



POLI 150: Third Parties in Conflict: Mediation and Intervention

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Today's Class

- COVID-19 Update
- The Dual Effect of Mediation
- Intervention & R2P



COVID-19 Update

- Class is going to be different!
- Addendum on Sakai
- Most important thing: communication



Changes to the Course

- “Lectures” will consist of slides, readings, and short videos
- Current events will be on a forum
- Office hours will be virtual
- Second writing assignment will be film-based!



Changes to the Course

- Anticipate bugs in the system
- Patience is going to be important
- Let's make the best of it!



Famous Mediators



Figure: Teddy Roosevelt



Famous Mediators



Figure: Jimmy Carter



What is Mediation?

- Mediation occurs when parties seek assistance or accept an offer of help from an actor to change their behavior, settle their conflict, or resolve their problem
- Actors can vary from states to IGOs to individuals
- Very common in civil conflict (e.g. Colombia) and international conflict (e.g. Russo-Japanese War)



Puzzles of Mediation

- How does mediation work to encourage peaceful resolution?
- How effective is mediation at resolving conflicts?
- We can analyze the effectiveness of mediation by considering how it functions with the bargaining model of war



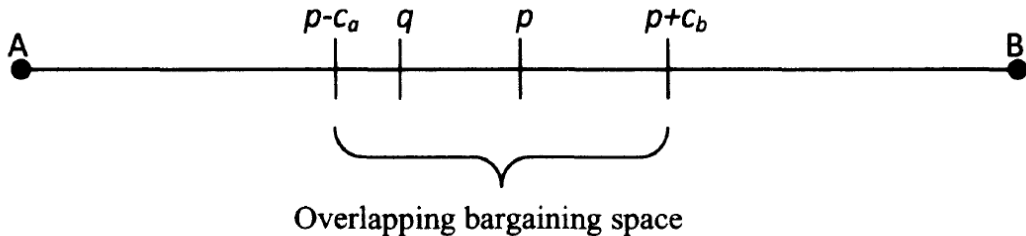
Conflict Mediation's Track Record

- The effectiveness of mediation is inconsistent
- The breakdown of its successes/failures depends on whether we consider short-term crisis management and long-term peace prospects
- Our task is to think about how mediation affects crisis bargaining



Bargaining Model of War

(a) Basic bargaining model





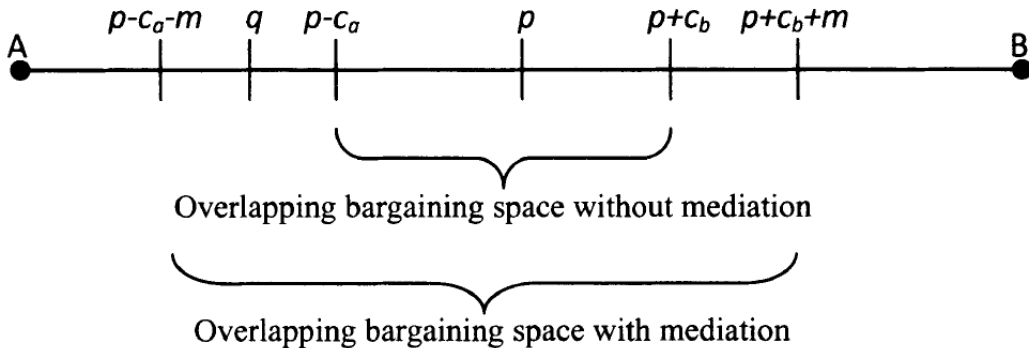
Mediation and Leveraging Costs

- How can mediators affect the costs of conflict?
- Mediators can offer tangible carrots and sticks (e.g. aid to Israel and Egypt during the Camp David mediation)
- Can also amplify audience costs (e.g. Jimmy Carter and North Korea in 1994)
- This increases the likelihood of any agreement being reached by expanding the bargaining range, but introduces a time-inconsistency problem



Mediators Leveraging Costs

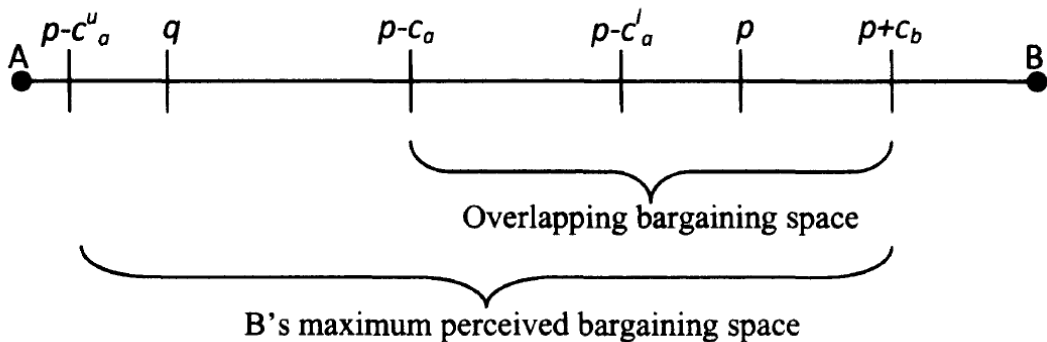
(b) Leveraging costs





Bargaining with Incomplete Information

(b) Bargaining with information barriers





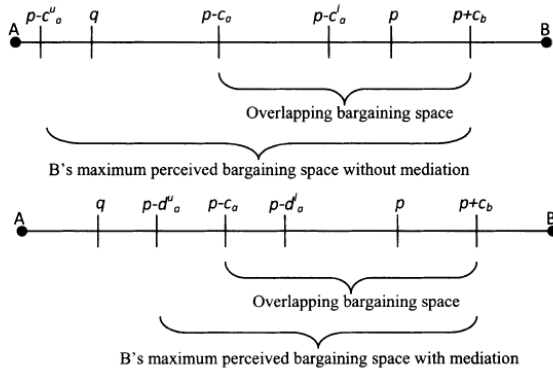
Mediation and Information

- How can mediators reduce the information problem?
- Mediators can help combatants understand costs and potential outcomes
- Example: US mediating 1990 crisis between India and Pakistan



Mediators and Information Provision

(a) Information provision





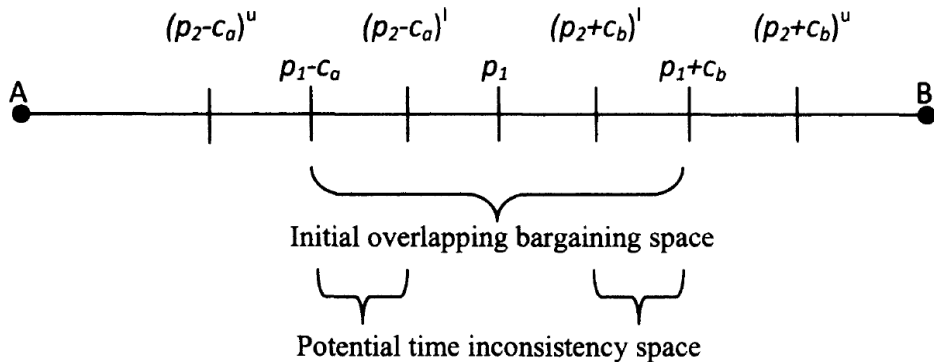
Limitations of Information Provision

- Do mediators have access to more information than combatants?
- It may be an indirect story about information transaction costs or giving political cover from audience costs
- The effect of information provision will be short-term rather than long-term



Bargaining with Commitment Problems

(c) Bargaining with a commitment problem





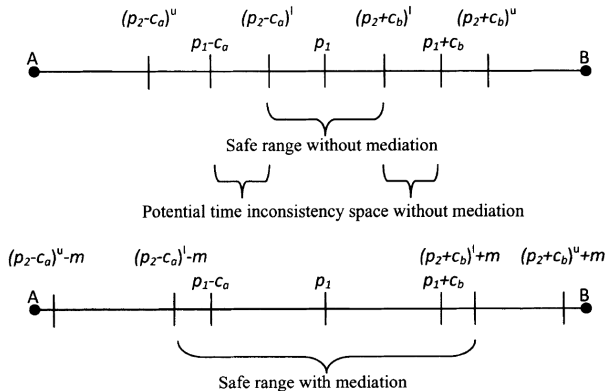
Monitoring and Enforcement

- To address the time inconsistency directly, mediators can promise to monitor and enforce agreements
- Monitoring and enforcement increases the costs of conflict in the future
- However, mediators cannot stick around forever, so those costs shrink to 0



Mediators Monitoring and Enforcing

(c) Monitoring and enforcement





Is Mediation Successful?

- Mediation is very effective at securing a settlement
- However, mediation also increases the probability of crisis recurrence
- Other benefits: still encourages lulls in conflict; still better than unmediated crises



Other Forms of Third-Party Action

- Mediation is one tool for influencing a conflict
- Another that we've talked about previously is military intervention
- Intervention can be of two types: military and humanitarian



Military Intervention

- Occurs when actor(s) provide military support to one side of a conflict
- Often because of alliances; always because of interest compatibility
- Interveners choose the toughest cases and often occurs jointly when states disagree on policy (Gent 2007, 2008)



Humanitarian Intervention

- Humanitarian intervention occurs when actors intervene to prevent/halt humanitarian crises
- Some examples of success (e.g. East Timor), but also examples of nonresponse (e.g. Rwanda)
- Why might humanitarian interventions not occur?



Responsibility to Protect (R2P)

- Following Rwanda, the international community came together to plan for future responses
- The outcome of that was the *Responsibility to Protect* (R2P)
- Suggests that the international community has a responsibility to protect at-risk populations by military means if necessary



Responsibility to Protect (R2P)

- R2P directly violates sovereignty
- Raises the puzzle of why states would agree to this in the first place
- Is indicative of the large debate about the effectiveness of international norms/law
- Are states actively affected by international law/norms, or are they only bound as much as they choose to be?