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Yale University

Fall 2004  
January 14, 2005

***Research Seminar: Sexual Violence and War***  
***PLSC 720/406***

In this seminar we will analyze patterns of sexual violence in war. While sexual violence occurs to at least some degree in most wars, it occurs to sharply varying extent and in radically different patterns. We will study a number of cases, including Rwanda and Bosnia where sexual violence accompanied ethnic cleansing, Sierra Leone where it included sexual slavery, and the Democratic Republic of Congo where it appears to be a form of punishment, and El Salvador and Sri Lanka where it was relatively limited. We will also examine two well-documented cases of sexual violence in inter-state wars, by the Soviet Army at the end of World War II and the Japanese in Nanjing (1937-38). We will analyze how well the relevant literatures in sociology, political science, criminology, psychology, biology, and gender studies account for these patterns.

Class Meeting: Monday 7:00 - 8:50, 8 Prospect Place, Room 121.

Email: [elisabeth.wood@yale.edu](mailto:elisabeth.wood@yale.edu).

Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30 - 3:30 (sign up on office door), 8 Prospect Place, room 108.

***Course Pre-requisites:***

Undergraduate pre-requisites: senior year; political science or sociology major; Introduction to comparative politics (PLSC 116b) or more advanced course in comparative politics; and permission of instructor. Graduate students: political science PhD candidates; and permission of instructor.

***Course Requirements:*** There will be two written assignments, a case-study (20% of the grade) and a final paper (60%). Each participant will also submit six one-page reviews (10%) of the weekly reading assignments. Participation in class discussion will also count toward the final grade (10%).

***Course Materials:***

Books available for purchase at Book Haven:

Joshua Goldstein. 2003. *War and Gender*. Cambridge University Press

Human Rights Watch. *"We'll Kill You If You Cry" Sexual Violence in the Sierra Leone Conflict*. New York: Human Rights Watch.

Recommended (not required): Susan Brownmiller. *Against Our Will. Men, Women and Rape*. Ballantine Books; Reprint edition 1993

### *Course reading*

September 6. Introduction: explaining the variation in war-time sexual violence

Wood, Elisabeth Jean. 2004. Sexual Violence in War: Explaining Variation. Paper presented to the 2004 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, September 2-5.

September 13. Sexual violence in peace and war

World Health Organization. 2002. Sexual Violence. Chapter 6 of *World Report on Violence and Health*. Geneva: WHO. 148-81

Tobach, Ethel and Rachel Reed. 2003. Understanding rape. In *Evolution Gender and Rape*, ed. by Cheryl Brown Travis, 105-38. MIT.

Benard, Cheryl, 1994. Rape as terror: the case of Bosnia. *Terrorism and Political Violence* 6 (1): 29-43.

Enloe, Cynthia. 2000. When Soldiers Rape. Chapter 4 of *Maneuvers. The International Politics of Militarizing Women's Lives*, 108-52. California.

McDougall, Gay J., 2000. Paragraphs 1-6 and 20-74 (Introduction, Section II Definitions of Crimes, and Section III The Legal Framework) of *Contemporary forms of slavery: systematic rape, sexual slavery and slavery-like practices during armed conflict*. UN Economic and Social Council Committee on Human Rights; Subcommittee on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

Suggested:

Skjelsbaek, Inger, 2001. Sexual violence and war: mapping out a complex relationship. *European Journal of International Relations*. 7(2): 211-238.

Seifert, Ruth, 1996. The second front: the logic of sexual violence in wars. *Women's Studies International Forum* 1996 (1-4); 19:1-2: pp.35-43.

September 20. Opportunistic sexual violence and sexual slavery

Human Rights Watch. 2003. "We'll Kill You if You Cry" *Sexual Violence in the Sierra Leone Conflict*. HRW.

Amowitz, Lynn L. et al. 2002. Prevalence of War-related Sexual Violence and Other Human Rights Abuses Among Internally Displaced Persons in Sierra Leone. *Journal of the American Medical Association* 287(4): 513-21.

Turshen, Meredith. 2001. The political economy of rape. An analysis of systematic rape

and sexual abuse of women during armed conflict in Africa. In Moser, Caroline O.N. and Fiona C. Clark, eds. *Victims, Perpetrators or Actors? Gender, Armed Conflict, and Political Violence*. London and New York: Zed Books. 55-68

Suggested:

Physicians for Human Rights with the support of UNAMSIL. 2002. War-related sexual violence in Sierra Leone: a population based assessment. Boston: PHR.

September 27. Sexual violence as ethnic cleansing and genocide: Bosnia and Rwanda

Barkan, Joanne. 2002. As Old as War Itself: Rape in Foca. *Dissent* Winter:60-66.

United Nations Security Council. 1994. Rape and Sexual Assault. Annex IX of the *Final Report of the United Nations Commission of Experts Established Pursuant to Security Council Resolution 780 (1992)*. S/1994/674

Human Rights Watch. 1996. *Shattered Lives: Sexual Violence During the Rwandan Genocide and its Aftermath*. HRW.

Sharlach, Lisa. 1999. Gender and genocide in Rwanda: women as agents and objects of genocide. *Journal of Genocide Research* 1(3): 387-99.

Hayden, Robert M., 2000. Rape and rape avoidance in ethno-national conflicts: sexual violence in liminalized states. *American Anthropologist*, 2000 102(1):27-41.

Martha C. Nussbaum. 2003. Genocide in Gujarat: The International Community Looks Away. *Dissent* (Summer).

October 4. Sexual violence as torture and punishment

Naimark, Norman M. 1995. Chapters 1 [skim] and 2 of *The Russians in Germany: A History of Occupation, 1945-1949*, 1-140. Belknap Press of Harvard University Press.

Chang, Iris. 2000. The Rape of Nanking. [excerpts from her 1997 book of same title]. In Barstow, Anne Llewellyn. Ed. 2000. *War's Dirty Secret. Rape, prostitution, and other crimes against women*. Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press. 46-56

Human Rights Watch. 2002. *The War Within the War: Sexual Violence Against Women and Girls in Eastern Congo*. HRW.

Pratt, Marion and Leah Wechick. 2004. *Sexual Terrorism: Rape as a Weapon of War in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. An Assessment of programmatic responses to sexual violence in North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema, and Orientale Provinces*. USAID/DCHA Assessment Report.

Bunster-Burotto, Ximena. 1986. Surviving beyond fear: women and torture in Latin

America. In June Nash and Helen Safa, eds., *Women and Change in Latin America*, 297-326. South Hadley, MA: Bergin and Garvey.

Suggested:

Copelon, Rhonda. 2002 [1994]. Surfacing gender: reconceptualizing crimes against women in times of war. Reprinted in Catherine Besteman, ed., *Violence*, 193-207.

October 11. Organizations that do not use rape: the Salvadoran and Tamil insurgents

*Reminder:* 9 am meeting with Sandra Peterson, director of Social Science Library, Mudd Library (38 Mansfield Street, corner of Sachem and Mansfield), 3rd floor, classroom

Cynthia McClintock. 1998. *Revolutionary Movements in latin America. El Salvador's FMLN and Peru's Shining Path*. USIP. Chapter 2 and pps. 265-81 (and associated notes).

Elisabeth Jean Wood. 2003. *Insurgent Collective Action and Civil War in El Salvador*. Cambridge. pps 121-35; 147-59.

Mia Bloom. 2003. Ethnic Conflict, State Terror and Suicide Bombing in Sri Lanka. *Civil Wars*. 6(1): 54-84.

Miranda Alison. 2003. Cogs in the Wheel? Women in the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. *Civil Wars* 6(4): 37-54.

October 18. Explaining sexual violence: perspectives from biology

Goldstein, Joshua A. 2001. Chapters 1-4 of *War and Gender. How Gender Shapes the War System and Vice Versa*, 1-251. Cambridge

Coyne, Jerry A. 2003. Of Vice and Men: A Case study in evolutionary psychology. In *Evolution Gender and Rape*, ed. by Cheryl Brown Travis, 171-89. MIT.

Due Monday 1:00 pm by email to all class participants: case-study memo.

October 25. Explaining sexual violence: perspectives from cross-cultural anthropology

Rozée, Patricia. 1993. Forbidden or forgiven: rape in cross cultural perspective. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*. 17: 499-514.

Due Monday 1:00 pm by email to all class participants: proposal for research paper including initial abstract and bibliography

November 1. Explaining sexual violence: perspectives from gender studies

Susan Brownmiller. 1975. War. Chapter 3 of *Against Our Will. Men, Women and Rape*. Fawcett Books.

Goldstein, Joshua A. 2001. Chapters 5-7 of *War and Gender*, 252-414. Cambridge

Morris, Madeline. 2000. In War and Peace. Rape, war, and military culture. In Anne Llewellyn Barstow, ed., *War's Dirty Secret. Rape, prostitution, and other crimes against women*. 157- 203 Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press. [excerpted from Madeline Morris. 1996. By force of arms: rape, war, and military culture. *Duke Law Journal*. 45(4): 652-782.]

For those presenting November 8: due by 1:00 pm by email to all class participants:  
revised research proposal: abstract, outline, and bibliography

November 8. Student presentations of research paper drafts

Reading: first drafts

For those presenting on November 8: due by 1:00 pm by email to all class participants:  
first draft

For those presenting November 15 and 29: due by 1:00 pm by email to all class participants: revised research proposal: abstract, outline, and bibliography

November 15. Student presentations of research paper drafts

Reading: first drafts

For those presenting on November 15: due by 1:00 pm by email to all class participants:  
first draft

November 29. Student presentations (continued) and course conclusion

Reading: first drafts

For those presenting on November 29: due by 1:00 pm by email to all class participants:  
first draft

Final paper due: December 9 by 10 a.m.