

# Theories of Ethnic Violence (Outside Intervention)

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# Vulnerability

- Vulnerability argument versus ethnic ties.
- **States vulnerable to secessionism will support host states and oppose secessionists.**
- A state is vulnerable to secessionism if:
- A secessionist movement tries to secede in the previous ten years period.
- Members of a group have organized with the goal of independence
- Area studies experts view particular regions to be potentially secessionist.

# Ethnic ties

- Stephen Saideman creates the alternative argument that ethnic ties are more important aspect and ethnic politics within states influence their policies toward secessionist conflict elsewhere.
- “Ethnic politics within states significantly conditions their policies toward ethnic conflict in other states”.
- Individuals inside the state prefer their state to take sides in ethnic conflicts elsewhere, supporting the side with which they have ties.

# Ethnic ties

- Saideman creates the following hypotheses:
- States will support those actors internationally that share ethnic ties with decision-makers' supporters.
- States will oppose those actors that share a history of ethnic enmity with the decision-makers' supporters.
- States will be neutral or ambivalent toward those conflicts where decision-makers' supporters have ties to both sides.

# Third party intervention

- When impartial third party intervenes in a conflict, new relations and structures are created. It is generally accepted, that third party brings additional minds and problem-solving skills to the conflict. Third party intervention can be divided into some types:
  - **Mediation**, the most common type of intervention, is a negotiation facilitated by third party. The aim of the third party is to assist the disputants to reframe the conflict, develop agreement and to implement it.

# Third party intervention

- Mediators differ in their philosophy. Some see its responsibility as simply to facilitate fair and workable agreement. Most mediators adhere to an impartiality principle, as favoring of one side over another destroys their role of mediators. Others believe that mediation process should empower any party that is at an unfair disadvantage. Some of them practice so called “transformative mediation”, where the intervention of the third party intends not only to reach agreement but to modify the conflict relationship and setting.

# Third party intervention

- ***Intermediation*** – intermediary plays a quite different role than the formal mediator. The intermediaries aim is to facilitate communication between conflict parties. Their involvement normally lasts for long period and is useful in very sensitive and potentially explosive conflicts.
- ***Multimodal Intermediation*** – includes many types of third parties, which can work simultaneously or at different points when their form of assistance is needed. It can involve unifiers, legitimates or facilitators, it is some kind of a team approach. Such a multimodal approach is useful in large-scale conflicts.
- ***Interposition***- placing of a neutral third party physically between the conflicting parties. Such presence of the third party need not be to be military or governmental. Presence of unarmed neutral foreigners deters attacks on civilians in war zones.

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- Is ethnic conflict inevitable?
- Do ethnic divisions inevitably generate violence?



# Ethnic conflict

- Many scholars study ethnicity and ethnic diversity as a generator of ethnic conflict. According to some of them ethnic nationalism, which stems from the feeling of people to have their own states will continue to shape world in the twenty-first century. This scholar argues that ethno-nationalism is a wave of future and will result in more and more independent states.

# Ethnic conflict

- The notion one-nation, one-state is unlikely to prevail. We should realize, that government today are more responsive to their ethnic communities and have more resources at their disposal than the imperial agglomerations. Besides, the achievement of separate sovereignty today depends on external recognition and support. Potential new states cannot gain independence without military assistance and economic aid from abroad. If an ethnic group does not have enough support to win independence by peaceful election inside its country, its only call into question the legitimacy of its quest for independence.

# Ethnic conflict

- The challenge for multiethnic states is to develop political structures that can meet the needs of a diverse population without suppressing any particular cultural, religious or ethnic group. Otherwise minorities can find themselves in an apparently unfavourable position in comparison to other groups. Then there is high probability that they will seek for recognition of their political status and gaining autonomy. In other words, minority groups often confront their state either for greater recognition of their identities or for autonomous spaces.