Killing and Protecting Civilians in War

BA Course
Summer semester 2014
17 April – 17 July
Thursday, 4-6pm
Seminarpavillon Westend – SP 1.04

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War has always killed and maimed civilians. In this course we will examine obligations of combatants to avoid civilian casualties, as well as efforts to proactively protect civilians against predatory forces. We look at protection and non-protection primarily from the perspective of International Relations (IR) and security studies, yet draw on insights from other disciplines as well, including international law and moral philosophy. We discuss changing practices in war and implications for civilians; casualty aversion and the related trade-off between force protection and the protection of strangers; the norms of non-combatant immunity, the Protection of Civilians (PoC), and the Responsibility to Protect (R2P); and cultural conditions conducive to the killing or protection of civilians. Empirically, we draw on cases including UN peace operations and NATO’s counterinsurgency in Afghanistan.
Requirements

1. The course language is English.
2. Presence: You can miss no more than two classes, and only with a valid reason.
3. Read the texts before class.
4. Contribute to the debate in class.
5. Take a hard copy of the texts to class (a reader is available for purchase), or have the texts (which can be downloaded from OLAT) on your computer. Not having the texts with you will lead to a lower mark or non-confirmation of participation in the course.
6. Participate in the role-play exercise on 17 July.
7. Students who wish to receive confirmation of participation are only required to give a presentation on one of the topics of the course. Fill in a “Modullaufzettel”, give it to Cornelius Friesendorf on 17 July 2014, and collect the signed and stamped forms at the office of Frau Beate Stein (Office 1.12, Clusterbuilding Campus Westend). You may also take the filled-in forms to Frau Stein’s office later. In this case the forms will be signed during the semester break (if all of the above-mentioned requirements have been fulfilled).
8. To receive more credit points (“Leistungsschein”), give a presentation on one of the topics of the course and write an essay (see the instructions below). Fill in a “Modullaufzettel”, hand it in together with your essay, and collect the signed and stamped forms (which also include the grade) at the office of Frau Beate Stein.

The presentation

- No more than 20 minutes in length, followed by a discussion. Presenters are invited to moderate the discussion.
- Produce a handout of around two pages and email it to all of the participants no later than a week before your presentation.
- Produce copies of your handout and distribute them in class.
- The handout/presentation should include three parts:
  - Analysis/criticism of the texts to be read for class (brief summary, gaps, contradictions, divergent opinions). Here you need to refer to additional material, too (most of which you find in the library, including through electronic databases – searching the Internet is not sufficient). Avoid lengthy summaries of the texts and aim at problem-oriented analysis instead of description;
  - statements/hypotheses for the discussion;
  - a bibliography (that includes the core reading as well as further reading).

The Essay

- Chose a topic and formulate a research question.
- Write an outline (around two pages that includes the tentative structure).
- Once you have written a first draft, think it over, show it to friends/colleagues if possible to get feedback, and revise it. It takes many drafts to organize your ideas and to produce a high-quality essay.
- Discuss your outline with CF during office hours or after class.
Have the essay language-edited by another person; flawed language will lead to a lower grade.

**Deadline: 13 October 2014.** After this date, essays are no longer accepted.

Hand in two hard copies of your essay (email attachments will not be accepted) at Frau Stein's office, put them in the letterbox of CF, or send them by mail

**Format**
- Length: 15 pages (no less than 12, no more than 17), including abstract, footnotes, title page, and bibliography. Essays shorter or longer than this will not be accepted.
- Font: Times New Roman; font size 12; 1.5 space; leave sufficient margins
- Page numbering
- Title page with name, number of words, email address and abstract
- Use footnotes or references in the main text, but no endnotes.

**Introduction**
- Present the topic and stimulate the interest of the reader
- Formulate a question that is of scientific and/or political interest (puzzle)
- The aim is to explain, not to describe
- Why is it important to answer this question?
- Formulate a hypothesis (a preliminary answer to your question)
- Method: How are you going to answer the question (indicators, sources)?
- Define important terms
- Reveal your assumptions
- Tell the reader how you have structured your paper

**Overview of the literature (may be part of the introduction)**
- Which empirical and theoretical literature is pertinent to your topic?
- Is there a scientific and/or political debate on the topic?
- How does your essay speak to this debate?
- Which theories are most suitable for answering your initial question?
- From the theory, derive a hypothesis

**Main part**
- Present your line of argument in different sections
- The titles of the sections should encapsulate the content
- Integrate empirics, theoretical debates, and your hypothesis

**Conclusion**
- Summarize the results of your inquiry
- Do the results confirm or contradict your initial hypothesis?
- Here you may also outline ideas for further research

**Footnotes**
- Use explanatory footnotes sparingly. Important information should be included in the main text, and information that is not important can be omitted. Footnotes generally should only reference sources (if you have opted for footnotes).
- In the footnote, list the author’s name, the date of publication, and the relevant page number.
- The complete reference should be listed in the bibliography.
o The bibliographic details must be complete, i.e. include
  - Name and first name of the author, title of the text, place of publication, and date of publication
  - For book chapters: Name of the editor, chapter pages
  - For journal articles: Name of the journal, volume and issue number, page numbers

Further important points

❖ Beware of plagiarism! All sources must be cited.
❖ The Internet merely complements research in the library – it is not a substitute. “Google bibliographies”, for example, will significantly lower the grade.
❖ Correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation are crucial for allowing the reader to follow your line of thought.
❖ Always keep in mind that you are writing for the reader, not for yourself. Use simple prose. You may want to try and entertain the reader, but avoid polemics. Tell the reader how you proceed. Make the reader happy.
  o Read George Orwell’s essay “Politics and the English Language” (1946), which is available on the Internet or in a good library.

Readings

❖ The syllabus and the texts are available online at
  https://olat.server.uni-frankfurt.de/olat/dmz/
❖ In addition, you can purchase a reader that contains all the essential readings, at CopyBurg Fürstenbergerstraße 168
❖ In case of technical or administrative issues, feel free to email Miranda Loli (mirandaloli@stud.uni-frankfurt.de) or CF (friesendorf@hsfk.de).

Schedule

17 April: Introduction and Course Overview

24 April: Civilians in War

8 May: Norms of War
❖ Theo Farrell: The Norms of War: Cultural Beliefs and Modern Conflict (Lynne Rienner, 2005), Chapter 1.
15 May: Aerial Bombing and Civilians
   ❖ Movie: The Fog of War (after class, participation non-mandatory)

22 May: Casualty Aversion

5 June: Force Protection Versus Civilian Protection in Afghanistan

12 June: Civilians and Just War Theory

26 June: The US 'War on Terror' and Civilians
   ❖ Guest speakers: Ahmad Noor Akhundzada, Thomas Müller, Niklas Schörnig

3 July: German Military Culture and Civilians

10 July: Humanitarian Intervention and UN Peace Operations
Movie: Warriors (after class, participation non-mandatory)

17 July: How to Protect Civilians

- Role-play exercise
- Course critique

Further readings on legal protection obligations