I. Columbia Group Part I Overview

Herein information regarding the first two weeks of class for Columbia students taking “African Civil Wars in Comparative Perspective.” For a full description of this course see the primary syllabus, posted on-line [http://www.columbia.edu/~mh2245/cw_syllabus.pdf](http://www.columbia.edu/~mh2245/cw_syllabus.pdf)

Beginning on September 30, this class will be taught jointly between Columbia and Stanford universities. Before then Columbia students have two full weeks of class, on 16 and 23 September. We have two goals for these first two weeks of class. First we will use them to develop a richer understanding of the six cases under study in the remainder of the class. We will explore some more qualitative texts that otherwise we would not have a chance to study in order to get a richer feel for the cases. In doing so we will aim to produce, as an output of these two weeks, a structured synopsis of the conflicts under study to be shared with and presented to the Stanford students once they come on-line on 30 September. The second goal for these two weeks is to begin thinking about original datasets that can be collected for the cases that we read. In your reading you should keep your eyes open to references to archives, records, or institutions that may hold rich sources of information that can be used to explore some of the central questions of the course.

We will examine Angola, Sierra Leone, and El Salvador in the first week and in the second week we will examine Congo, Sudan and Vietnam.

For each of these weeks we will assign teams of approx two students to produce reports on each of the conflicts. The structure of the reports should be as follows.

II. Civil War Reports

The function of the reports is to serve as a ready reference to be used by all students during the course of the term. To this end the writing style should be concise but not cryptic; the summaries should contain factual knowledge pertaining to the history of the conflicts and they should contain scholarly information addressing what are the outstanding questions and puzzles associated with the conflicts. In particular the reports, which should be no more than 4 pages long, should include the following, in the following order:
Part I: Factual Information

1. A characterization of the war (common categories, all simplistic, include: war of liberation, secessionist, warlord insurgency, war for state control, social revolutionary...)

2. A map of the country, indicating the main regions of fighting, for one or more moments in time

3. A timeline, indicating the major movements of the conflict including major battles, interventions and negotiations [may be done on a graph alongside item 4.]

4. A graph of the changes in intensity in the conflict overtime, using battle deaths where possible. (The Lacina Dataset on Battle Deaths at PRIO may be helpful (see primary syllabus))

5. A listing of the major factions indicating when major factions appeared and disappeared. This can be included on a time line, or if appropriate, as a tree.

6. If possible, an organigram indicating how major non-state groups are organized

7. Short [5-6 line] biographies of major players on all sides; these can be linked to the organigram.

Part II: Scholarly Information

1. A listing of main theories and hypotheses in the literature alongside the names of associated authors, about the war; in terms of each of the major sections of the course: (1. causes of the civil war; 2. patterns of recruitment and participation; 3. the organization of rebel groups, 4. strategies used by warring factions, and 5. negotiation and termination.) For each of the themes you should attempt to identify two rival hypotheses for this war.

2. Listing of possible qualitative sources (eg TRC reports) from which data could be drawn

3. Short listing of readings and articles of that you found of particular interest or utility.

4. A short listing of puzzles, either factual or theoretical puzzles—“Were there really Burkinibe troops in Sierra Leone?” “Why did the RDC not provide public goods to civilians?”

III. Readings

The readings listed here are selected so that they do not overlap with readings on each of these cases from later weeks. For each of the conflicts everybody in the class is responsible for reading the starred (*) reading, which will provide a common basis for discussion. Specialist teams can roam much more widely in their readings; they can be guided by but are not limited to the readings listed under “other works” for each week and by readings referenced in those readings. Other sources to look out for are:

1. Contemporary newspaper reports. Much African media can be located here [http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/africa/ejournals.html](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/africa/ejournals.html) but see also [http://www.afrik.com/medias/](http://www.afrik.com/medias/) International coverage is available on lexis nexis, at Columbia on: [http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/eresources/databases/2100385.html](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/eresources/databases/2100385.html) (for example you can look up headlines on “El Salvador war” for news sources from 1981 to read contemporary reports), 2. primary materials in the form of autobiographies, pamphlets, and official documents (a number may be held even in local libraries, for example a search for Author: MPLA or Author: SPLM in CLIO can give lead you to listings of publications held at Columbia; 3. Other primary and secondary materials not referenced elsewhere can often be found using key word or subject searches such as “Sudan Politics and government 1985-“ or “Insurgency--El Salvador--History--20th century.”
Readings for 16 September: 16:00-18:00

1 Angola [starting date: 1975]
* Tony Hodges. Angola from Afro-Stalinism to Petro-Diamond Capitalism (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2001). Chapter 1

Other works:
- [Journalistic] Ryszard Kapuscinski. Another Day of Life (Vintage International)
- [Autobiographical] John Stockwell In Search of Enemies: A CIA Story
- Inge Tvedten, Angola: Struggle for Peace and Reconstruction (Nations of the Modern World. Africa)
- Karl Maier Angola: Promises and Lies
- [Document] MPLA “MPLA is the people” [Instructor’s copy]

2 Sierra Leone
* John L. Hirsch – Diamonds and the Struggle for Democracy Chapters 1,2,3

Other works:
- Paul Richards. Fighting for the rain forest: war, youth and resources in Sierra Leone (Portsmouth: Heinemann, 1996). Especially Chapter 1.
- Alfred B Zack-Williams Sierra Leone: the political economy of civil war, 1991-98 Third World Quarterly 20, (1) : February 1, 1999
- David Keen. Conflict and Collusion in Sierra Leone (London: Palgrave Macmillan, forthcoming ; check with instructor for copy)

3 El Salvador [starting date: 1979]
* Elisabeth Wood. Insurgent collective action and civil war in El Salvador (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004).Chapter 1

Other works:
Readings for 23 September: 16:00-18:00

4 Congo [starting date: 1998]

Other works:

5 Sudan [starting date: 1983]
* [NGO report] John Prendergast “God, Oil and Country” Chapters 1,2,4,5 http://www.reelvoices.org/diaries/resources/A400534_28012002.pdf

Other works:
- Douglas Hamilton Johnson. The Root Causes of Sudan’s Civil Wars, Chapters 1 – 5 & 10
- Steven Wondu and Ann Lesch. Battle for Peace in Sudan, University Press of America
- Francis Deng Sudan’s Civil War: The Peace Process Before, And Since Machakos
- Francis M. Deng 1995 War of Visions: Conflicts of Identities in the Sudan

6 Vietnam [starting date: 1956]
David L. Anderson The Columbia Guide to the Vietnam War Columbia UP Chapters 2, 4-9

Other works:
- Very many reference in Anderson
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<td>David L. Anderson</td>
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