

RELIGION 2812 (Faculty of Arts and Sciences 2042)

Dr. David Little

Harvard University

Half Course (Spring, 2005)

Wednesday, 3:00-5:00 pm (with discussion sections to be assigned)

Course Assistant: Christian Rice

Appointments: Thursdays, 1:00-4:00 pm; contact Eric Unverzagt, Andover Hall, Room 302, 496-2779; eric_unverzagt@harvard.edu

RELIGION, NATIONALISM, AND PEACE

This course will sample the literature on nationalism and ethnicity as it bears on conflict, with special focus on the role of religion. Some attention will be devoted to the place of religion in the formation of the idea of nationalism. Recent data on trends regarding ethnoreligious conflict will be examined and assessed. Specific cases will be examined, such as Bosnia, Sudan, Sri Lanka, and Israel/Palestine, with passing reference to other cases such as Iraq, Northern Ireland, and Kosovo. Attention will be paid to the ingredients of peace in such situations, including the accommodation of the rights of religious and ethnic freedom and equality, as well as how religious actors may function as peacebuilders.

Lectures and discussion, including required discussion sections once a week.

Requirements

Mid-term Exercise, March 11 (to be submitted March 18)

Final Paper, due at the end of the semester. Individual or comparative case studies.

Books To Purchase

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*

Anthony W. Marx, *Faith in Nation: Exclusionary Origins of Nationalism*

Scott Appleby, *The Ambivalence of the Sacred: Religion, Violence, and Reconciliation*

Laura Silber and Allan Little, *Death of Yugoslavia*

Paul Mojzes, *Religion and the War in Bosnia*

Francis Deng, *War of Visions: Conflict of Identities in the Sudan*

Robert Rotberg, ed., *Creating Peace in Sri Lanka: Civil War and Reconciliation*

Introduction

February 2: Studying of Religion, Conflict and Peace: The Place of Nationalism

Religion, Ethnicity, and Nationalism

February 9: I. Orientation

David Little, "Belief, Ethnicity, and Nationalism," *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* 1,2 (March, April 1995) (on reserve);

Gopal Balakrishnan (ed.), *Mapping the Nation* (on reserve) :

John Breuilly, "Approaches to Nationalism," 146-174.

Chester A. Crocker, Fen Osler Hampson, and Pamela Aall (eds.), *Turbulent Peace: The Challenges of Managing International Conflict* (on reserve):

Edward D. Mansfield and Jack Snyder, "Democratic Transitions and War," 113-126;

Paul Collier, "Economic Causes of Civil Conflict and Their Implications for Policy," 143-162;

Ted Robert Gurr, "Minorities and Nationalists," 163-188.

Recommended Reading: Balakrishnan (ed.), *Mapping the Nation*:

Sylvia Walby, "Women and Nation," 235-254;

Eric Hobsbawm J. Hobsbawm, "Ethnicity and Nationalism in Europe Today," 255-266.

February 16 : II. Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*, 1-65, 83-155, 187-206.
Recommended Reading: Remainder of *Imagined Communities*.

February 23: III. Anthony W. Marx, *Faith in Nation: Exclusionary Origins of Nationalism*, 3-112; 191-206.

Recommended Reading: Remainder of *Faith in Nation*;

William R. Hutchison and Hartmut Lehmann (eds.), *Many Are Chosen: Divine Election and Western Nationalism*, pp. 29-57; 145-172.

March 2: IV. Scott Appleby, *The Ambivalence of the Sacred: Religion, Violence, and Reconciliation*, 1-21; 121-204; 207-245; 281-309;
David Little, "Coming to Terms with Religious Militancy," *Harvard Divinity Bulletin* (Spring 2000) 29,1, pp. 17-22 (on reserve).

Case Studies: Nationalism, Conflict, and Peace

March 9: Bosnia I [MID-TERM EXERCISE]

Laura Silber and Allan Little, *Death of Yugoslavia*, pp.25-47, 58-146,190-230,244-290,345-389.

Recommended Reading: Richard Holbrooke, *To End a War*, pp. 231-261, 272-322,358-369 (on reserve);

Michael Sells, *Bridge Betrayed*, chs. 1-3, 7 (on reserve).]

March 16: Bosnia II

Paul Mojzes (ed.), *Religion and the War in Bosnia*, chs. 4,8,11,13, 16, 19;
Recent International Crisis Group reports on the present state of affairs in Bosnia.
[ICG reports may be found on the Internet: www.crisisweb.org]

March 23: Sudan I

Francis Deng, *War of Visions*, pp. 1-241; 436-515.

April 6: Sudan II

www.crisisweb.org:
Sudan Endgame; Sudan: Towards an Incomplete Peace;

Yusuf Fadl Hasan and Richard Gray (eds.), *Religion and Conflict in Sudan*: ch. 8, “Some Reflections on Christian Involvement, 1955-1972”; ch. 13, “Seeking Peace in Sudan: Impediments, Forgiveness and Dialogue.”

Recommended Reading:

Ann Mosely Lesch, *Sudan: Contested National Identities*, pp. 119-147; 167-218 (on reserve);
D. Little, “Islam and Society: The Sudanese Experiment” (after visit to Sudan in 1994); on web;
Douglas Johnston (ed.), *Faith-Based Diplomacy: Trumping Realpolitik*;
Johnston and Nyang, “Conflict Resolution as a Normative Value in Islamic Law: Application to the Sudan.”

April 13: Sri Lanka I

Rotberg (ed.), *Creating Peace in Sri Lanka: Civil War and Reconciliation*, chs. 2,3,4,8-12.
Recommended Reading: David Little, *Sri Lanka: Invention of Enmity* (on reserve)

April 20: Sri Lanka II:

H.L. Seneviratne, *The Work of Kings: The New Buddhism in Sri Lanka*, TBA (on reserve).
Recent Reports on the peace prospects in Sri Lanka.

***April 27:* Israel and the Palestinians I**

Materials to be assigned.

***May 4:* Israel and the Palestinians II and Conclusion**

Materials to be assigned.