

Accounting for Civil Wars and Modeling External Intervention

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Abstract

The incidence of civil wars has gradually fallen in the past decade, preceded by a serious escalation in the aftermath of the cold war. At the same time there has been a slackening of the restraints that inhibited third party military intervention, mainly by the veto power of the permanent members in the Security Council. The upsurge in civil wars more than a decade ago has yielded a wealth of studies that do not cover the means of conflict resolution in enough depth and neglects important subjects such as third party intervention and post-war rebuilding. This article tries to fill the gap and introduces external intervention in theoretical models. We outline the main theories on conflicts and discuss the dynamics of interventions aiming to lower the level of hostilities between two competing factions, a government and a rebel movement, by altering the elements underlying the choice between a peaceful settlement and violent conflict.

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