Domestic Politics and War

Pablo Balán

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The menu

- Housekeeping
- Homework 1. Due next Thursday in lecture! 😞
- Domestic politics and war
HOMEWORK 1
Lake outlines how the bargaining model of war would apply to the Iraq war. In the end, he concludes that the bargaining model is useful, but only to a certain degree. Using the details and arguments that Lake presents, pick one of our three explanations for war (incomplete information + incentives to misrepresent, commitment problems, or indivisibility). Argue why that explanation best explains the outbreak of the Iraq war. Argue why the other explanation does not.
Bargaining theory assumes that states are unitary actors (Lake, 2010).

As Lake (2010) claims, bargaining theory assumes that states are unitary actors.

“Bargaining theory assumes that states are unitary actors” (Lake, 2010: 8)
DOMESTIC POLITICS AND WAR
Gov 40, so far
This paper deals with the often unnoticed practical and theoretical consequences of the anthropomorphic language that we all use when referring to states in terms of (for example) “weak” and “strong” actors who “suffer”, are “honored”, are “humiliated”, have “pride” and aspire to “glory”. Among other consequences, this language obscures the fact that, oftentimes, when a weak state challenges a strong one at a great cost to itself, we are not witnessing an epic of courage […], but rather the sacrifice of the interests, the welfare and sometimes even the lives of multitudes of poor people, to the vanity of their elite. The very fact that this is being obscured biases the value structure of international relations theory, which is not only not value-free, but often has totalitarian values unintendedly built into it.
Leaders and War
Rally ’round the Flag and the BR

**Figure 4.3** Rally Effects and the Bargaining Range

Size of bargaining range: \( a + b \)

- Deals that A prefers to war
- Deals that B prefers to war

(a)
State B’s ideal point \( p - a \) \( p \) \( p + b \) State A’s ideal point

Value of rally, \( r \), added to A’s payoff

(b)
State B’s ideal point \( p \) \( p - a + r \) \( p + b \) State A’s ideal point

Size of bargaining range: \( a + b - r \)
ICA 1: Leaders and War

Question: What type of leaders are more likely to go to war for domestic reasons?

- A. Those who are more secure in office
- B. Those who are less secure in office
Diversionary war

“When Mao Tse-Tung seized control of China, he actually was the head of an organization in which there were in essence 5 armies all of which had been built up by one leader from practically nothing and which were to a considerable extent loyal to that leader. Mao may have been able to deal with this by ordinary methods, but the Korean War gave him a wonderful opportunity. He in essence drafted from each of these armies specific units to send to the Korean War. These units were then rotated back to China on a regular basis, but were not returned to their original army. As a result at the end of the Korean War the 5 major armies had melded into one. Mao was then able to remove the four most important generals from their positions of personal power.” (Tullock, 1971)
War outcome and leaders’ fate

- Big victory boosts your chances of staying in power
- Big losses decreases your chances of staying in power
- For dictators, winning or losing matters less for staying in power
- For dictators, whether they win or lose has a large effect on the probability of being punished
- The risk of forcible (violent) removal from office increases the probability of war
- The risk of regular removal from office decreases the probability of a leader going to war
KIM VS TRUMP

BOTH MANIACS, AND BOTH OBSESSED WITH THEIR HAIR
DEMOCRATIC PEACE
Democratic Peace

Ultimately, the best strategy to ensure our security and to build a durable peace is to support the advance of democracy elsewhere. Democracies don't attack each other. (1994 State of the Union)
Democratic Peace

Democracies don't go to war with each other. And the reason why is the people of most societies don't like war, and they understand what war means.... I've got great faith in democracies to promote peace. And that's why I'm such a strong believer that the way forward in the Middle East...is to promote democracy. (2004 Press Conference)
Democratic Peace

Immanuel Kant
Zum ewigen Frieden
Ein philosophischer Entwurf

HOFENBERG SONDERAUSGABE
Democratic Peace

Number of democracies between 1800-2010\(^\text{1}\)

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Data sources: Polity IV
What have we learned?

▶ Tips for HW1
▶ Domestic politics and war
▶ Democratic peace