



Discourses

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

From the Chair

David Cameron

Let me begin by referring you to **Stefan Dupré's** finely grained appreciation of Ted Hodgetts, our emeritus colleague, who passed away recently in his early nineties. Many of you will know Professor Hodgetts as the co-author, with Alex Corry, of *Democratic Government and Politics*. Indeed, those of you of a certain age may well have been taught with that text; as I recall, it was the only book used in my first course on Canadian politics at the University of British Columbia, and it still graces my book shelf. Ted was a majestic figure in the scholarly study of public administration in Canada, and contributed on countless occasions to the effort to improve public-service practice in this country. He made an incalculable contribution to Canadian public life, and, as Steve Dupré points out, remained active in his field to the end of his days.

Lilach Gilady in these pages

makes an eloquent case for the importance of film in the teaching of political science, arguing that learning to 'read' films critically is or should be a normal part of the curriculum, certainly in her area of specialization, international relations. In case you were wondering where to turn to start your cinematic education in international relations, Lilach offers a top-10 list of IR movies. Using the Ruby Dhalla events of May 2009, **Ethel Tungohan** explores the fraught relationship between race and cultural identity on the one hand and social and political inclusion in Canada on the other. Ethel examines the subtle ways in which social and political identities are constructed in Canada's pluralistic society.

Khalid Ahmed, revisiting his country of origin, Sudan, after an absence of 10 years, reflects on the tangle of reasons and interests that lie

behind the decision of the International Criminal Court to issue a warrant for the arrest of Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, and the reactions this decision has occasioned in Africa. Finally, **Phil Triadafilopoulos** speaks of the distinctive challenge of teaching as a political scientist in the recently established School of Public Policy and Governance. The School's two-year Masters degree is a professional program designed to improve the theoretical understanding and practical skills of public servants or those who aspire to work in the public service; the students have diverse background preparation and are challenged to sort out how to apply what they learn.

Altogether, an interesting roster of ideas and information, which I hope you will enjoy.



J.E. “Ted” Hodgetts, 1917-2009

J.S. “Steve” Dupré

If I am writing an intensely personal memoir of our late emeritus colleague, Ted Hodgetts, this is because I cannot do otherwise. To begin with our names, the Hobbesian dynamics of the schoolyard long ago guaranteed that J. Edwin must be Ted and J. Stefan, Steve. Well after our respective schoolyards, Ted first touched my life more than half a century ago. His Democratic Government and Politics, co-authored with the iconic J. Alex Corry, was already a staple of undergraduate instruction when I was attending the University of Ottawa in the early 1950s. I later viewed his Pioneer Public Service: An Administrative History of the United Canadas as an extraordinary scholarly achievement.

As I was joining our Department in 1963, I took due note of the fact that Ted has been “holding the pen” for the federal Glassco Commission on Government Organization with the title of Editorial Director. This being so, I chose that title to describe my own role with the Smith Committee on Taxation in Ontario.

I have always believed that departmental excellence rests on predatory behaviour in making professorial appointments. Ted gave every appearance of being a Queen’s man to the core, but nothing ventured, nothing gained. As I prepared to play my own role in enticing him to leave Kingston, I discovered to my delight that he

had graduated from the University of Toronto as a Gold Medalist in the Class of 3T9. Armed with this juicy morsel, I could tell Ted that far from deserting Queen’s, he would be coming home.

In 1965 his homecoming was consummated and our Department for the next seventeen years enjoyed a superb colleague with whom I had the privilege of co-teaching graduate courses and who places us at centre stage in Ottawa as a member of the Lambert Royal Commission on Financial Management and Accountability. Here too was a colleague who devotedly promoted our federated University’s grand tradition of the liberal arts by serving as Principal (1967-1970) then President (1970-1972) of Victoria College and University.

To my consternation, I discovered when Ted retired in 1982 that he was leaving Toronto. His darling wife Ruth, who predeceased him in 1992, had remained steadfastly attached to Kingston. So Ted returned to his erstwhile Queen’s colleagues and acquired a Queen’s e-mail address. There would of course be no holding him back from writing, teaching (Dalhousie), or remaining the consummate academic practitioner of public administration. In the latter capacity he was involved as recently as 2005-2006 in tendering advice to the Gomery Commission of Inquiry into the Sponsorship Program and Related Activities.

Ted’s many honours included the Order of Canada, fellowship in the Royal Society of Canada, the Vanier Medal of the Institute of Public Administration of Canada and five honorary degrees. The fifth of these degrees was described in Ted’s Death Notice in the Globe and Mail as the one that “was perhaps the most meaningful to him.” It was from the University of Toronto, and is the one I consider profoundly questionable. Why did our very own University wait until last spring to give him the honour he so richly deserved? Whatever the answer, Ted addressed our 2008 Convocation, in his 91st year, with his usual verve.

As for our personal interaction, it continued to flourish thanks to my current role as the Book Review Editor of Canadian Public Administration. We were chatting on the phone as recently as the end of last February. Other than to mention that he was not feeling particularly well, Ted said nothing about the condition that took his life a scant ten weeks later. We were discussing his review of *Defending A Contested Ideal: Merit and the Public Service Commission*. This is the centennial history of the PSC for which Ted, as the co-author of the volume celebrating the Commission’s 60th anniversary, was the ideal reviewer. Ted did not live to vet his final pre-print proof. His review was published shortly before this issue of *Discourse* appeared.

In Praise of the “Talking Picture”

Lilach Gilady

Robert McNamara, one of the most controversial and influential figures of the latter half of the twentieth century, passed away on July 6, 2009. For most students (and many faculty members) who grew up in the post-Vietnam era, McNamara was an historical figure, one of those countless names one encounters in dry, factual history books. In fact, in most media coverage his death was a secondary footnote to the more sensational and urgent coverage of the hoopla surrounding the death of Michael Jackson (yet another controversial figure, albeit for completely different reasons). Most viewers who are not history- or policy-buffs would have likely skipped this not-too-exciting piece of news in favor of more

important existential questions, such as “What ever happened to ‘Bubbles’ the chimp?” or “Who should get custody over Michael Jackson’s children?”

A pass-off reaction to McNamara’s death is less likely for anyone who has ever sat through a screening of Errol Morris’ award winning documentary, *The Fog of War*, which offers a complex and sometimes disturbing account of McNamara and his past. By critically examining issues such as the fire-bombing of Japanese cities during WWII, or the process of decisions that led to the Vietnam War, the film uncovers a man struggling to come to terms with his past while always stopping one step short of accepting responsibility. The film plucks McNamara the figure out of the dusty pages of our history books and turns him into a flesh-and-blood human being, palatable

An International Relations Film List

Daniel Drezner and Stephen Walt recently duelled over their competing lists of top 10 movies on international relations in their respective *Foreign Policy* blogs. Compiling such a list is obviously an exercise in compromise as there are many great films which inevitably do not make the ‘top ten’ list. Since there are no set criteria as to what makes a great IR film, these lists also almost always lead to endless debates as to why certain films failed to get included. Below is my modest rejoinder to the rampant list-making endeavor. It is not a list of the best films ever, and is better described as a list of ten good films that say something interesting about important topics in international relations. In compiling the list I focused only on fiction (excluding documentaries such as *The Fog of War*, which I mentioned above), tried to include both classic as well as recent films, and sought some diversity in the geographic origin of the selections.

1. *Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb* (1964): I never promised to offer very original selections. This is considered one of the best comedies of all time, and for good reason. It is difficult to think of any text that can capture the many issues surrounding deterrence theory during the Cold War with more poignancy than this classic.

2. *The Battle of Algiers* (1966): Yet another classic (and not too original) selection. In 2003 the Pentagon held a special screening of this movie, promising to show “How to win a battle against terrorism and lose the war of ideas... The French have a plan. It succeeds tactically, but fails strategically. To understand why, come to a rare showing of this film.” Given the many



A scene from Akira Kurosawa’s classic, *Rashomon*.

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and memorable. Students who have seen the documentary are more likely to know who McNamara is, and may retain this knowledge well past their final exams.

Movies such as *The Fog of War* can, therefore, serve as effective teaching aids. If we take in earnest the cliché that a picture is worth a thousand words, then a moving and talking picture should be worth many more. Films are designed to be, for the most part, memorable and accessible; they seek to translate complex realities into digestible scenes. They target our senses, minds, and emotions. Good films are made by professionals who excel in achieving these goals. And very few university lectures can do this with equal aplomb.

This is, of course, not to suggest that films should replace our lectures. Movies cannot and were not meant to systematically and lucidly explore complex theoretical concepts. A film cannot replace a scholarly article on Aristotle's ethics, nor clearly dissect hegemonic stability theory, to give two examples.

The argument, however, does go both ways — an article cannot replace the impact of a well-crafted film. This is especially true for most undergraduates, who are not likely to read political science articles once they finish their degree. (Almost all students, however, are still likely to be going to the movies well past graduation.) If we as

educators can get students to 'read' films more critically, just as we teach them how to read texts more critically, we will achieve something which goes beyond using film simply as a way to break up the monotony of lectures or liven up a moribund class discussion.

Many directors and screenwriters use their art to explore or promote their own takes on the human condition — their visions of the 'good life' or of their desired polity. This is true for both documentaries and fiction, yet since audiences tend to treat this medium as inferior or less serious than the more traditional medium of the written word, they often ignore this aspect and view movies uncritically. By expanding our discussion to include the film medium, we can further demonstrate the relevance of the issues and concepts that we tackle in class. These are not obscure topics fit only for pretentious discussion within the confines of the hallowed halls of the ivory tower, but issues that affect us everywhere, even when we sit with a giant bucket of buttery popcorn in front of the movie screen of our neighborhood Cineplex.



Over the last few years I have experimented with different ways of integrating films into my courses. Some movies, such as the above mentioned *Fog of War* or Stanley Kubrick's brilliantly

events since 2003, there might be a need for a second Pentagon screening.

3. *Waltz with Bashir* (2008): A recent release which challenges the traditional distinction between fiction and documentary. Original and thought-provoking, *Waltz* explores the lingering psychological implications of war for the soldiers who experienced its horrors. It uses animation, an unconventional choice of medium, to raise ethical questions regarding the 1982 Lebanon War.

4. *No Man's Land* (2001): A demonstration of the power of dark humor. *No Man's Land* uses the war in Bosnia as a backdrop for the exploration of ethnic identity, ethnic conflict, the role of the media, and the dubious record of the UN.

5. *Thirteen Days* (2000): The Cuban Missile Crisis as political thriller. The film would be greatly improved had it not included Kevin Costner and his faux Boston accent, but if you are willing to disregard this nuisance, you will find a very enjoyable rendition of those fateful thirteen days.

6. *Letters from Iwo Jima* (2006): The more successful half of Clint Eastwood's two-film exploration of the battle of Iwo Jima. Told from the perspective of the Japanese forces, it offers the viewer an interesting experiment in viewing a familiar event through the eyes of the 'enemy.'

7. *Rashomon* (1950): A Japanese classic that can appear in almost any list of political science films, regardless of topic. It famously questions the notion of truth and the possibility of objectivity. Almost any international conflict is a *Rashomon*-like exercise; it is no surprise that the film served as a starting point for Graham Allison's thinking on the Cuban Missile Crisis, which led to his seminal work, *Essence of Decision*.

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crafted *Dr. Strangelove*, became an integral part of the required 'readings' for POL208. Yet time constraints and class size prevented me from screening complete films during lectures. I found that when I showed scenes from films, many students came to talk with me at the end of class and show interest in seeing the rest of the movie.

To this end I created an extracurricular 'film club' for POL208 students. The department was supportive of this experiment, and gave me a small budget so I could provide snacks for attending students. The idea was to create a friendly environment conducive of lively discussion and attendance. The film club screened about ten movies that corresponded to topics covered in the course. Each film was presented by a different TA, who also conducted a discussion and connected the film to the course at the end of each screening. Attendance varied, but a small group of students attended all or most of the films. In this way the club also served a limited social purpose. Finally, in a large class setting such as POL208, the club offered a venue for those students who were

interested in the course material, or were passionate about specific issues, to get extra value from the course and express their interest through voluntary participation.

An extracurricular film club requires much investment of time and energy on the part of both TAs and the course instructor. The number of students attending is always a fraction of the class; low-turnouts can be quite demoralizing. The experiment does not, therefore, offer any perfect 'Hollywood' solution to the integration of films into our curriculum. But it does provide a good general framework that can work for many large lecture courses and that is successful in enhancing the learning experience — that holy grail sought by countless university professors and administrators — for those students who choose to take advantage of the offering. It may not amount to an uplifting final scene in which the hero rides off into the sunset, but it is certainly a positive open-ended finale in which our protagonist realizes that there are still many options to explore and great movies to see.

8. *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962): An award-winning epic which traces some of the reasons that make the Middle East an enduring part of news headlines close to a century after the events it describes. Beautifully filmed and acted (Stephen Spielberg has called its screenplay the greatest of all time), *Lawrence* tackles issues such as colonialism, war, camels, international intrigue, camels, sand dunes, and more camels.

9. *Huoqzhe* (1994): A quick introduction to the troubled domestic history of Communist China. This film, which was banned in China and translates to "to live," follows the life of one family from 1949 to the early 90's. While not 'international' in the simplistic sense, it offers an insight into the recent history of the world's fastest growing superpower.

10. *Yes Minister/Yes Prime Minister* (1980-84/ 1986-7): Political Science 101. OK, not exactly film per se, but still some of the best political comedy I can think of. The second series, *Yes Prime Minister*, deals with IR issues more directly, but there are great nuggets woven throughout the first series as well. In short, everything you wanted to know about the workings of politics and more.



Musings on Race & Multiculturalism through the Ruby Dhalla Scandal

Ethel Tungohan

For a few weeks in May, the Ruby Dhalla controversy galvanized Canadian politics. At center stage were three women: Ruby Dhalla, the MP from

Brampton-Springdale, was pitted against Magdalene Gordo and Richelyn Tongson, live-in caregivers previously employed in Dhalla's household. Gordo and Tongson's accusations of

abuse and Dhalla's counter-accusations of a "conservative conspiracy" to undermine her leadership served as perfect fodder for mainstream journalists, who saw in this event the mak-

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ings of a political scandal. After all, not only was Dhalla's complicity in 'nanny-gate' ironic in light of her position as liberal critic of youth and multiculturalism, the demeaning chores Dhalla purportedly asked Gordo and Tongson to do were lifted straight from Dickens. That all of the actors involved were racial minorities was an added bonus for journalists. Indeed, race figured prominently in almost all media accounts, thereby providing us with special insight into the nature of Canadian multiculturalism and political membership.

A cursory look at online newspaper reports on the issue shows how Dhalla, Gordo and Tongson's racial identities gave journalists a way to provocatively hook readers into the story through the use of racial stereotypes. As such, journalists juxtaposed Dhalla's "Bollywood" good-looks and "unsurprising" stinginess against Gordo and Tongson's "innately" subservient demeanors in order to contrast Indian "glamour" and Indian "cheapness" against Filipino "docility."

In the weeks during the scandal, comments made on the *The Globe and Mail*, *Maclean's*, and *Toronto Star* websites also affirmed how the three actors' racial identities were seen by many people as explaining their actions, with some comments vilifying Dhalla for "adhering to India's caste system" through her treatment of Gordo and Tongson.

Others lamented how undesirable nationals from third-world countries like the Philippines are "taking advantage" of Canada. The way their Indian and Filipino backgrounds were seen as markers of their difference — i.e., their non-Canadianness — is especially evident when considering how individual accountability was ignored. Dhalla was castigated not only because she may have abused her employees, but also because she was influenced by a cultural code that was (erroneously) interpreted as alien to Canada.



Brampton-Springdale MP Ruby Dhalla, caught in the spotlight.

Gordo and Tongson, likewise, were to be pitied not because they were subjected to harsh working conditions, but because they were from a country deemed by some as backwards and poor. The logical conclusion one reaches as a result of these reactions is that inclusion in Canada is constrained by 'other'

affiliations. Had Dhalla not been Indo-Canadian and Gordo and Tongson not been Filipino, Dhalla's alleged misdemeanors would have been a simple case of political hypocrisy and labour misconduct.

Although it is easy to dismiss these comments as anomalies, they are indicative of the ways in which membership in Canada is given on the basis of seemingly arbitrary criteria. Access to Canadian permanent residency and citizenship is determined by the migrant's perceived economic contributions to the country and by their cultural "desirability." Research I have conducted on Canadian immigration policy further indicates that cultural criteria may no longer be officially used to determine who enters Canada — but the arrival of migrants from developing countries is still popularly constructed by immigration officials as evidence of Canadian altruism. Rather than seeing migrants as 'helping' Canada through their economic and social contributions, Canada is viewed as 'helping' them.

Such perceptions affect migrants' political and social integration by constructing them as perpetual outsiders. Immigration status in this case does not seem to matter. Despite the fact that Dhalla and her family are naturalized Canadian citizens, they are still seen as outsiders because they are of Indian descent. Similarly,

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Gordo and Tongson's status as temporary labour migrants makes them outsiders; their Filipino backgrounds makes them even more so. Though Canadian immigration law theoretically draws a distinction between 'skilled' migrants who qualify for automatic entry into the country as permanent residents because of their economic contributions, and 'unskilled' migrants who have to live and work in Canada before applying for permanent residency, migrants of colour are all cast in the same net regardless of their status.

Hence, there seems to be no consistency of who is legitimately Canadian, further complicating the issue. Immigration policy may draw distinctions that the public does not follow. It is important to deconstruct the various opinions being advanced in order to come to a better sense of how the different actors in the scandal are being portrayed. There are a myriad contradictory opinions. Is Dhalla a more legitimate, more trustworthy member of Canadian society because she is second-generation Canadian and has consequently been socialized into Canadian norms? If so, then why would

references be made to 'competing' cultural affiliations that ostensibly explain her abusive behavior? Would Gordo and Tongson's employment as live-in caregivers serve as a barrier to achieving inclusion in Canada? Would they be seen as 'less' Canadian because it would take them longer to acquire citizenship?

If anything, the Dhalla scandal teaches me, as someone who is researching issues of race, migration, and political membership, that racial identity determines political and social inclusion.

International Criminal Court Backfires, Sparking Solidarity with Sudan's Al-Bashir

Khalid Ahmed

It is 2003. *The steward opens* the plane door. My eyes take in familiar dark skin tones and a wave of heat sweeps across my face. Temperatures are well above 40°C in Khartoum. My mind is full of questions about the political situation here, my country of origin, to which I am returning for the purpose of undergraduate field work after a ten-year absence. My spirit is lifted by the thought that many of the questions that trouble me now will be answered as I research my PhD thesis.

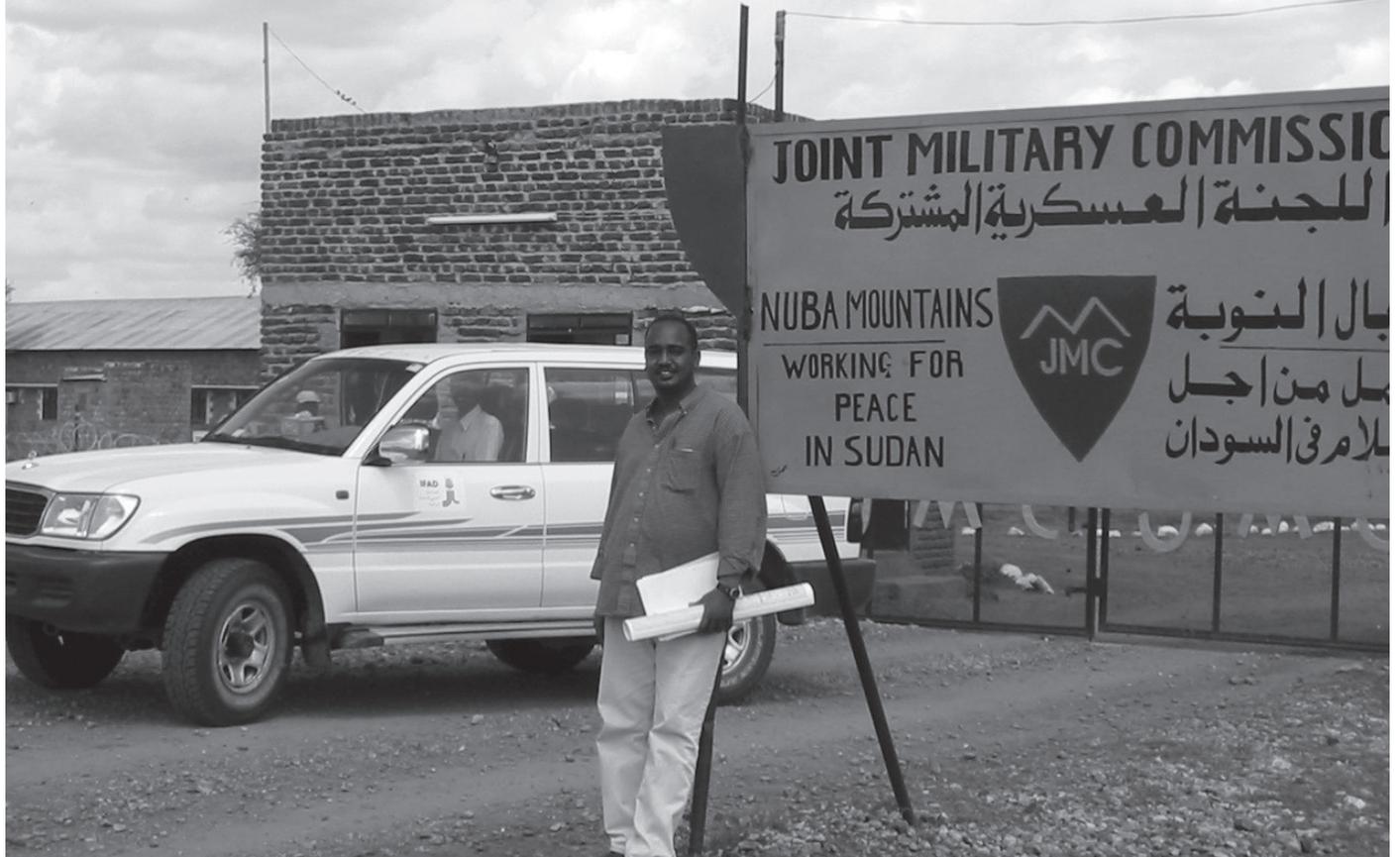
One of them is the same now as it was then: why has the Darfur conflict in western

Sudan caught international media attention while the North-South war, in which Sudan has been intermittently embroiled since 1955, has gone largely unnoticed?

Sudan is the largest country in Africa, with an area of about one million square miles. It makes up eight per cent of the African continental land area and two per cent of the land surface of the entire world. The country is inhabited by approximately 40 million persons who speak more than 100 dialects — one of the most complex ethnic diversities on the continent. More importantly, Sudan was

involved in the longest-fought civil war in the world. During the recent North-South civil wars, fought between 1955 to 1972 and 1983 to 2005, around two million Sudanese perished; one in every eight refugees around the world was a Sudanese in 2003. In Sudan today there are still around four million internally displaced persons, one of the highest percentages in the world. Sudanese death toll and population displacements far exceed those of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Iran-Iraq war, and the Lebanese civil war combined. Limited research shows that colonial and post-

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Khalid Ahmed in Sudan, circa 2003.

colonial manipulation, religion, local perceptions of race and social status, and economic exploitations are all elements in Sudan's civil war. None of these factors by itself fully explains the root causes of the civil war or its impact on Sudan's political, economic, and social life. Although the Sudanese death toll is immense, the Sudanese North-South civil war still remains one of the most neglected conflicts in the world in terms of literature and research, especially when compared to the attention devoted to the subsequent war in Sudan: the Darfur Conflict.

It is hard to deny the atrocities committed by the current Sudanese government on its own people, especially in the western province of Darfur. Millions have been displaced and thousands have died since the inception of the Darfur rebellion. With the intensification of war, international pressure has mounted on the Sudanese government to halt the war. But many African and Arabic governments have dismissed the pressure exerted by western governments as nothing but a hypocrite's cry to eliminate yet another Third World leader who opposes them. President

Al-Bashir is a declared Islamist leader and his government has taken many stands against the United States, including supporting Iraq's 1991 invasion of Kuwait. This contrasts him with president Nimeiry, Sudan's former president who, although a dictator, was an American favourite during the North-South war. This is a fact which may explain, to some degree, why that war received a small fraction of the attention paid to the current Darfur conflict.

The warrant recently issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for the arrest of

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Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir is not meant to exact justice for the acts it claims were perpetrated against Sudanese people in Darfur. Nor is its purpose to bring Al-Bashir, Ahmed Haroun, and Ali Kushayb to trial in order to uphold and restore respect for international and humanitarian law and justice. Rather, it is a stage in the process of the political and moral assassination of the Sudanese president and the Sudanese government in the implementation of a strategy of “constructive chaos” or recourse to “soft force” as an alternative means of bringing about regime change. This is the crux of the West’s assault against Sudan, spearheaded by the prosecutor of the ICC, and it is this that, ironically, has led to the increasing support of president Al-Bashir in Sudan and elsewhere. It also lends strength to the popular African perception of the ICC as a Western political criminal court.

This same warrant, which is the latest phase of developments that have passed through the UN Security Council to the court, raises a number of legal and procedural issues. Firstly, Sudan is not a signatory to the Rome Statute that led to the creation of the ICC. Secondly, the United States is also not a signatory, and there is a question as to the legality of the Security Council serving as this missing link. Thirdly, the Security Council has the ability to defer the pursuit

of the Sudanese president for a year after the issuance of the warrant. None of these measures has been applied before to a president while in office.

Much more importantly, this is the first such case to be tried before the ICC since it was formed in 2002. All other cases of war crimes and crimes against humanity — from those perpetrated in the former Yugoslavia to those in Rwanda — were tried before specially formed tribunals. Indeed, even the preliminary investigations into the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al-Hariri took place outside of the framework of the ICC.

This brings to the fore the dangerous political and strategic aspects of the proceedings against Al-Bashir. On the one hand, it underscores the hypocrisy of ICC proceedings: there was not even the hint of a hunt for the officials in the US and Britain responsible for the crimes perpetrated in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. On the other hand, it represents an extension of the criminal military actions the West has undertaken against societies and leaderships of Third World countries. It seems that while force is used by the West in Iraq and Afghanistan, criminal indictment is its tool of choice in Sudan.

For the Sudanese government, as in every crisis of this nature, it was not only important to know

the aims and objectives of the ICC scheme, but also to devise a plan to thwart it. If the scheme, as it would appear, is to sow domestic tension and to alienate Sudan and its government from its African and Arab environs, the general thrust of the counter-plan seemed clear. It was to stimulate and deepen domestic bonds of allegiance, rallying the largest possible assembly of social and political forces behind the national flag. And it has succeeded in doing so. Before the ICC indictment, Al-Bashir was not particularly popular with his people. Afterwards, in contrast, millions of Sudanese rallied on the streets to support the President.

However, what the government soon realized is that it was important to move beyond mere rhetoric, demonstrations and pro-Bashir rallies. At the foreign policy level, Sudan established an urgent drive to strengthen Sudan’s relations with its neighbours and other African and Arab countries in general, especially those opposed to Western domination over international institutions.

In this regard, it is possible to envision an international political and media campaign against the bias and tendentiousness of the ICC action. The African Union and the Arab League, at their last General Meetings, stood against the ICC court and refused, with the exception of Botswana, to abide by the court order to hand over President Al-

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Bashir. This has given him de-facto amnesty from detention if and when visiting an Arab or an African country; and it is not clear whether the ICC decision will hold or melt over the Sudanese, Arab, and African resistance. Only time can tell.

In 2003, the Darfur conflict has just started. As I step into the hot afternoon air in Khartoum, I think that this conflict will be resolved within a year, maybe two at the most. But I'm wrong; six years later, there will still be much

more work to be done. And a crucial question will need to be answered: how will the installation of a new president in Sudan, favoured by the West, bring sustainable peace and prosperity to the whole country?

Bounded Innovation:

Teaching Governance and Institutions to MPP Students

Phil Triadafilopoulos

H*ow do political* scientists approach the training of future public servants? How can theoretically-informed work on political institutions serve the needs and interests of these practitioners in training? Linda White and I were given the opportunity to consider these questions when we were asked to revise and teach a course on "Governance and Institutions" (PPG 1000) at the School of Public Policy and Governance during the winter 2009 term.

This note summarizes, very briefly, some of our experiences. While I can only speak for myself, based on our many conversations, I believe Linda would concur with most of what I have to say.

PPG 1000 is a mandatory first year course in the two-year Master of Public Policy program at the professional School of Public Policy and Governance. Although Linda and I were

fortunate to inherit the excellent curricular foundation laid down by our predecessor, Michael Stein, the course proved to be a challenge because it required us to provide students from a variety of backgrounds (Political Science, Economics, Business, Accounting, etc.) with basic knowledge about the workings of government institutions in Canada, while also briefing them on the current challenges facing Canadian governments at the federal, provincial, and municipal levels. In addition, we were tasked with teaching our students basic writing and oral presentation skills. Finally, the course required us to reinforce certain public sector values such as democracy, consultation, and so on.

All this meant that our course differed substantially from the graduate seminars we had taught in the Department of Political Science in previous years. The key challenge lay in

devising a course that did not take too much for granted in terms of students' background preparation in political science. Thus we began at the beginning, reviewing the Westminster parliamentary model, federalism, and the courts. As the course progressed we turned to some of the challenges of governance in contemporary Canada, including the rise of cities and multilevel governance, the demands for self-government among Canada's Aboriginal peoples, and the internationalization of public policy in a context of accelerating globalization.

Linda and I came to think of our course as offering students both an "owners manual" and "service report" of Canada's political institutions. Prior to being given the keys, students should, at a minimum, be familiar with what lay under the hood of government. We helped students acquire this basic, but essential, knowledge through

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an intensive review of the relevant literature, accompanied by seminar discussions and reinforced by their preparation of briefing notes.

Our students responded to this part of the course well. Those who had some background in political science helped us parse the readings carefully, revealing insights that might otherwise have been neglected. Those less familiar and comfortable with political science asked questions which forced us to reaffirm the essentials, so that the foundations of our collective understanding of Canada's institutional configuration were firm.

Having established a core understanding of the Canadian regime, we turned to the "service

report" component of the course, asking how Canada's late-model democratic vehicle was faring under current conditions. This aim was facilitated by a roster of superb guest speakers, including Sujit Choudhry, Antonia Maioni, Matthew Mendelsohn, Martin Papillon, and Gabe Eidelman, who drew on their research to discuss what they saw as the core challenges in their particular policy area (federal institutions; courts; intergovernmental relations; aboriginal governance; cities).

Our guest speakers' presentations and our accompanying class discussions highlighted that Canada's nineteenth century institutions made steering the ship of state under contem-

porary conditions a challenge. Changes in prevailing norms and demands from newly empowered political actors required creativity on the part of policymakers; indeed, creativity emerged as an essential virtue for aspiring policymakers.

Given that institutions by their nature are slow to adapt and thus are conservative in the literal sense of the word, innovation in policymaking comes as a result of the ingenuity and resourcefulness of those working within their confines. Linda and I hope that PPG 1000 gives the aspiring policymakers we have been charged with training the core knowledge and skills needed to develop such an aptitude.



Dr. Triadafilopoulos, hard at work educating the next generation of policy experts.

Department of Political Science Undergraduate Awards and Scholarships 2008-2009 Winners

Mark Adler Undergraduate Scholarship in Political Science

Successfully completed and achieved a high grade in a course relating to the political economy of Canada's present position in North America (Currently POL 318H).

Erin Fitzgerald

The Citizen Lab

Outstanding student in POL 108Y who will become an intern for the summer in the Citizen Lab.

Sabar Golsban

Canadian International Council Book Prize

Outstanding student completing POL 208Y

Colleen McKeown, Adam Rober

Ruth Robinson Leberg Book Prize

Outstanding student who has completed POL 208Y with grade 'A' standing.

Samuel Plett, Mannu Chowdhury

J. Stefan Dupre Book Prize

Outstanding student with an 'A' in POL 103Y or 214Y.

Marem Kushtova

Brian Mulrone Award

Has achieved the highest mark in POL 214Y or ECO 230Y or HIS 263Y.

Anila Akram

Pollara Book Prize (POL 242Y)

Best research report produced by a student in 242Y (first course in quantitative analysis).

Chi Eric Zhang

Pollara Book Prize (POL 419Y)

Best research report produced by a student in POL 419Y (advanced course in quantitative analysis).

Patrick Trafford

J. Michael Kyne Award

Best essay written in POL 323Y, *Might and Right Among Nations* or POL 330Y, *Politics and Morality*.

Course N.O. 2008-09

Rabbi Isserman Prize

Best essay on international or interracial relations, as judged by chairpersons of the Departments of Political Science and Sociology.

Melissa Rhodes

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