



Conflict Carrying Capacity and the Early Warning of Civil Violence

This project addresses the institutional management of inter-group conflict as well as questions of ethnic conflict and their impact on U.S. and global security. The past decade has witnessed extensive internal armed conflicts, ethnic violence and violent regime changes. Building on the *World Handbook of Political and Social Indicators IV* project and existing data on these episodes of civil violence, this project will evaluate a formal model of conflict carrying capacity conceptualized as the ability of states to regulate intense civil conflicts without resort to significant violence. The basic idea is that states vary in their ability to regulate the intense conflicts in society and that this can be gauged by formal measures constructed from conflict event data and used to assess and early warn the onset of internal armed conflicts as well as assess political reconstruction processes. Developing the ability to monitor the onset of such crises is also critical for international humanitarian agencies and other policymakers responsible for anticipating and responding to these processes. This project will use comparative case method and statistical models to assess the usefulness of the conflict carrying capacity concept and its correlation with other measures of state strength and political rights.

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