Course Introduction

COMPLEX EMERGENCIES: FROM ROOT CAUSES TO REBUILDING

Dennis Dijkzeul
Topics

- Type of course
- My background
- This summer
- Contents of the course
- Other courses
- Definitions
- Types of Actors
- Program Student Activities
Type of Conflict

- End of the Cold War:
  - Inter-state
  - Professional armies

- Now:
  - Intra-state
  - Unprecedented civil suffering 90 %
    - Elimination
    - Many IDPs and refugees (1 out of 125)
  - Brew of identity, ec. & other causes (old roots)
  - International community is overwhelmed & neglects & doesn’t know how to react
  - Development processes totally disturbed, yet long-term rebuilding is necessary
My background

- Holidays
- Rotterdam School of Management
- ILO Training Center in Turin
- War-torn Societies Project in Geneva
- UNOPS New York and Geneva
- Guatemala & Namibia
- Ruhr University in Bochum/NOHA
- Second year Professor
- UNFPA (Colombia, Nicaragua, & Mexico)
- IRC in Congo
Other Courses

- PROGRAM Fall:
  - HA practicum
  - Human Dimensions of Natural Disasters
  - International Responses to Humanitarian Challenges: The Case of the Mine Ban Treaty

- PROGRAM Spring:
  - Managing Complex Emergencies
  - Public Management for International Affairs
  - Gender in Complex Emergencies
  - Humanitarian Law

- OTHER SIPA & COLUMBIA
  - “Forced Migration” Program at Public Health
    - Well-rounded professional
  - “EPD”
  - “Human Rights”
  - “International Security Policy”
Course Contents

IMPORTANT!!

- If you have done Ron Waldman’s “Humanitarian Assistance in Complex Emergencies” (Spring 2000), then this course will overlap a lot. And you ‘d better not take this course.

- Nightline: watch it
Course Contents

- Literature:
  - Considerable amount of work, especially in the first few weeks!
  - Discussion of different books
  - Great overview of the main issues, and debates in CE
  - Syllabus is on the Web with texts, links and Bulletin Board

- Let’s go through the Syllabus
  - Objectives
  - Web resources
Grading

- Weekly Assignments at two Bulletin Boards (20%):
  - Sierra Leone
  - Sudan
    - [http://www.columbia.edu/](http://www.columbia.edu/)
    - first question. In about 15 lines:
      - introduce yourself
      - tell why you take the course
      - tell about your experience in CHE
    - follow the thread!

- Mid-term Paper (40%)
- Final exam (40%)
Gourevitch

- Why this book? To get you all at the same level!
- Strong Points:
  - Best of Journalism
  - Stylistically beautiful: it has an immediacy that most academic texts lack:
    - How to live through a genocide w. personal and anecdotal evidence to get the big picture
  - Genocide, aftermath, and actors: Romeo Dallaire…
  - Introduces many of the issues and critiques
- Weak Points
  - Holocaust parallel
  - Role of Kagame
  - Role of development cooperation/ long-term trends
- It started a craze for long titles in literature
Definitions

- What is a Complex Humanitarian Emergency?
Definitions CHE

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL:
Relatively acute situations affecting large populations, caused by a combination of factors, generally including civil strife and war, exacerbated often by food shortages and population displacements, and resulting in significant excess mortality.
Definitions?

- Complex means that there is a large man-made component and that it is long lasting
- Generally, it is not a natural disaster
- Humanitarian? Which actors?
- Emergency: Can you have long-lasting emergencies
- Complex Political Emergencies?
- Or just Civil War or Civil Conflict?
Definitions

To a large extent 5 common characteristics:

- Deterioration or complete collapse of both central government authority and (parts of) civil society.
- Armed conflict, often of ethnic and religious nature, and widespread human rights abuses.
- Episodic food insecurity, frequently deteriorating into mass starvation.
- Macro-economic collapse involving hyper-inflation, massive unemployment, and net decreases in Gross National Product.
- Mass population movements of displaced people and refugees escaping conflict or searching for food.
Breakdown of Distinctions?

- War and Peace
- Identity, Ethnicity, and Religion
- State, Crime, Army, and Civilians
- Private and Public
- Natural vs man-made disasters
- Sovereignty of State (vs. Security of People)
- Security, Relief, Rehabilitation, and Development
- Complex Political Emergencies: what is political
- New distinctions?
Types of Actors

- Local Population
- Refugees & IDPs
- Local, departmental, and national governments
- Warring factions (often thugs)
- Local NGOs
- International NGOs
- Bilateral Donors & Agencies
- ICRC & UN system
- Military
The International Relief System

Donor Governments

Donor Organizations (e.g. USAID, EC)

UN Agencies (e.g. UNHCR, WFP)

Military Providers

Government Agencies

Private Contractors

General Public (Donor Countries)

International NGOs

General Public (Recipient Countries)

Local NGOs

Affected Public

Source: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, World Disasters Report, 1996
Program Student Activities

- New Program, your initiative helps to get things of the ground
- My ideal! Research themes & PAR in CE
- Friday at 14:00 PM in 11-34: Dangerous Pity; Video by Ronny Brauman 28 September at 4:30PM in 11-34
- Fundraising, the Web, Research, course contents
Topics

- My background
- This summer
- Contents of the course
- Other courses
- Definitions
- Types of Actors
- Program Student Activities
- Next week: web resources & BB