

A tribal continuity? The pre-war social cleavages, dynamics of civil war violence, and post-war political repression in 1941-1948 Montenegro*

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Abstract:

This paper argues that civil wars in tribal societies, despite being very common, remain a largely overlooked phenomenon in civil war literature. It attempts to offer a theoretical framework and anecdotal evidence suggesting the agency and patterns of behavior of tribes, and its constituents, in civil wars. The paper aims to accomplish that by doing three things. First, it situates the phenomenon of tribal social structure in the civil war literature. Secondly, it tries to conceptualize tribal structure and theorize the potential role that tribes can have in civil wars. In doing so, the paper looks specifically at the onset/insurgency, war dynamics, and post-war political development. Thirdly, it offers empirical evidence from primary documents, which corroborates suggested mechanisms. Finally, the paper discusses possible ramifications for civil war literature and suggests further steps.

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