

Lesson Plan – Week 9: Ethnicity and Ethnic Conflict: Cases

Announcements

1. Important readings next week- All
2. Midterms by end of next week

Section Goals

This week we look at the cases of ethnic conflict and genocide in Rwanda and Yugoslavia. Today we will think about what caused these conflicts and how they played out. We will apply the theories we discussed last week to help us with this. By the end of section we will hopefully be able to answer:

- What cause the ethnic violence in Rwanda and Yugoslavia?
- What role did the state play? What role did leaders play?
- What are the consequences of ethnic conflict?

Discussion Questions

1. **Thoughts on the video?**
 - a) How do you go from being neighbors to enemies?
2. **Ethnicity in Rwanda and Yugoslavia:** How was ethnicity defined in these two cases? What were the major ethnic groups and where did they come from?
3. **Cases and Theories:** How do the cases of Rwanda and Yugoslavia fit into the theories we studied last week?
 - a) Primordialism: role of innate ethnic identities; is it important to study history when explaining ethnic violence?
 - b) Instrumentalism:
 - i. Individuals mobilizing?
 - ii. Leaders mobilizing? (Gagnon - Yugoslavia)
 - iii. Political groups mobilizing? (Rwanda)
 - c) Social Constructivism: Role of institutions? State? Church in Rwanda?
4. **Role of the State:** What role did the state/politics play in each of the cases?
 - a) Is power the most important thing (as Straus would suggest)?
 - b) What role did the state play in defining ethnic communities?
5. **Democracy and Ethnic Conflict:** Is ethnic conflict more like in democracies? Why/ why not? Is this related to the role of political parties?
6. **Factors of Ethnic Conflict:** What role does each play:
 - a) Fear?
 - b) Leaders? Why didn't Habyarimana mobilize ethnicity? Does Wilkinson's theory of when we see the prevention of ethnic conflict hold in Rwanda?

7. **Mass Media:** What role did control of media play in these conflicts? Is this necessary for such large-scale violence? What does it help?
8. **International Actors:** Would the violence in Rwanda or Yugoslavia had occurred at such a large scale had there been more international intervention? Why didn't the West intervene at points and why did it at others?
9. **Rescuers:** Is it possible to escape participation in genocide? Think about Rwanda. What role do rescuers play? Why aren't there more?
10. **Planned or Spontaneous:** Is ethnic violence planned or spontaneous?
 - a) Who are the actors that decide this?
 - b) Why was violence so organized in Rwanda and how was it organized/who organized?
11. **Solutions for Ethnic Conflict:** How can you solve ethnic? How is ethnic conflict prevented?
 - a) What would Wilkinson say?
12. **Consequences of Ethnic Conflict:** What are the consequences of ethnic conflict?
 - a) Does ethnic conflict lead to democracy or authoritarianism?
 - b) What was the result of the genocides in Rwanda/Yugoslavia?
 - c) How does ethnicity, ethnic fractionalization and ethnic conflict affect industrialization and democratic stability?
13. **Goals of Ethnic Conflict:** What are the goals of ethnic conflict? What were the goals in each of these cases? (control state; power; control territory)
14. **Rwanda and Yugoslavia Now:** Where are Rwanda and Yugoslavia now? Is there still a possibility of future violence in these areas?
 - a) Why have we seen relative peace in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia since the "end" of their respective conflicts?