

Ethnic Conflict

Political Science 225
North Dakota State University

Issues in Studying Ethnicity

- Conceptualizing Ethnicity
 - Essentialist
 - Context-dependent
 - Malleable

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- Behavioral Effects
 - Expressive
 - Instrumental
 - Coordination mechanism

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- Conceptualizing Ethnicity
 - Essentialist
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- Behavioral Effects
 - Expressive
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 - Coordination mechanism
- Ethnic Violence
 - Conflict appears common
 - What's the causal relationship?

Example: Zambia



- Ethnically determined patronage ties
- Electoral appeals in ethnic terms

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- Electoral appeals in ethnic terms
- Two dimensions of ethnicity
 - Seventy or so tribes
 - Four linguistic communities

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- Ethnically determined patronage ties
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- Two dimensions of ethnicity
 - Seventy or so tribes
 - Four linguistic communities
- Single-party elections 1972-1991
- Multi-party elections 1991–

Regime Change and Ethnic Cleavages

Independent variable → Dependent variable

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Independent variable	→	Dependent variable
Type of elections		Type of identity activated
One-party vs multiparty		Local vs broad

Causal mechanism:

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Causal mechanism:

- Voters seek resources
- Voters use ethnicity as an information cue
- Voters want to be party of minimum winning coalition
- One-party: focus on local candidate
- Multiparty: candidates represent national coalitions

Research Design

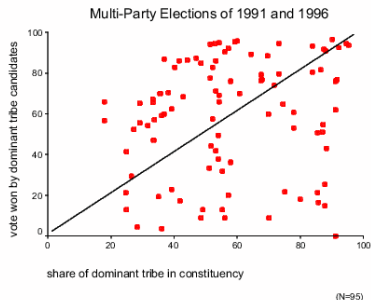
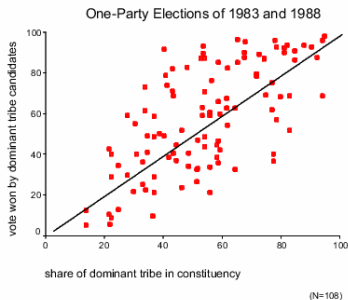
- Look at patterns of ethnic voting before and after democratization
 - One-party elections: 1973, 1978, **1983**, **1988**
 - Multiparty elections: **1991**, **1996**, 2001
- Collect information on:
 - Candidates' tribal backgrounds
 - Parties' linguistic ties
 - Electoral district demographics
 - Focus on rural districts

Testing the Theory: Tribal Voting

Compare level of tribal voting pre and post-reform. What do we expect?

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Testing the Theory: Candidate Performance

Do voters in multiparty system vote along linguistic or tribal lines?
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- Focus on candidates who ran in both 1988 and 1991
- Look at candidate vote share
 - Does belonging to “right” party predict vote share?
 - Does belonging to dominant tribe predict vote share?

Testing the Theory: Candidate Performance

Do voters in multiparty system vote along linguistic or tribal lines?
What do we expect?

- Focus on candidates who ran in both 1988 and 1991
- Look at candidate vote share
 - Does belonging to “right” party predict vote share?
 - Does belonging to dominant tribe predict vote share?
- Find linguistic, but not tribal, effect

Ethnic Cleavages and Civil War

Is there a causal relationship between ethnic cleavages and civil war?

Ethnic Cleavages and Civil War

Is there a causal relationship between ethnic cleavages and civil war?

Independent variable	→	Dependent Variable
Ethnic diversity		Increased probability of civil war
Large minority		

OR

Insurgency-friendly	Increased probability of civil war
Weak state	
Rough terrain	
Cross-border sanctuaries	
Local control	

Causal mechanism?