



AFRICA CENTER
FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

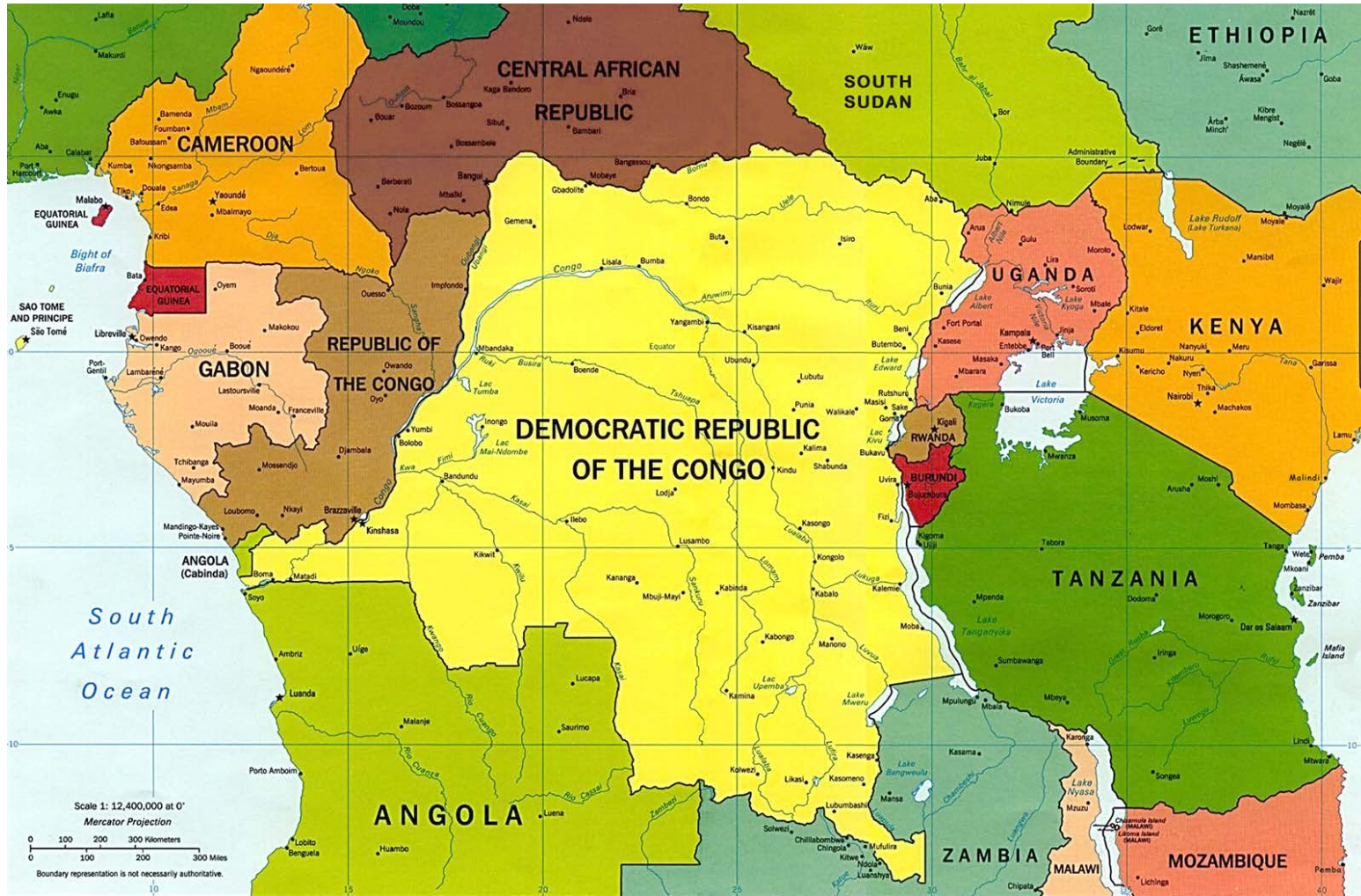
Session 1: Ethnicity, Governance and Stability in East and Central Africa

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Central Africa



What is Ethnicity?

Identity with or membership in a particular racial, national, or cultural group and observance of that group's customs, beliefs, and language.

Historical Background

- Colonization and Legacy
- French, Portuguese, Belgian and British Approaches to the region
- The Independence Movement
- The Cold War
- Regional Cooperation

Ethnicity, Religion and Race

Ethnicity intersects with Race and Religion

Example 1:

Darfuris vs. Janjaweed

Both groups are Sudanese, Muslims and Black

But Janjaweed claim to be Arab.

Example 2:

Muslim refers to religion while Arab is an ethnicity. Although most Arabs are Muslims, 63 percent of Arab American are Christians, 24 percent are Muslim and 13 percent belong to another religion or practice no particular faith. (Zogby International Survey, 2002)

Ethnicity, Governance and Conflict

- Does Ethnicity cause conflict?
- Traditional school of thought holds that ethnic nationalism is the root cause of conflict.
- Another school of thought holds that ethnically diverse countries no more prone to conflict than others. (Fearon)

National Identity, Ethnicity and Citizenship

- Land, Languages and Power
- Identity Formation and Citizenship
- Realities and Perceptions
- Ethnicity as Obstacle to Peace

Social Contract

- Ethnicity in and of itself is not the cause of conflict.
- Ethnicity can fuel conflict when the social contract fails and segments of society:
 1. Feel discriminated against
 2. Harbor grievances
 3. Feel excluded or marginalized
 4. Do not benefit from economic growth

Overview of Regional Geopolitics

- The Rwandan Genocide
- Burundian Conflict
- DR Congo and State Dysfunction
- Central African Republic
- Republic of Congo
- Regional Actors and their Influence on Peace and Stability
- The Role of International Actors and Donors

Safeguards of Stability

- Opening of Political Space
- Freedom of the Press
- Transparent Management of Resources
- Equal Access to Institutions
- The Role of the State
- Civil Society Engagement
- Human Security vs. State Security

Reconstruction and State Re-Building

- Constitution-Making
- Problematizing Liberation and Democratization
- Strongmen vs. Strong Institutions

How Do External Partners Help Foster Stability?

- Acknowledge and account for ethnic diversity and its value for stability
- Cooperation policy ought to insist on equity among national stakeholders
- Approach the region with a long-term view of stability and peace
- Avoid the expediency of taking sides
- Integrate legitimacy, good governance and democracy as part of engagement

**QUESTIONS/
COMMENTS?**



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