

Chapter 10 Civil War and Rule of Law

Abstract

Chapter 10 argues that when a minority group (defined in terms of ethnicity, religion, and/or political ideology) has the opportunity to resolve its grievances non-violently by way of an impartial justice system, members of the group are less likely to develop feelings of hopelessness and bitterness which, ultimately, cause some individuals to resort to political violence as the only conceivable avenue through which they can hope to challenge the government. Therefore, a rule of law system that is perceived as legitimate by those it serves may help prevent minority groups from turning to violent rebellion; presumably, such a state is less likely to experience civil war.