossible Environment/Possible	Indian context Politics	Mitra 2006
Apr 24	India: New Challenges	Indian challenges and solutions	Kohli 2001 Ch. 4,6,7,8,10
May 1	Conflict and Democracy	---	Huntington Ch. 6 Snyder Ch. 7

The final examination on May 10 will cover all lectures and material