

Introduction

Francisco Villamil

War, peace, and political violence

UC3M, Fall 2023

Main focus

- What is political violence? (What should this course cover?)

Examples

Daughter of prominent Putin supporter killed in Moscow car bomb attack

Daria Dugina's nationalist father Alexander Dugin said to have influenced Russian leader's decision to invade Ukraine



Daria Dugina was a Russian nationalist journalist and political analyst © Tsargrad.tv/Handout/Reuters

Examples

Civilians killed by Russian missile strike on city in western Ukraine

Attack on Vinnytsia, far from military front lines, was 'open act of terrorism', says Zelenskyy



An abandoned pushchair in front of a damaged building in Vinnytsia. Ukraine said the missile strike had killed at least 22 civilians, including three children © Efrem Lukatsky/AP

Examples

Twenty Indian soldiers killed in clash with Chinese troops in Himalayas

Violence exposes strained relationship between nuclear-armed neighbours



An Indian army transit camp in Ladakh on Tuesday © REUTERS

Examples



Syrian war

Examples



Kyle Rittenhouse – Kenosha shooting, August 2020

Political violence

- The **intentional** use of **physical force** to inflict harm
- Political violence: employed to **achieve political goals**

Political violence types

- By actors involved (perpetrator/target)
- 'Grand events' vs isolated events

What this course is about

- What
- Why
- How

Parts of this course

Inter-state wars

Classic IR, why do countries fight each other? How has war evolved over time? Link to state-building processes and nationalism.

Civil wars

The predominant form of conflict today. What is a civil war? Why, where, and when do they break out?

The ingredients

What about violent events during civil wars? What about the actors? Rebel groups, terrorist groups, etc.

Aftermath

How do we ensure peace? What are the consequences of conflict and violence?

Course logistics

- I'll put everything in *Aula Global*
- Lecture (Mondays 2.30pm, 17.1.04)
 - Main concepts and debates
 - Reading not mandatory
- Seminar (Thursday 10:45am, 14.1.1)
 - We'll discuss a lighter reading (*mandatory*)
- Evaluation:
 - Attendance & participation in seminars (10%)
 - Discussion leader (15%)
 - Presentation (15%)
 - Final exam (60%): 2 options

Discussion leader (15%)

- Choose one week from the syllabus
 - <https://doodle.com/poll/vg6wmimdq8ag4ux>
 - Max 3-4 people per week
- Prepare some discussion points from the seminar reader
- (It helps to read the theory readings)
- Send them to me *before* class and present/discuss them in class

Presentation (20%)

- Last 2 seminar days (Dec 5th and Dec 12th)
- Groups of 2-4 people
 - Total flexibility, only problem is time (max 4-5 per day)
- 10-15min presentation + Q&A
- We can discuss alternatives, but two possible options:
 - Focus on a single conflict
 - (e.g. 'Violence against civilians in Syria')
 - Focus on a topic & a period
 - (e.g. 'Nationalism and conflict in the 21st Century')
- I want to know groups and topics by **November 24th**

Final exam (60%): two options

1. Take-home exam, 24h to complete it

2 open questions, one short and one long (500 and 1000 words max)

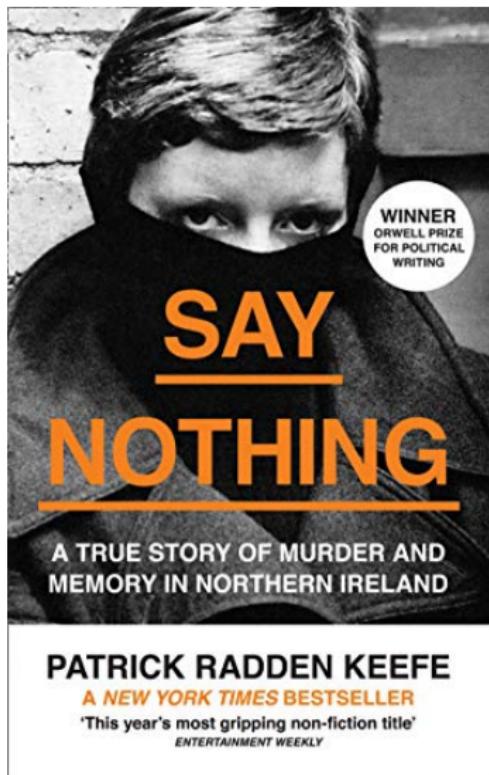
2. Read a book and write a review

Max 2,500 words, due on exam day

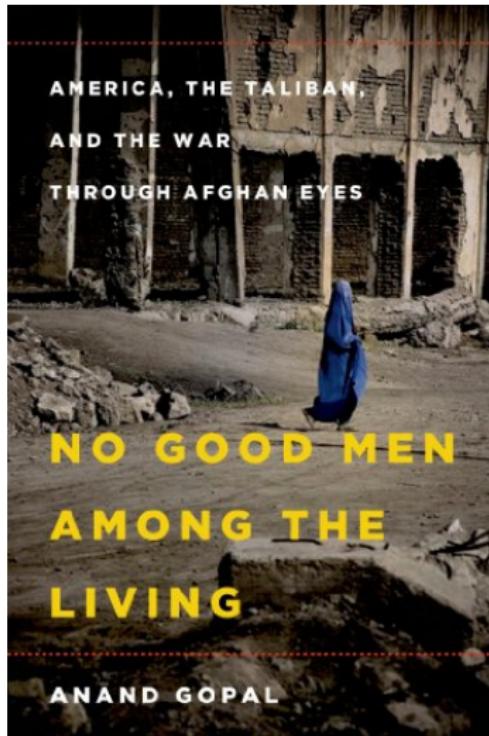
Not a summary, but a commentary linking it to what we discussed in class (including readings)

5 pre-approved options

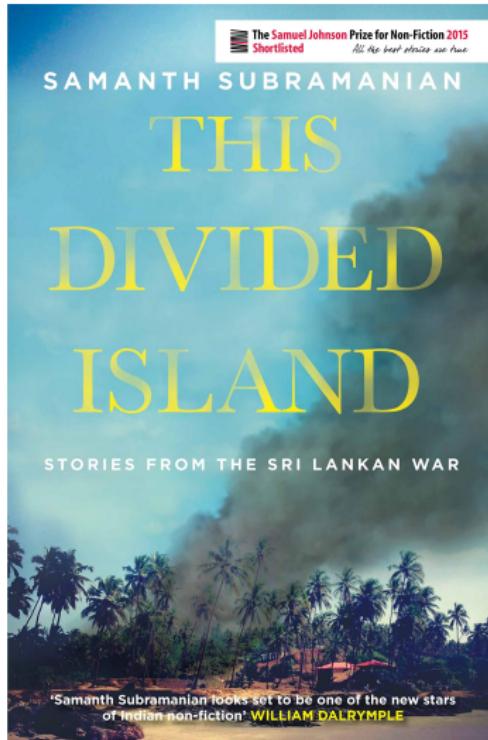
Final exam (60%): book options



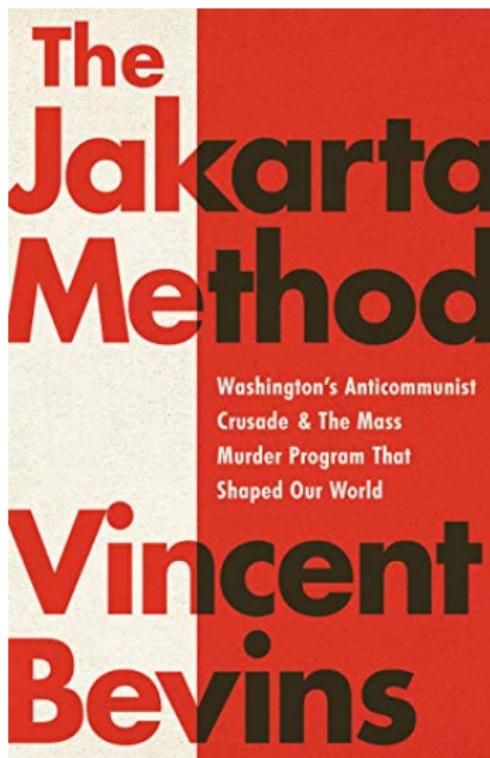
Final exam (60%): book options



Final exam (60%): book options



Final exam (60%): book options



Final exam (60%): book options

