

**IDENTITY POLITICS, NATIONALISM AND CONFLICT**  
**October 3-5, 2025**  
**READING LIST**

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**RELIGION AND CONFLICT**

1. R. Scott Appleby. 2015. “Religious Violence: The Strong, the Weak, and the Pathological,” in Atalia Omer, R. Scott Appleby, and David Little, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Religion, Conflict, and Peacebuilding*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, pp. 32–58.
2. Daniel Byman. 2013. “Fighting Salafi-Jihadist Insurgencies: How Much Does Religion Really Matter?” *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, Vol 36, No. 5: pp. 353-371.
3. Marc Lynch, Jeroen Gunning, and Morten Valbjørn. 2024. “Changing Warscapes, Changing Islamists? Religion, Organization, Strategic Context and New Approaches to Armed Islamist Insurgencies.” *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* (September): pp. 1–24.

**REBEL GROUP FORMATION, POLITICAL MOBILIZATION AND INSURGENCY**

4. Christopher Blattman. 2022. *Why We Fight: The Roots of War and the Paths to Peace*. New York: Viking, pp. 21-48.
5. Janet I. Lewis. 2020. *How Insurgency Begins: Rebel Group Formation in Uganda and Beyond*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 28-60.
6. Kelly M. Greenhill and Ben Oppenheim, 2017. “Rumor Has It: The Adoption of Unverified Information in Conflict Zones.” *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 61, No. 3: pp. 660-676.

**IDEOLOGY, IDENTITY, AND VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

7. Ron E. Hassner. 2016. “Why: Religion as a Cause of War,” in Religion on the Battlefield. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, pp. 3-15, 25-34.
8. Ömer Taspınar. 2020. “Overstating Islam.” In *What the West Is Getting Wrong about the Middle East: Why Islam Is Not the Problem*. I.B. Tauris, pp. 15-56.

9. Marc Lynch. "The Coming Arab Backlash." *Foreign Affairs*, April 22, 2024. <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/israel/coming-arab-backlash>.
10. Ömer Taspınar "Turkish-Saudi Convergence in the New Middle East." *Arab Gulf States Institute*, n.d. Accessed August 25, 2025. <https://agsi.org/analysis/turkish-saudi-convergence-in-the-new-middle-east/>.
11. Alper Coşkun and Sinan Ülgen. "A Reflection on Türkiye's Centennial." Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, November 7, 2023. <https://carnegieendowment.org/posts/2023/11/a-reflection-on-turkiyes-centennial?lang=en>.

## **IDEAS, IDENTITY AND NORMS—A DEEPER DIVE INTO CONSTRUCTIVISM**

12. Thomas U. Berger. 1996. "Norms, Identity, and National Security in Germany and Japan." In Peter J. Katzenstein, ed., *The Culture of National Security: Norms and Identity in World Politics*, New York: Columbia University Press, Chapter 9.

## **INDIA TODAY: MODI, HINDU NATIONALISM, AND THE BJP**

13. Milan Vaishnav. 2024. "The Rise of India's Second Republic." *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 35, No. 3: pp. 38-56.
14. Kapil Komireddi, "My Father's Fate, and India's," *New Yorker*, May 31, 2024.
15. Ashley J. Tellis. 2025. India's Great Power Delusions: How India's Grand Strategy Thwarts its Grand Ambitions," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 104, No. 5 (July/August).

## **EAST AFRICA, THE SAHEL, AND FAMINE IN SUDAN**

16. Alex de Waal. 2025. "Lineages of Genocide in Sudan." *Journal of Genocide Research*, (April): pp. 1–19.
17. "IPC Alert: Famine-Affected Areas in Sudan," Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, July 11, 2025: [https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC\\_Alert\\_Sudan\\_July2025.pdf](https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Alert_Sudan_July2025.pdf).
18. "IPC Famine Factsheet," Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, 2025, <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-website/resources/resources-details/en/c/1152968>.

## UKRAINE AND THE POLITICS OF MEMORY

19. Maria Popova and Oxana Shevel. 2024. *Ukraine and Russia: Entangled Histories, Diverging States*. London, UK: Polity, pp. 20-35, 88-100, 181-184.
20. Georgiy Kasianov. “The War Over Ukrainian Identity,” *Foreign Affairs*, May 4, 2022, pp. 1-10.
21. Mary Ilyushina, “Russia’s New History Textbooks Teach Putin’s Alternate Reality.” *Washington Post*, August 14, 2023:  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2023/08/13/russia-history-textbook-revision-ukraine/>.
22. Filip Ejdus, “Ontological Security and the Politics of Memory in International Relations.” In Maria Mälksoo. ed., *Handbook on the Politics of Memory*, London, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2023, pp. 31-45.

## EXTERNAL INTERVENTION: FOREIGN-IMPOSED REGIME CHANGE AND OTHER RESPONSES TO INTERNAL CONFLICT

23. Alexander B. Downes. 2021. *Catastrophic Success: Why Foreign-Imposed Regime Change Goes Wrong*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell Studies in Security Affairs, pp. 1-39.
24. Colum Lynch. “Inside the UN’s High-Stakes Deal to Open Ukraine’s Grain Corridor.” *Devex*, September 27, 2022, <https://www.devex.com/news/sponsored/inside-the-un-s-high-stakes-deal-to-open-ukraine-s-grain-corridor-104096>.
25. Thant Myint-U. “As the UN Turns 80, Thant Myint-U Argues It Should Be Retooled for a Less Internationalist Age.” *The Economist*, June 17, 2025:  
<https://www.economist.com/by-invitation/2025/06/17/as-the-un-turns-80-thant-myint-u-argues-it-should-be-retooled-for-a-less-internationalist-age>.
26. Michael Barnett. 2013. *Empire of Humanity: A History of Humanitarianism*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, pp. 161-219.