

ETHNIC CONFLICT AND STATE FRAGMENTATION

Past, Present, and Future

(Humanitarian Issues in International Politics)

Webster University
INTL 5700-01 or SOCS 5030-01

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Spring-2, 2003, Mar. 17-May 16
Tuesdays, 5:30-9:30 p.m.

Description: This course will examine the historical, political, economic, and cultural dimensions of violent ethnic conflicts, which have erupted throughout the world in recent years and explore the ways in which they threaten global stability in the post-Cold War era. A close examination of ethnic conflicts in South Asia will be used to illustrate theoretical concepts regarding the relationship between ethnicity and nation-building and the opposite, ethnic conflict and state fragmentation. A general survey of ethnic conflicts in other parts of the world will allow students to apply these concepts to an analysis of conflicts in regions or countries of particular interest to them.

Required Text:

Ahmed, Ishtiaq, 1998, State, Nation and Ethnicity in Contemporary South Asia, PINTER: A Cassell Imprint, Wellington House, London and New York

Expectations and Grading: Course grades will be based on the following:

Attendance and Participation-20%: Students should keep up with class reading and demonstrate knowledge of the material through class participation and discussion. Each student will also be required to lead the discussion on a portion of the class reading.

Term Exam -30%: An exam will objectively measure knowledge of the subject matter presented in class and covered in the reading. This exam will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and matching questions and may also involve short essay questions.

Midterm Essay-10%: Students should write a short essay attempting to apply Ahmed's theory of separatism in post-colonial states to a conflict of their choice. This essay may become the basis for the final research paper.

Oral Report-10%: Each student will present a case study of an ethnic conflict providing historical background and identifying current issues. All students must turn in a written outline of their study with a bibliography on the first day that reports are given in class.

Final Research Paper-30%: The oral report should be expanded to a well-documented research paper. Papers should present more than a simple historical study of a conflict. They should, for instance, comment on the causes of a conflict, potential solutions, and/or efforts to rebuild state institutions after negotiated settlements have been reached.

OVER FOR COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE

Revised for Spring 2003

COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE

(Subject to Adjustment)

- Tues. Mar. 18** **Ethnic Conflicts and their International Dimensions**
Ethnicity, State, Society and Nation: What's All the Fuss?
Reading: Ahmed-Chapters 1 and 2
- Tues. Mar. 25** **Ethnic Diversity and Nation Building in South Asia**
Reading: Ahmed-Chapters 3 and 5
Regional comparison with concepts of ethnicity in Europe
- Tues. April 1** **Ethnic Conflict and Separatism in Post –Colonial States**
Reading: Ahmed-Chapter 4
Regional comparison with Africa
- Tues. April 8** **Ethnic Conflict and State Fragmentation: Sri Lanka**
Reading: Ahmed-Chapter 9
Regional comparison with Africa (Rwanda and Burundi)
- Tues. April 15** **Ethnic Conflict and State Fragmentation: Pakistan And Bangladesh**
Reading: Ahmed-Chapter 7 and 8
Regional comparison with Russia and the former Soviet Union
Midterm Essay Due
- Tues. April 22** **Ethnic Conflict and State Fragmentation: India**
Reading: Ahmed-Chapter 6
Regional comparison with Yugoslavia
- Tues. April 29** **Ethnic Conflict and Future Stability in South Asia**
Reading: Ahmed, Chapter 10
Continued comparison with Yugoslavia
Term Exam
- Tues. April 29** **Student reports as determined by lottery**
All students turn in outline with bibliography
- Tues. May 6** **Student reports as determined by lottery**
- Tues. May 13** **Student reports as determined by lottery**
Final papers due