GV217 - Conflict Analysis

University of Essex - Department of Government

Lorenzo Crippa Week 22 – 28 February, 2020

Gender and conflicts

Two orders of explanations for wartime sexual violence:

1. Previous explanations

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 - Ethnic war/secession humiliation, terror
 - Genocide (**definition**) rape as part of genocide
 - Gender inequality acceptance of violence against women
 - State collapse (weakening social norms) opportunism
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- 2. New research:
 - Combatant socialisation is needed when recruitment is forced
 - Shared experience creates bonds of loyalty and esteem = social cohesion

Definition of genocide

The 1948 Genocide Convention:

"Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group and/or deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part."

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- More likely to participate in fighting for leftist groups
- More likely to participate in fighting for secular groups

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How does recruitment by different groups work? Are women joining voluntarily or are they actively recruited? The two imply different mechanisms!

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Questions to discuss:

- 1. Do you think it is because of social norms that we see less women fighting? Or are men naturally more likely to take part in violent conflict?
- 2. Why did the PKK recruit women fighters?
- 3. Would the same be true for IS? Why?

2003: Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace campaign during the Second Liberian Civil War. "Liberia's Women in White"

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- They contributed to the signing of the 2003 peace agreement

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 - Proposes a gender perspective to consider their special needs in wartimes
 - Acknowledges and valorises their role as conflict prevention, resolution and peace-building through adopting a gender perspective on these themes

Conclusion

All clear? More questions? See you next week!