

Conflict, Greed and Grievance in sub-Saharan Africa

ABSTRACT

In a seminal article titled Greed and Grievance in civil war, Collier and Hoeffler (2004) developed two econometric models, namely the opportunity and grievance models, to test competing theoretical hypotheses concerning the determinants of intrastate armed conflict - greed versus grievance. This paper re-estimates these two models using logit regression analysis on a newly constructed panel dataset of conflict onsets - and their theoretically-informed correlates - for countries in the sub-Saharan Africa over the period 1960-2010. Upon finding that a model which combines these two models is superior in its explanatory power to either of the two models taken singly, a process of step-wise elimination of insignificant variables is conducted to arrive at a baseline regression of only statistically significant predictors of conflict onset in the region. Overwhelmingly, the baseline regression obtained reflects the importance of indicators of grievance in explaining outbreaks of civil war in sub-Saharan Africa.