Political Science 139-2: 
Third Parties in International Conflicts

Katja Favretto 
Office: 4258 Bunche Hall 
Office hours: MW 10–11 a.m. 
favretto@ucla.edu

Course Overview

What motivates third parties to intervene in international conflicts? Why do some of them use the carrot-and-stick approach in negotiating settlements, while others choose only to help the disputed sides communicate effectively? Under which conditions can third parties succeed in efforts to end war? Research indicates that most third-party attempts at stopping violent conflict fail. Yet, successful conflict resolution can save countless lives and prevent much suffering. Therefore, it is worthwhile to look for ways in which intermediaries can help disputed parties reach peaceful settlements, or sometimes even prevent deadly conflict from occurring in the first place.

This course surveys major topics in the study of international conflict management, including mediation, military and economic coercion, military intervention, peacekeeping, and inaction.

Main goals:

1. To emphasize the diverse nature of international disputes and the variety of techniques third parties use in managing such conflicts;

2. To assess the motives and goals of third parties in conflict management;

3. To develop a framework through which students can learn to identify why some interventions succeed and others fail.

Course Requirements and Method of Evaluation

Grades will be based on an in-class examination (40 %), a 12-15 page research paper (50 %), and participation in class discussions (10 %). It is crucial that students keep up with the weekly reading assignments, which are the basis for class discussion and average 100-150 pages per week. To complete the research paper requirement, students will select an international dispute in which third parties were present and critically assess, in the context of the theories learned in class, why the attempted intervention succeeded or failed. I will provide a list of crises from which students may choose, but the following online resources provide a good starting point for crisis research:

1. www.crisisgroup.org

2. www.cidcm.umd.edu

Readings

The following book is available for purchase at the UCLA bookstore:


Excerpts from the following books, as well as other readings, are accessible through the course website at http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/09W/polisci139-2/:


Schedule of Classes and Readings

Introduction

- Course Overview and Expectations (Jan. 5)

- Intervention as a Conflict Management Tool (Jan. 7, 9)
  - Princen, pp. 3-17.
  - Power, pp. 1-45.

Types of Third-Party Intervention

- Mediation (Jan. 12)

- Military and Economic Coercion (Jan 14)

- Military Intervention and Peacekeeping (Jan 16)

NOTE: No class on Jan. 19 (Martin Luther King, Jr, holiday)
Types of Intermediaries and Motives for Intervention

- **States (Jan. 21)**
  - Power, ch. 8

- **Organizations (Jan. 23)**

- **Individuals (Jan. 26)**
  - Princen, pp. 133-185.

Conflict Characteristics and the Probability of Intervention

- **The Inefficiency of War (Jan. 28)**
  - Power, chs. 4 and 5

- **Combatants’ Desire for Third-Party Intervention (Jan. 30)**
  - Princen, pp. 60-66.

- **Intervention and Conflict Type (Feb. 2)**
Probability of Intervention: The Case of Africa

• Somalia (Feb. 4)

• Rwanda (Feb. 6)

• Sudan (Feb. 9)

What Determines the Outcomes of Third-Party Intervention?

• Defining Success and Failure (Feb. 11)

• Characteristics of the Third Party and Its Intervention Strategy (Feb. 13)

NOTE: No class on Monday, Feb. 16 (Presidents’ Day holiday)

In-class midterm on Wednesday, Feb. 18 and on Friday, Feb. 20

• Characteristics of the Third Party and Its Intervention Strategy, Cont. (Feb. 23, 25)


• Characteristics of the Dispute and the Warring Parties (Feb. 27, March 2)


Coercion and Mediation in the Balkans

• Bosnia and the Road to Dayton (March 4, 6, 9)


  – Power, chs. 9 and 11

Coercion and Military Intervention in the Balkans

• Rambouillet Accords and the Bombing of Yugoslavia (March 11, 13)


  – Power, chs. 12 and 13–14


Research paper due on Friday, March 20