PACS 17. CONFLICT RESOLUTION II [3 CREDITS]

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The beginning of twenty-first century witnessed a shift in the way conflict resolution is visualised, imagined and practiced. Moving away from traditional practices – military intervention, diplomacy, negotiation – peace practitioners and scholars now focus their lens on ‘soft’ techniques of the state, termed as nonviolent transformation of conflict. Some of these soft techniques are business (economic development), tourism and self-government. This course will introduce to students debates surrounding these ‘soft policies’ and examine burgeoning new scholarship on these themes. The overarching frame within which these policies will be located is the (im)possibility of looking at these techniques as nonviolent conflict resolution. Can we really think of tourism and business as nonviolent? How do we understand commodification of culture, trafficking and land alienation tied to business and tourism industry? One of the key concerns of this course would be to delve into these questions by looking at tourism, business and peace accords in Northeast India.

Course objectives
a. The students should be able to understand the diverse ‘indirect’ practices that the State employs, in order to bring about conflict resolution.
b. The students will do a critical reappraisal of these soft policies and interrogate the ways in which these they impact the society.
c. The students will be exposed to the fast changing socio-political realities, particularly in areas like the Northeast India, which has witnessed long duration of conflict.

Method of Teaching: lectures

Modes of assessment:
Reading assignments 20
Research Paper 30
End Semester examination 50

Course contents
1. CONFLICT RESOLUTION: ‘SOFT' POLICIES

[This unit will trace and untangle the shift from ‘hard’ to ‘soft’ policies of conflict resolution. The ‘shift’ does not necessarily mean that states have abandoned hard policies for soft polices, rather it denotes the emergence of a certain orthodoxy that has come to dominate scholarly attention and advocacy. Therefore, the objective here will be to introduce students to this new orthodoxy and unpack its diverse claims and justifications]


2. THE BUSINESS OF PEACE: PEACE THROUGH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

[This section will engage with the relationship between economic development and peace – how economic development is conceptualised, and is defended and justified as instrument for peace and conflict resolution? By taking up such themes as business and human right, and the business of peacebuilding students will reflect on the uneasy links between business, conflict and human rights]

Readings


PRIF Reports No. 84: Bad Guys, Good Guys or Something in Between: Corporate governance contribution in zones of violent conflict, Peace Research Institute Frankfurt, 2008.


3. TOURISM, COMMODITY CULTURE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

[As part of the continuing discussion on development and conflict resolution, this unit will look into the intricacies of the connections between tourism, conflict and peace. By taking cases from across the globe, where tourism has been used to promote peace, an attempt will be made to tease out the structural violence inherent into these knotted seams. The overarching question will be: How does one evaluate tourism in the context of commodification of ‘cultures’ and ‘lives’ as ‘authentic’/ ‘exotic’ for the consumption by ‘other’ in the global network of capitalist spaces and flows?]

Readings
Lynda-Ann Blanchard and Freya Higgins-Desbiolles (eds), Peace Through Tourism: Promoting human security through international citizenship, Routledge, 2013
Nuwan Herath, “Peace through Tourism”, in www.beyondintractability.com March 2010

4. CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN NORTHEAST INDIA - I

[This unit will be taught in the form of workshops on themes such as peace accords, autonomy and local self government]

5. CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN NORTHEAST INDIA - II

[This unit will also be taught in the form of workshops on themes (a) Proliferation of sex industry in northeast India, (b) Human trafficking, (c) Outmigration of Northeast youth, (d) Ethnic reengineering]

Further readings
Ian Smillie, Lansana Gberie and Ralph Hazleton, The Heart of the Matter: Sierra Leone, Diamonds and Human Security, PAC 2000
Taisier M Ali and Robert O Mathews (eds), *Civil Wars in Africa: Roots and Resolution*, McGill-Queen’s University Press, 1999


Report

*The Price of Oil: Corporate Responsibility and Human Rights Violations in Nigeria’s Oil Producing Communities*, Human Right Watch, 1999