



Background

- At any time, a great number of intra-state conflicts occur in the world.
- Multinational/pluralist societies are more vulnerable to inter-group conflict.
- Inter-group conflict is most intense and violent between those who are particularly deprived – socially and economically, i.e. lower working classes.
- Working class people remain strongly divided along national lines: high group cohesion/segregation, on the political level expressing itself in the modes of governance, political representation and organization around the national blocs.

➤ *Conflicting national identities and socio-economic and class inequalities have not only a major impact on the generation and maintenance of conflict, but interact and reinforce each other.*

➤ *The argument is that a way out of these conflicts seems impossible, unless both issues – and their inter-relations – are truly explored and meaningfully addressed –academically as well as at civil society and elite/governance level.*

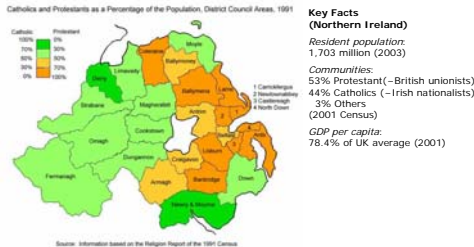


Research Objectives and Questions

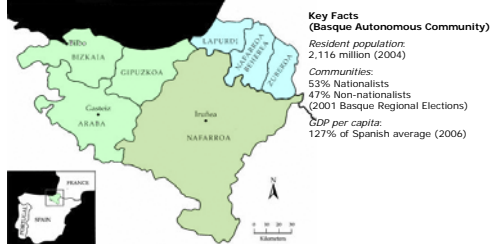
➤ The *primary objective* is to explore the perspectives for a just and stable settlement of conflict in divided societies characterized by conflicting national identities and socio-economic inequality.

➤ 3 case studies will be explored:

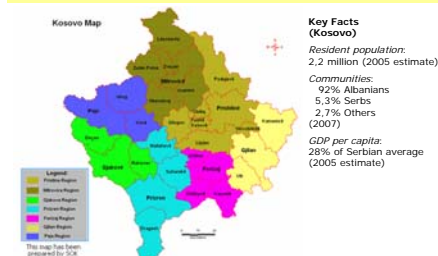
- *Northern Ireland*



- *Basque Country*



- *Kosovo*



➤ Reasons for case studies selection:

- substantial differences in terms of actual form, intensity and objectives; and
- considerable similarities in terms of strong inter-group cleavages, radicalized/violent struggle for power/recognition, contested constitutional status, divergent conceptions of justice/rule of law, presence of cross-border nationalisms, etc.

➤ The *main research questions* are:

1. How important is the national identity question for the working classes of each national group?
2. How important are issues of class and socio-economic inequality for each working class community?
3. How do these national and class/socio-economic inequality dimensions interact?
4. What are the perspectives of justice for each working class community in relation to both national identity and class/inequality issues?
5. What are the dynamics of political transformation and changes in the form of governance and their interplay with civil society?



Theoretical Framework

The approaches informing the research include theories of

- national identity/nationalism;
- multiculturalism;
- class;
- justice and equality
- governance, the state and political transformation
- civil society, repression, mobilization and civil disobedience.



Research Design and Methodology

The research will involve:

- a comprehensive and systematic analysis of the relevant literature related to the three conflict societies.
- a combined approach drawing on analyses of both quantitative statistical and survey data and (primary/secondary) qualitative research



Researcher

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