

**PO4048 – Issues in World Politics**

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**Aims and Objectives**

This module focuses on the causes, dynamics, and effects of political conflicts. Its purpose is to familiarise students with important theories and debates pertaining to political conflicts through active discussions of a wide range of literature. The module begins with a discussion of recent trends in the frequency of violent political conflicts. It then undertakes an in-depth overview of important theories – operating on the individual, group, state, and international levels of analysis – purporting to explain the outbreak of wars. Following this, the final section of the module examines a range of theories and debates pertaining to other forms of political conflict, such as genocide and other gross violations of human rights, and efforts to forcibly spread democracy to an ever-greater number of states around the world. By the end of the module, students should be able to understand not only why a number of historic political conflicts occurred, but also how to utilize a range of theories to understand current and future political conflicts.

**Contents**

Introduction to the Analysis of Political Conflicts; War in World Politics; Human Rights during the War on Terror; Genocide and Humanitarian Intervention; Child Soldiers; and Democracy and International Conflict.

**Core Readings**

In order to keep up to date with developments in the study of political conflicts, most of the module readings are drawn from academic journals.

