GV103: Introduction to International Relations

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Insurgency

Introduction

- Three goals for this lecture
  - Define insurgency
  - Discuss determinants of participation in violence
  - Demonstrate that pr(violence) might $\downarrow$ as likely participation $\uparrow$

Definition

Insurgency

A period in which one or more groups seeks to undermine
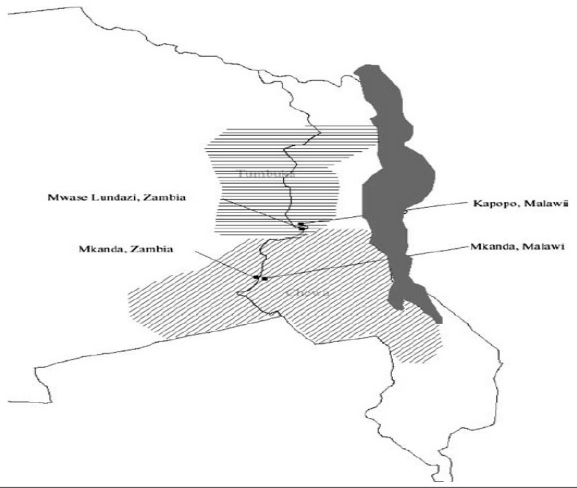established authority through irregular warfare.

Identity and Conflict

- Three reasons to doubt identity cleavage → conflict
  - No clear evidence↑ conflict as ↑ cleavages
  - May have direction of causality reversed
  - Assumes away collaboration problem

The Political Salience of Cultural Difference

- Observations: individuals in 4 villages
- y: attitudes towards out-group
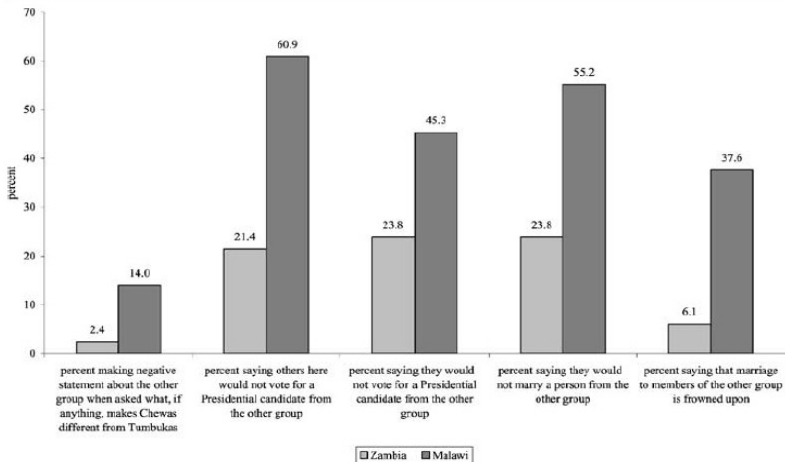- x: nationality

Research Sites

FIGURE 1. Research Sites

Results

FIGURE 2.   Chewa—Tumbuka Relations in Zambia and Malawi Compared

Impact of Conflict on Identity

- Observations: random sample from 16 African countries
- y: whether primary identity is ethnic
- xs: targeted by MID, experienced civil war

Results

	Ethnic identity
Targeted by MID	$-^*$
Civil War	$+^*$

Ethnic Defection in the Greek Civil War

- Observations: 63 villages/towns in Greece
- y: # of Nazi collaborators
- xs: pre-war support for regime, civilians killed by insurgents, strength of insurgents

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A Model of Political Violence
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Results

	Nazi collaborators
Support for regime	−
Civilians killed	+*
Strength of insurgents	−*

Selective Incentives

- Observations: random sample of 1000 people in Sierra Leone
- y: participation in war (and which side)
- xs: various measures of selective incentives and likely indicators of grievances against pre-war SQ

Preliminary Evidence

Response	% Yes (RUF)	% Yes (CDF)
Supported Goals	9.6	70.4
Defend Community	1.1	15.8
Was Abducted	87.8	2.0
Fear of Punishment	41.8	51.2

Results

	RUF		CDF volunteer
	Abducted	Volunteer	
House w/ mud walls	$+^*$	$+^*$	$+^*$
No educ access	$+^*$	$+^*$	$+^*$
Ethnic minority	$+^*$	$+$	$+$
Politically marginalized	$+^*$	$+^*$	$+^*$
Offered money	$+^*$	$+^*$	$+^*$
Felt safer in group	$-^*$	$+^*$	$+^*$
Friends in group	$-^*$	$+^*$	$+$

A Model of Political Violence

- G offers x to E
- If E accepts, the game ends peacefully
- If E rejects, violence occurs
- E then offers y of spoils to P
- If P rejects, limited participation in violence
- If P accepts, popular participation in violence
- G uncertain about c_E
- $pr(c_E = \overline{c}_E) = \phi$ and $pr(c_E = \underline{c}_E) = 1 - \phi$

Outcomes	u_G	u_E	u_P
peace	$1 - x$	x	q
limited participation	$1 - \underline{w} - c_G$	$\underline{w} - c_E$	$q - \kappa$
popular participation	$1 - \overline{w} - c_G$	$\overline{w}(1 - y) - c_E$	$\overline{w}y - c_P$

Analysis: Second Stage

- P joins conflict when $u_P(\text{pop}) \geq u_P(\text{lim})$
  - Equivalent to $y \geq \hat{y}$, where $\hat{y} \equiv \dfrac{q + c_P - \kappa}{\underline{w}}$

- E may not wish to offer $y = \hat{y}$
  - Only does so if $q \leq \hat{q}$, where $\hat{q} \equiv \underline{w} - \dfrac{w^2}{\overline{w}} - c_P + \kappa$

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E's Acceptance Rule

- As a general rule, E accepts
  - iff $x \geq \underline{w} - c_E$ when $q > \hat{q}$
  - iff $x \geq \overline{w}(1 - \hat{y}) - c_E$ when $q \leq \hat{q}$

- This gives us 4 critical values of x
  - $\underline{x}_I$ and $\overline{x}_I$ when $q > \hat{q}$
  - $\underline{x}_p$ and $\overline{x}_p$ when $q \leq \hat{q}$

G's Choice of x

- When $q > \hat{q}$
  - G sets $x = \underline{x}_I$ iff $\phi > \hat{\phi}_I$
  - Where $\hat{\phi}_I \equiv \dfrac{c_G + \underline{c_E}}{c_G + \overline{c}_E}$

- When $q \leq \hat{q}$
  - G sets $x = \underline{x}_p$ iff $\phi > \hat{\phi}_p$
  - Where $\hat{\phi}_p \equiv \dfrac{c_G + \underline{c_E} + \frac{\overline{w}}{\underline{w}}(q + c_P - \kappa)}{c_G + \overline{c}_E + \frac{\overline{w}}{\underline{w}}(q + c_P - \kappa)}$

Summary of Results

	$q > \hat{q}$	$q \leq \hat{q}$
If violence, participation is	Limited	Popular
Risk of violence	Relatively high	Relatively low