

ISCOR 301

CONFLICT AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Professor Adam Branch
Department of Political Science
117 Nasatir Hall
ISCOR301@gmail.com
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 2:30-3:30 pm

Introduction:

Conflict is as widespread as it is varied: from interpersonal conflict to international conflict, from violent conflict to verbal conflict, from conflict over resources to conflict over religion, no realm of human activity is free from conflict. At the same time, for every conflict there are numerous proposals and efforts at conflict resolution—some successful, some irrelevant, some counterproductive.

This course will narrow down the vast domain of conflict and conflict resolution to focus on one type of conflict—namely, violent armed conflict—in one geographical area—Africa—and on one type of conflict resolution—international intervention. It will be based upon an extended case study of the ongoing conflict in Darfur, Sudan, with significant attention to the North-South Sudanese civil war. Drawing out and comparing a number of themes and problems from these cases, we will ask how to better understand violent conflict in Africa. In so doing, we will inquire into the stereotypes and misconceptions around African conflict found in Western media, and try to find a route to a more historically, culturally, and politically rigorous and contextualized understanding.

We will focus equally on the conflict resolution side of the equation. We will critically assess international interventions into the conflicts in Sudan and elsewhere in Africa, examining humanitarian intervention, relief aid distribution, and international legal intervention, in particular the work of the International Criminal Court. We will ask how effective those interventions have been and how they might be made more effective in the future.

Reading:

Three books are required for the course, all available at the SDSU bookstore.

- Mahmood Mamdani, *Saviors and Survivors: Darfur, Politics, and the War on Terror* (New York: Pantheon Books, 2009).
- Douglas H. Johnson, *The Root Causes of Sudan's Civil Wars* (Oxford/Bloomington: James Currey/Indiana University Press, 2003).
- Julie Flint and Alex de Waal, *Darfur: A New History of a Long War*, Revised and Updated (London, New York: Zed Books, 2008).

In addition to these books, we will be reading numerous articles, reports, and book chapters. Most of these are available on-line through Electronic Course Reserves, signified by ***ECR*** in the reading schedule. The course's ECR homepage can be found at <http://ecr.sdsu.edu/eres/coursepass.aspx?cid=1315> and the password is **conres301**.

Once you have access, you can select, download, and print the relevant articles and book chapters. Those readings that are not on ECR are available on the internet through publicly accessible websites; URLs are provided in the reading schedule.

I strongly recommend that you print out all the reading materials on Electronic Course Reserves and from the internet. This will make it much easier to read and annotate these pieces, participate in class discussion, and refer back to them when writing papers or studying for exams.

Class Attendance and Participation:

Formal or informal discussion will be a feature of every class session, and every student is expected to participate in these discussions. This requires attending class and having done the reading. Class attendance is not mandatory, but pop quizzes on the reading will be given throughout the semester, and will account for 20% of your semester grade. I will drop your lowest quiz grade, so you can miss one quiz without any penalty. In addition, consistent and excellent in-class participation can lead to an extra point or two on the semester grade.

Class Rules:

- *No computers.* I do not allow computers to be used in class.
- *No voice recorders.* Electronically recording lectures is not allowed.
- *No cell phones.* Turn your cell phone off or put it on silent, and do not check it or use it during the class period.
- *No eating in class.* Beverages in spill-proof cups or bottles are fine.

Proper classroom behavior. The classroom is a place for open discussion and debate, but to facilitate this, we all need to abide by certain rules and standards. Most importantly, students are expected to be respectful of other students and of other opinions.

Email. To get in touch with me via email, a special gmail account has been set up: ISCOR301@gmail.com. Please use this address for all communications. Treat emails as short letters, not as long text messages. Use a proper salutation, such as Dear Professor/Dr./Mr. Branch, and use full sentences and correct grammar and spelling.

Disabilities:

Students with disabilities who need special accommodations in class or on tests must make arrangements through Student Disability Services, located at Calpulli Center, Suite 3101, phone number 594-6473, webpage <http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/sds/>.

Grading and Assignments:

Your semester grade will be determined as follows:

- Midterm Exam: 40%
- Final Paper: 40%
- Quizzes and other assignments: 20%

Plagiarism and Cheating:

Plagiarism or cheating of any kind will result in failure and will be reported to the University. For the SDSU Academic Senate Policy on plagiarism and cheating, see http://its.sdsu.edu/resources/turnitin/pdf/Plagiarism_AcadSen.pdf. If you have further questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me or the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities, located at Student Services West, Room 1604, webpage <http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/srr/>.

Reading Schedule

September 1: Introduction to Class

September 3: Introduction to Darfur

Mahmood Mamdani, *Saviors and Survivors*, pp. 1-16. *ECR*

September 8: Ethnicity in Pre-Colonial Sudan

Mamdani, *Saviors and Survivors*, pp. 75-124.

September 10: The Colonial Heritage

Mamdani, *Saviors and Survivors*, pp. 136-180.

Sean O'Fahey's posts at the SSRC blog, "Making Sense of Darfur":

<http://blogs.ssrc.org/darfur/author/sean-ofahey/> XX

September 15: Sudan's North-South Divide

Douglas H. Johnson, *The Root Causes of Sudan's Civil Wars*, Preface, pp. 1-38.

September 17: Civil Wars in Southern Sudan

Johnson, *The Root Causes of Sudan's Civil Wars*, pp. 39-110.

September 22: Sudan's Political Structure

Alex de Waal, "Sudan: The Turbulent State," in *War in Darfur and the Search for Peace*, pp. 1-38. *ECR*

Alex de Waal, "Creating Devastation and Calling it Islam: The War for the Nuba, Sudan," *SAIS Review* vol. 21, no. 2 (2001): 117-132. *ECR*

September 24: War and Relief in Southern Sudan

Johnson, *The Root Causes of Sudan's Civil Wars*, pp. 127-166, 177-180.

September 29: The Politics of Humanitarianism in Sudan

Alex de Waal, *Famine Crimes: Politics and the Disaster Relief Industry in Africa*, pp. 133-158. *ECR*

[Zoë Marriage, "The Comfort of Denial: External Assistance in Southern Sudan," *Development and Change*, no. 37, vol. 3 (2006): 479-500. *ECR*

October 1: Critical Approaches to Humanitarianism

Adam Branch, "Against Humanitarian Impunity: Rethinking Responsibility for Displacement and Disaster in Northern Uganda," *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding*, vol. 2, no. 2 (June 2008): 151-173. *ECR*

Barbara Harrell-Bond, "Can Humanitarian Work with Refugees be Humane?," *Human Rights Quarterly* vol. 24, no. 1 (2002): 51-85. *ECR*

October 6: Oil and Violence in Sudan

Christian Aid, *The Scorched Earth. Oil and War in Sudan* (London, March 2001),
http://www.reliefweb.int/library/documents/2001/chr_aid-sud14mar1.pdf

Michael Klare and Daniel Volman, "The African 'Oil Rush' and US National Security,"
Third World Quarterly, vol. 27, no. 4 (2006): 609 – 628. *ECR*

October 8: Humanitarian Intervention

Noam Chomsky, "Humanitarian Intervention," Richard Falk, "Intervention and
Resistance," and Thomas G. Weiss, Response, *Boston Review*, vol. 18, no. 4, December
1993/January 1994, available at: <http://bostonreview.net/BR18.6/chomsky.html>

October 13: US interests in Sudan, Congo

Asteris Huliaris, "Evangelists, Oil Companies, and Terrorists: The Bush Administration's
Policy towards Sudan," *Orbis* (Fall 2006): 709-724. *ECR*

Princeton Lyman and J. Steven Morrison, "The Terrorist Threat in Africa," *Foreign
Affairs* vol. 83, no. 1 (2004): 75-86. *ECR*

Dena Montague, "Stolen Goods: Coltan and Conflict in the Democratic Republic of
Congo," *SAIS Review* vol. 22, no. 1 (2002), pp. 103-118. *ECR*

October 15: The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (2005)

Conciliation Resources, *Accord: Peace by Piece, Addressing Sudan's Conflicts* (2006),
available at <http://www.c-r.org/our-work/accord/sudan/contents.php>

Articles by: Mark Simmons and Peter Dixon, Atta el-Battahani, Mona Ayoub, Mohamed
el-Mukhtar Hussein, Cirino Hiteng Ofuho, An interview with General Lazaro
Sumbeiywo, A Summary of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, Jason Matus, Jostein
Tellnes, Taj es-Sir Mahjoub, Omer Egemi, Tania Kaiser, As-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

October 20: Reconciliation and Reconstruction in Southern Sudan

Forced Migration Review, "Sudan: Prospects for Peace," issue 24 (November 2005);
available at <http://www.fmreview.org/FMRpdfs/FMR24/FMR24full.pdf>

Articles by: Francis Deng, Jon Bennett, Luka Biong Deng, Jeni Klugman and Emily
Gosse Kallaur, Michael Kevane, Domenico Polloni, Endre Stiansen, Suliman Baldo,
Yasmine Sherif, Sajjad Malik, Mathijs Le Rutte, Paul Murphy, Judy McCallum and
Gizenga Wiullow, Rogaia Abusharaf, Lina Abirafeh, Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda and
Grace Okonji, Nada Mustafa M Ali.

October 22

MIDTERM

October 27: Ethnicity and Governance in Darfur

Mamdani, *Saviors and Survivors*, pp. 180-230.

October 29: Darfur and the Janjawiid

Julie Flint and Alex de Waal, *Darfur: A New History of a Long War*, pp. 1-70.

- November 3: The Rebels and the Outbreak of the War
Flint and de Waal, *Darfur: A New History*, pp. 71-149.
- November 5: The War and International Involvement
Flint and de Waal, *Darfur: A New History*, pp. 150-199.
- November 10: Peace Talks, the War at Present
Flint and de Waal, *Darfur: A New History*, pp. 200-276.
- November 12: The Save Darfur Movement and the Question of Genocide
Mamdani, *Saviors and Survivors*, pp. 19-74.
- November 17: Images of Africa
David Jefferess, "For Sale—Peace of Mind..." *Critical Arts: A Journal of North-South Cultural Studies*, vol. 16, no. 1 (2002): 1-21. *ECR*
- Jan Nederveen Pieterse, *White on Black: Images of Africa and Blacks in Western Popular Culture*, pp. 64-75. *ECR*
- November 19: Humanitarian and Human Rights Intervention
Mamdani, *Saviors and Survivors*, pp. 231-300.
- November 24: Furlough Day—No Class
- December 1: The "Responsibility to Protect"
Paul Williams and Alex Bellamy, "The Responsibility to Protect and the Crisis in Darfur," *Security Dialogue*, vol. 36, no. 1 (2005): 27-47. *ECR*
- Susan Rice, "The Escalating Crisis in Darfur," February 21, 2007, available at <http://www.brookings.edu/views/speeches/srice/20070221.pdf>
- Alex de Waal, *Famine Crimes*, pp. 179-191. *ECR*
- **OUTLINE DUE****
- December 3: The International Criminal Court in Sudan
Read the posts to the SSRC blog, "Making Sense of Darfur." Available at <http://blogs.ssrc.org/darfur/category/darfur/icc/page/8/> etc.
- December 8: The International Criminal Court in Uganda
Adam Branch, "Uganda's Civil War and the Politics of ICC Intervention," *Ethics & International Affairs* vol. 21, no. 2 (Summer 2007), pp. 179-198. *ECR*
- December 10: Building Peace and the Future of Sudan
Beatrice Pouligny, "Building Peace after Mass Crimes," *International Peacekeeping*, vol. 9, no. (2002): 181-201. *ECR*
- Andrew Natsios, "Beyond Darfur: Sudan's Slide Towards Civil War," *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 87, no. 3 (May/June 2008): 77-93. *ECR*
- Exam Day: ****FINAL PAPER DUE****