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978-1-107-02555-4 - Waves of War: Nationalism, State Formation, and Ethnic Exclusion in the Modern World

Andreas Wimmer

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## *Waves of War*

Why did the nation-state emerge and proliferate across the globe? How is this process related to the wars fought in the modern era? Analyzing datasets that cover the entire world over long stretches of time, Andreas Wimmer focuses on changing configurations of power and legitimacy to answer these questions. The nationalist ideal of self-rule gradually diffused over the world and delegitimized empire after empire. Nationalists created nation-states wherever the power configuration favored them, often at the end of prolonged wars of secession. The elites of many of these new states were institutionally too weak for nation building and favored their own ethnic communities. Ethnic rebels challenged such exclusionary power structures in violation of the principle of self-rule, and neighboring governments sometimes intervened into these struggles over the state. *Waves of War* demonstrates why nation-state formation and ethnic politics are crucial to understand the civil and international wars of the past 200 years.

ANDREAS WIMMER is Hughes-Rogers Professor of Sociology and Faculty Associate in Politics at Princeton University. His research is aimed at understanding the dynamics of nation-state formation, ethnic boundary making, and political conflict from a comparative perspective. He is the author of *Nationalist Exclusion and Ethnic Conflict: Shadows of Modernity* (Cambridge University Press, 2002) and his articles have been published by the *American Journal of Sociology*, the *American Sociological Review*, *World Politics*, *Sociological Theory*, and *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, among others. Professor Wimmer's work has won best article awards from the Comparative Historical, Political, Cultural, Mathematical, and Theory sections of the American Sociological Association, the Thyssen Prize for Best Article in the Social Sciences, and the Anatol-Rapoport-Prize from the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Soziologie*.

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Contents

<i>List of figures</i>	<i>page</i> viii
<i>List of tables</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	x
1 Introduction and summary	1
2 The birth of the nation	37
3 The global rise of the nation-state	73
4 Nation-state formation and war	108
5 Ethnic politics and armed conflict	143
6 Can peace be engineered?	174
7 Conclusions	197
<i>Appendices</i>	206
<i>Bibliography</i>	297
<i>Index</i>	318

Figures

1.1	Empires, nation-states, and other types of polities, 1816–2001	<i>page</i> 2
1.2	The ethno-nationalization of war, 1816–2001	3
1.3	How the balance of power affects the likelihood of nation-state formation (in %)	23
1.4	The big picture: nation-state formation and war since 1816	25
1.5	Ethnic civil wars in independent states since 1945: a disaggregated approach	30
2.1	Types of alliance systems in modernizing states	45
2.2	State centralization, mass mobilization, and alliance systems in three different model universes	61
3.1	A power-configurational model of nation-state formation	82
3.2	The global spread of the nation-state, 1816–2001	88
4.1	A stylized model of institutional change and war	121
4.2	Rates of war relative to imperial incorporation and nation-state creation (ten-year moving averages)	126
4.3	Nation-state creation and types of war (ten-year moving averages with 95 percent confidence intervals)	128
4.4	Predicted probabilities of civil and inter-state wars in years before/after nation-state creation	135
5.1	Types of ethnic conflict	151
7.1	Synopsis: nation-state formation and war	198



Tables

2.1	Control and interest distributions in empires and in the strong scenario	<i>page</i> 58
2.2	Control and interest distributions under the weak scenario	60
2.3	Actors' preferences over alliance systems under the weak and strong scenarios	62
3.1	Explaining nation-state creation (logit analysis)	96
3.2	Does context matter? Logit analysis with sub-samples and additional covariates	103
4.1	A new war typology	125
4.2	Explaining the outbreak of civil war (logit analysis)	134
4.3	Explaining the outbreak of wars between states (logit analysis)	138
5.1	The conflict dataset	160
5.2	The big picture: ethnic exclusion and armed conflict (logit analysis)	164
5.3	The disaggregated view: explaining different types of ethnic conflict (multinomial logit analysis)	168
6.1	Democracy and exclusion: which influences what?	178
6.2	Political institutions and ethnic conflict (logit analyses)	181
6.3	Political institutions and infighting (Columns 1) and rebellion (Columns 2) (multinomial logit analyses)	186

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Acknowledgments*

xi

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