

POLS 227

Africa in World Politics

Classes 20 and 21:
Political protest and violence

Tools of the powerful

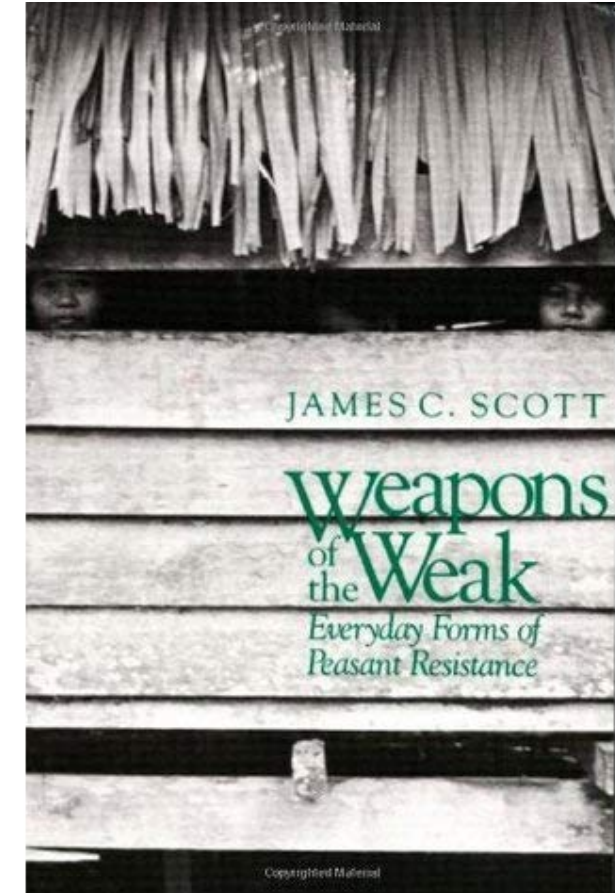
- Extraversion
- Politics of pork
- Populism
- Politics of identity
- Xenophobia
- Politics of sex
- State coercion / repression

Kahoot!

How can societies counteract
the tools of the powerful?

Weapons of the weak

- James C. Scott
- Everyday acts of the subaltern:
 - Foot-dragging, sarcasm, passivity, laziness, slander, misunderstandings, disloyalty, avoidance, theft
- Everyday forms of rural class conflict in Malaysia
- Infrapolitics
 - Scott, James C. 1985. *Weapons of the Weak: Everyday Forms of Peasant Resistance*. New Haven: Yale University Press.



Other weapons of the weak

- Political protest and violence
- International human rights regime
- Nonviolent resistance and valence issues
- Democracy and democratization

This week

- Political protest
- Political violence

Political protest: the case of the United States — 2017 Women's March



Political protest: the case of the United States — 2017 Women's March



To what phenomena did the
Women's March respond?

Political protest: the case of the United States — Black Lives Matter

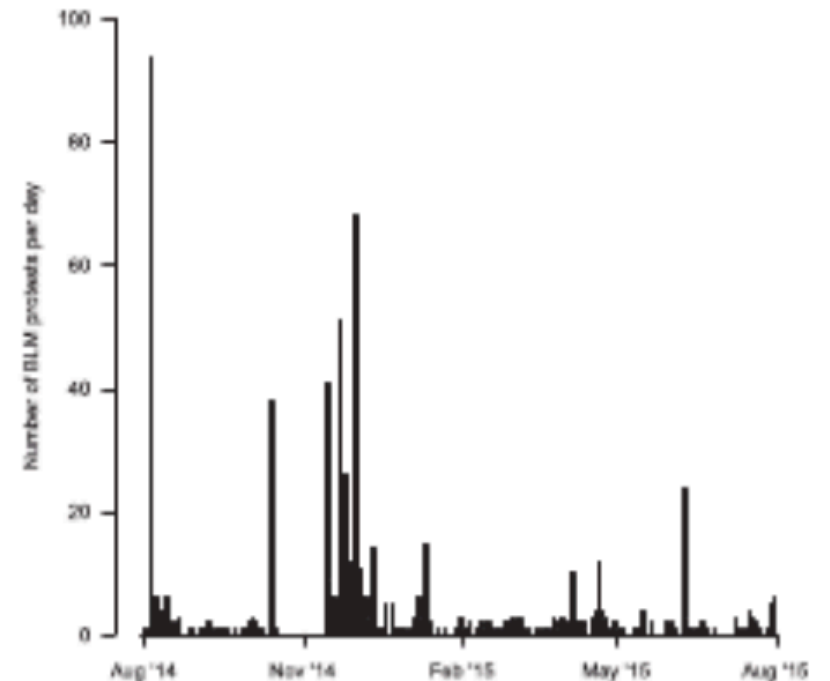


To what phenomena does
Black Lives Matter respond?

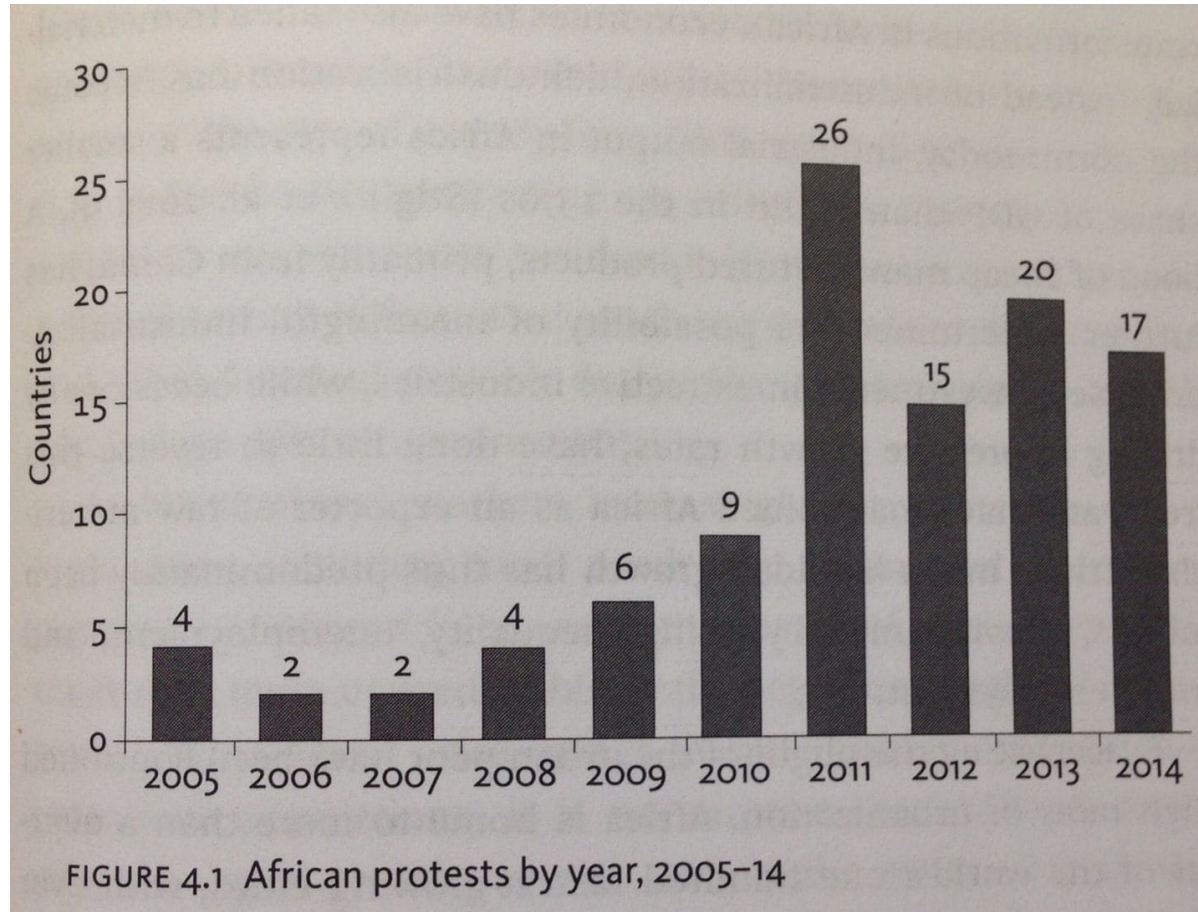
Political protest: the case of the United States—Black Lives Matter

- Williamson et al.:
 - 780 Black Lives Matter protests in 44 states and 223 localities
 - Association between Black Lives Matter protests and previous killings of black people by police
 - Williamson, Vanessa, Kris-Stella Trump, and Katherine Levine Einstein. 2018. "Black Lives Matter: Evidence That Police-Caused Deaths Predict Protest Activity." *Perspectives on Politics* 16 (2): 400–415.

Figure 1
Over-time frequency of Black Lives Matter protests



Political protests in Africa



Political protest: the case of Sudan

- Sudanese Revolution:
 - Sustained civil disobedience since December 2018
 - Coup d'état and Bashir's deposition in April 2019
 - Khartoum massacre, June 2019, perpetrated by the Rapid Support Forces, comprised of the Janjaweed, and commanded by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (Hemetti)
 - Transition to democracy agreed by the military and democratic forces, August 2019

Political protest: the case of Sudan



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=48oLq86AIAk>

Political protest: the case of Uganda



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=85tCMUQR810>

Political protest: the case of Uganda

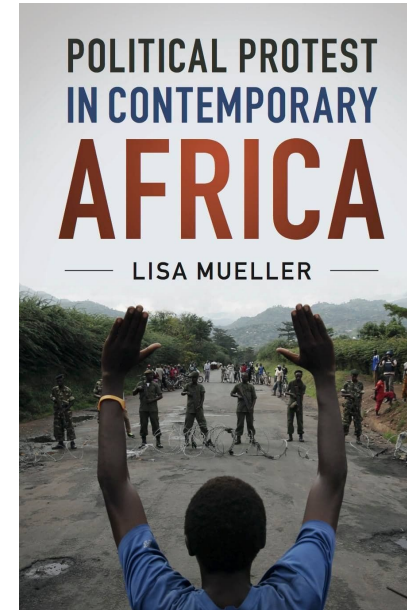


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gdDwVfwE1EU>

What could explain the different outcomes (to date) of political protests in Sudan and Uganda?

Political protest in Africa according to Lisa Mueller

- Drivers:
 - Political grievances among the middle class → incidence of protests
 - Material grievances among the poor → participation in protests
 - Mueller, Lisa. 2018. *Political protest in contemporary Africa*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.



To what extent can
explanations of protests
in Africa account for those
in the United States?

Political protest: the case of Cameroon

- Anglophone disaffection with President Biya's rule →
- Protests →
- Escalation →
- Widespread violence →
- Brink of civil war

Political violence: the case of Cameroon



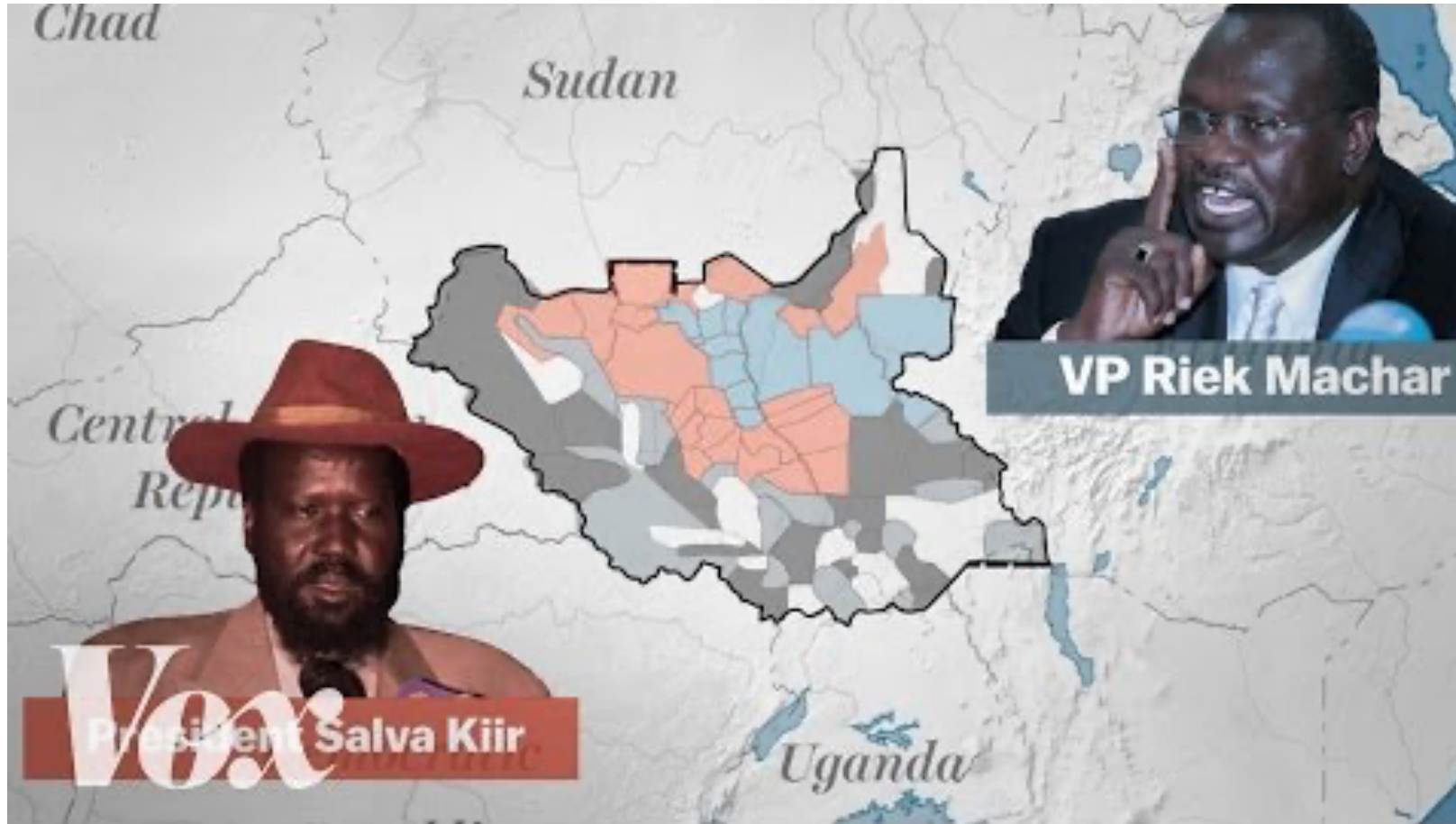
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICHJB1vQ-TU>

Political violence: the case of South Sudan

- Two Sudanese civil wars:
 - 1955-1972
 - 1983-2005
- Independence of South Sudan, 2011
- Kleptocracy
- Conflict between President Salva Kiir and Vice President Riek Machar
- Civil war, 2013-

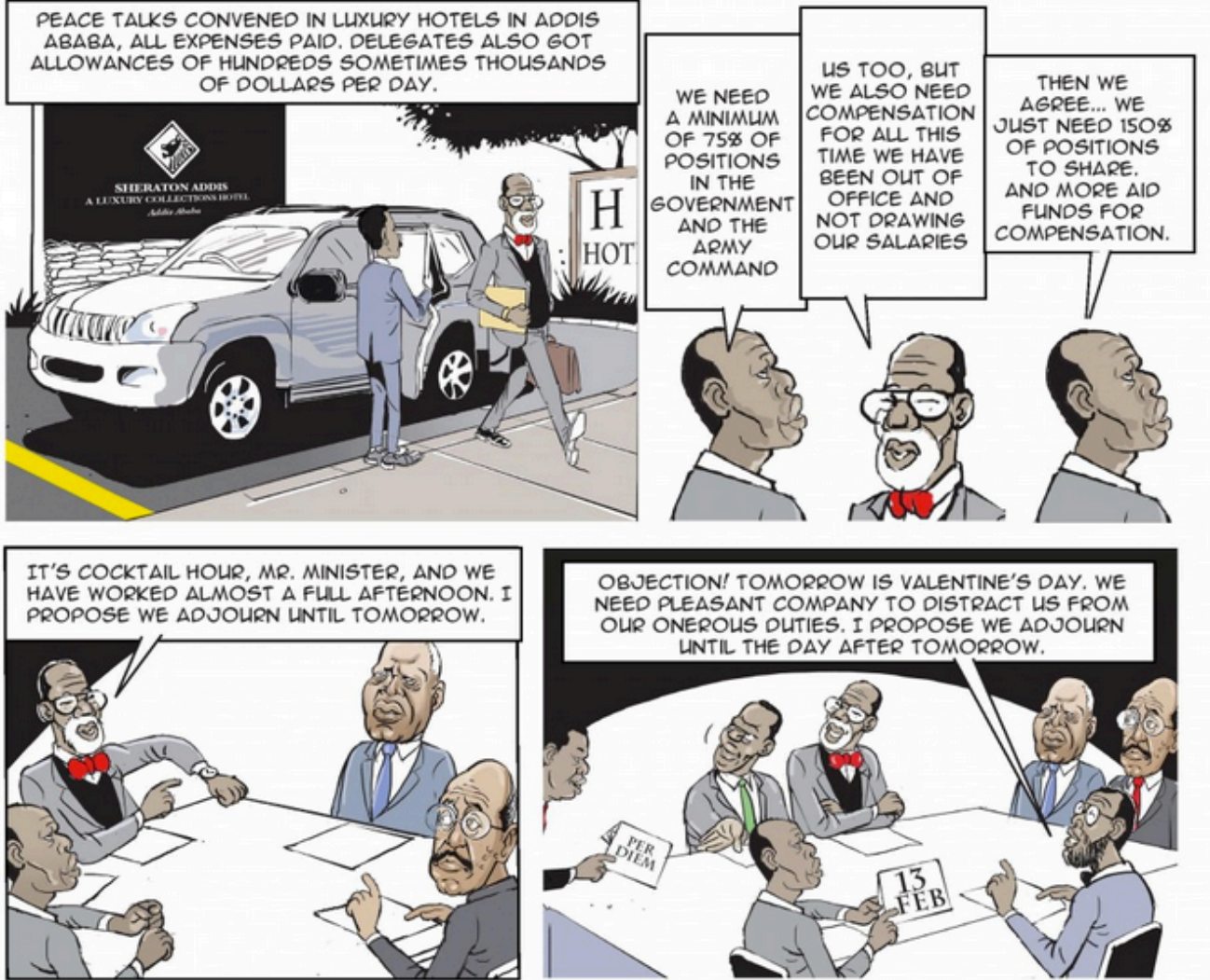


Political violence: the case of South Sudan



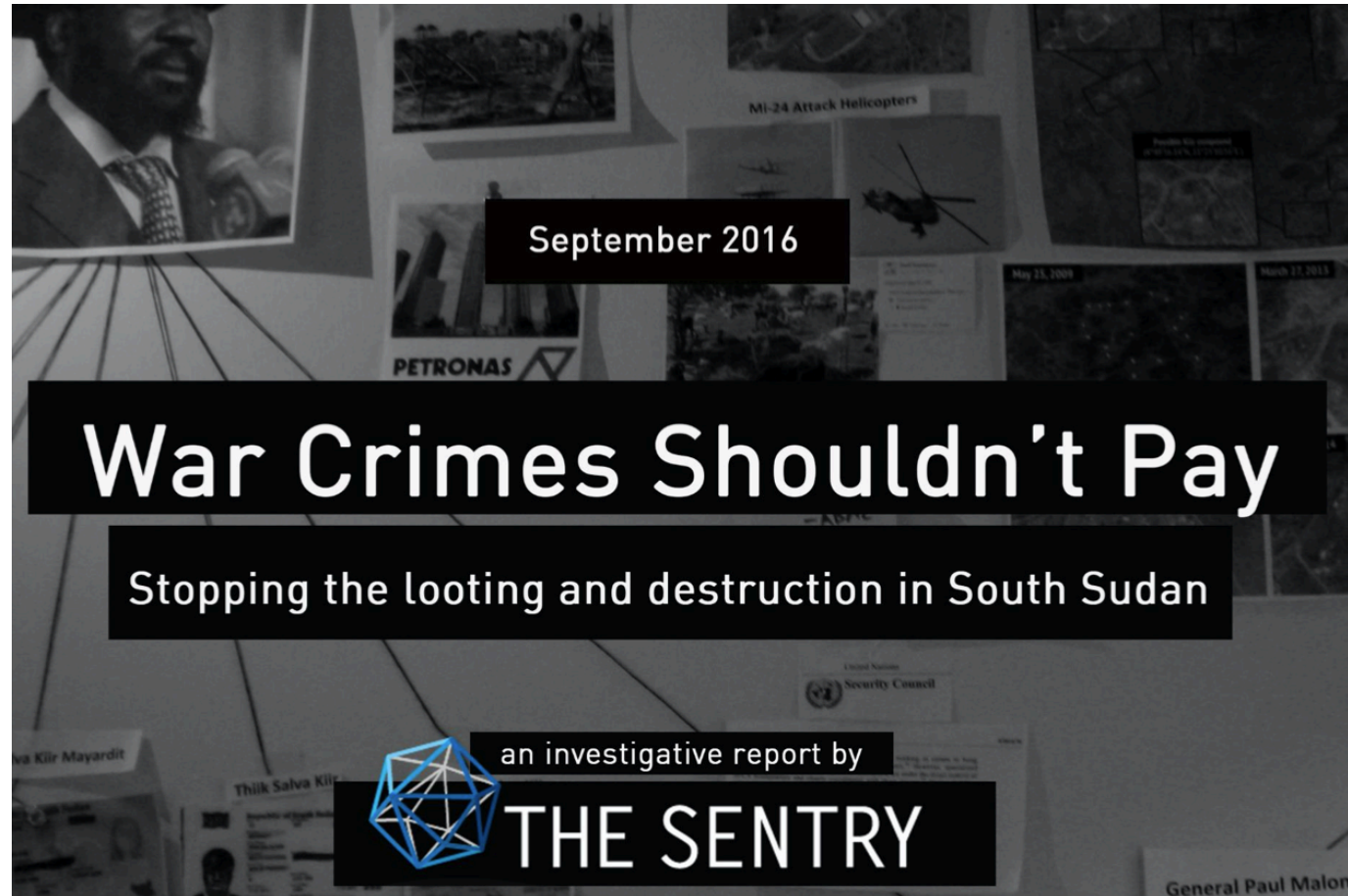
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LkWldwFdTPo>

Political violence: the case of South Sudan



African Arguments, "South Sudan: The price of war, the price of peace – a graphic story." <https://africanarguments.org/2016/02/05/south-sudan-the-price-of-war-the-price-of-peace-a-graphic-story/>

Political violence: the case of South Sudan



The Sentry. 2016. "War Crimes Shouldn't Pay: Stopping the Looting and Destruction in South Sudan."

What is Walter's explanation of repeat civil wars such as the one in South Sudan?

Repeat civil wars according to Walter

- Repeat civil wars more likely where government elites are unaccountable to the public, where the public does not participate in political life, and where information is not transparent
- Lack of trust between combatants
- Need for institutional accountability, a.k.a. good governance:
 - Legal checks on the executive
 - Democracy
 - Free media



• Walter, Barbara F. 2015. "Why Bad Governance Leads to Repeat Civil War." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 59 (7): 1242–72.

Political violence: the case of Uganda

- Museveni's victory in the Bush War, 1986
- Northern, esp. Acholi disaffection → rebellion in the North
- Lord's Resistance Army and Joseph Kony



ETHNOGRAPHIC UGANDA



Based on Minority Rights Group International's 'Ethnic Groups and Tribes of Uganda', Uganda: The Marginalization of Minorities (2001). Boundaries are not definitive but are intended to show traditionally inhabited areas.

Political violence: the case of Uganda



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vrrva2aKW1IU>

Consequences of political violence: the case of Uganda



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7CzhcFmTLM>

What effects has the war in Northern Uganda had on child soldiers according to Blattman and Annan?

Consequences of child soldiering according to Blattman and Annan

- Rebel participation random because of forced recruitment by the LRA
 - 60,000-80,000 youth abducted in Acholi
- Effects:
 - Human capital loss:
 - Schooling reduced by a year
 - Skilled employment halved
 - Earnings reduced by a third
 - Psychological stress

