

POLI 150: Review of Conflict

Daniel Gustafson

 $1~\mathrm{April}~2020$



Topics to Review

■ Interstate war

■ Civil conflict & nonstate actors

■ Conflict Resolution



Interstate War

• Given the immense costs to belligerents, why do states fight wars?



Interstate War

• Given the immense costs to belligerents, why do states fight wars?

■ Conflicting interests are necessary, but not sufficient to explain war

POLI 150 — Conflict Review



Interstate War

• Given the immense costs to belligerents, why do states fight wars?

 Conflicting interests are necessary, but not sufficient to explain war

• We must also address why states do not reach a peaceful settlement



Explanations for Bargaining Breakdown

■ Incomplete information can prevent states from identifying the bargaining range



Explanations for Bargaining Breakdown

- Incomplete information can prevent states from identifying the bargaining range
- Failures to make **credible commitments** can make deals unacceptable in the future



Explanations for Bargaining Breakdown

- Incomplete information can prevent states from identifying the bargaining range
- Failures to make **credible commitments** can make deals unacceptable in the future
- Issue indivisibility makes bargaining impossible



 Civil conflict occurs when groups within society are dissatisfied with their home government

- Civil conflict occurs when groups within society are dissatisfied with their home government
- Explanations at the group, country, and international level

■ Civil conflict occurs when groups within society are dissatisfied with their home government

- Explanations at the group, country, and international level
- Bargaining breakdown explanations apply here as well

■ Groups that use terrorist tactics do so rationally

- Groups that use terrorist tactics do so rationally
- Terrorism can be used for a variety of purposes



- Groups that use terrorist tactics do so rationally
- Terrorism can be used for a variety of purposes
- Debate over how effective terrorist tactics are and over the best response of government



Protest, Repression, and Human Rights

 Aggrieved populations may also use nonviolent tactics such as protest



Protest, Repression, and Human Rights

- Aggrieved populations may also use nonviolent tactics such as protest
- Governments frequently use repression to try to quell dissent

POLI 150 — Conflict Review



Protest, Repression, and Human Rights

- Aggrieved populations may also use nonviolent tactics such as protest
- Governments frequently use repression to try to quell dissent
- States violate human rights for a number of reasons, but this is changing in the international system



Third Parties & Conflict Resolution

■ States and other international actors may play a role in trying to end a conflict



Third Parties & Conflict Resolution

- States and other international actors may play a role in trying to end a conflict
- Can use direct intervention or mediation, but they face a time inconsistency problem



Third Parties & Conflict Resolution

- States and other international actors may play a role in trying to end a conflict
- Can use direct intervention or mediation, but they face a time inconsistency problem
- R2P: international community has a responsibility to intervene in support of vulnerable populations