

Section Plan: Ethnicity

- I. Talk about the survey
- II. Ethnicity
- III. Ethnic violence
- IV. Midterm

I. Survey- Thanks so much for taking it. There were basically equal numbers of people wanting more and less activities, so I will probably continue with those at about the rate we've been going. Some people wanted me to summarize and/or lecture more. I can't do that because that is not really the point of section. It's important that we discuss interpretations beyond the readings, and strive to synthesize because those things are very important for you on your papers and finals. One thing that we can do is try to organize our discussions a bit better. So if you have a comment, try to put it in specific terms. For example, do you have a problem with the definition of a concept? with the key explanatory variable (is the author missing something)? with the logic of the mechanism?

II. What is ethnicity?

Make a list of all possible identities that you hold. Put a check next to those that you were born with. How many of them do you consider an ethnic identity? From your knowledge of the world or from the readings, how many of them are ethnic identities in other parts of the world?

What is ethnicity? How can we define ethnic identity on the spectrum from ascriptive characteristics to chosen identities?

Tree: ethnicity is

1) fixed (primordialism, geertz)

-What motivates ethnic competition/ conflict?

-Status - relative worth of your group vis a vis other groups (hence the special role of linguistic competition)

-new states cause ethnic conflict because there is a rearranging of roles/status of groups

-What does the future hold?

-prospects for multicultural states are dim.

-states can mitigate but can't completely dissolve ethnic competition

2). constructed (emphasize that this is the scholarly consensus by what

1). material interests (Bates, from below (& above), but emphasizes demands from below)

-new states cause conflict because they provide access to a bundle of goods that people want

Land, Markets, Jobs

ETHNICITY IS

Fixed

CONSTRUCTED

Geertz

Primordialism

SCHOLARLY CONSENSUS

CONSTRUCTIVISTS

By

material interests

Political contexts

Bates

Instrumentalists

state institutions

Posner

Nagel

Institutionalists

-Why ethnic conflict? (Instead of any other conflict)
space, administration, elite behavior

-Why do ethnic groups persist?

they control skill acquisition, they can sanction, they can
bestow status

What does the future hold?

-ethnicity won't just disappear with modernity but

-institutional design can change incentives

2). state institutions (Nagel, mainly from below)

What is situational ethnicity? Can anyone explain situational ethnicity,
maybe using examples from your own identities. Ethnicity is ascribed, and the
context matters depending on which identity is most salient. Focuses on how
citizens interact with the state.

When is ethnic mobilization most likely:

-structure of political access and participation is organized along ethnic
lines (regional/administrative boundaries)

-official castes/quotas/reserved seats

-policies recognize/institutionalize ethnic differences (official languages,
designated lands)

-ethnic boundaries that offer official access to special treatment

3). Political competition (Posner, mainly from above)

-chewas and tumbukas are big enough groups to base political coalitions in
malawi.

-too small for political competition in zambia - so they end up just being
"northerners"

-leader driven approach

-when is ethnic mobilization most likely?

-when the groups are big enough to form viable building blocks for
political coalitions

VIOLENCE

Wilkison - key independent variable: electoral incentives - related to posner

-politicians want to mobilize ethnic base. If they are an elite dominated
party, they can't promise patronage. So they make ethnicity salient by
engineering riots

-if the government in power needs minority votes to win (in fractionalized
party systems and sometimes in less fractionalized systems) it will prevent
the riots

Horowitz -- thinks that ethnic conflict is everywhere

Two characteristics determine the nature of conflict

- ranked vs. unranked systems
- locus of conflict - do certain cleavages threaten to take over the central state? (dispersed or centralized conflict)

LOGISTICS

Midterm is next Thursday. There is a sample of a past midterm available on the website. IDs will be taken from handouts. What the term is and why it is significant. 5 IDs worth 5/6 points each, essays will be the rest. Have choice in everything. 53 minutes in class. 2 essay questions, 7/8 IDs

- cases from next week won't be on the midterm
- theories of ethnicity from this week will be

Next week's reading

Be expects on one case. either first two (Rwanda) or Yugoslav (Croatia)