PSC 551: State Building and Conflict

Tuesdays, 2–4:40
Harkness 329

Instructors
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Readings

- Journal articles are available through the library.
- Book selections are available through Dropbox links below.
- You should purchase the following books:

Academic honesty

Students and faculty at the University must agree to adhere to high standards of academic honesty in all of the work that we do. The College Board on Academic Honesty provides further information on our policies and procedures: www.rochester.edu/college/honesty.

In this course the following additional requirements are in effect: You are encouraged to discuss course readings and assignments with your fellow students. However, all written work must be done independently and not in collaboration with another. All written work must properly format quotations, use citations, and include a bibliography where necessary. Cases of plagiarism will be referred to the Academic Honesty Board.

Class schedule

Jan 21: Introduction to the course

Jan 28: Peace and Violence Without the State

Reading for the week:


Further reading:


**Feb 4: Primary states**

**Reading for the week:**


**Further reading:**


**Feb 11: Consolidating the provision of violence**


**Further reading:**


**Feb 18: State formation without provision of order**


**Further reading:**


**Feb 25: Expansion and empire**


Further reading:


Mar 3: Sovereignty and territoriality


Further reading:


**Mar 10: Spring Break (no class)**

**Mar 17: State capacity**


**Further reading:**


Mar 24: Constraining the State I


Further reading:


Mar 31: Constraining the State II


Further reading:


Apr 7: Legitimacy and compliance


**Further reading:**


**Apr 14: State collapse and revolution**


**Further reading:**


Skocpol, Theda. 1979. *States and Social Revolutions*. Cambridge University Press.


**Apr 21: Nationalism I**


**Further reading:**


**Apr 28: Nationalism II**


**Further reading:**


State-building and social conflict. This section introduces the analytical framework used in this article to help understand the nature of the state projects aimed at by state-building interventions and to explain the gap between their intentions and outcomes. It argues that mainstream approaches to state-building, despite important differences, converge in focusing too heavily on institutions, neglecting the broader processes of social conflict that actually give rise to particular, institutional forms and capacities. Historically, state institutions are not the product of State Building, Interstate and Intrastate Rivalry: A Study of Post-Colonial Developing Country Extractive Efforts, 1975–2000. International Studies Quarterly, 48(1). Feb 18: State formation without provision of order. Green, Abigail. 2001. Fatherlands: State-Building and Nationalism in Nineteenth-Century Germany. Cambridge University Press. Karl, Deutsch. As these states tried to form domestic policies and governing institutions, the interests of their various populations were (and still are) often in conflict. Civil war erupted in Tajikistan and Georgia. Riots swept Kyrgyzstan. Armed conflicts broke out in Moldova and Russia. Ukraine long maintained a balancing act between its conservative and liberal forces and its Ukrainian, Russian, and Tatar populations. Today, however, the political tensions that can be felt in Ukraine can be understood, in part, as rooted in that country’s Soviet past. The following reader is meant to introduce students: