

# Federalism and Democratization

Experiences in the  
Post-Cold War World

# New federations emerging from post-conflict situations

- Established
- Bosnia
- Ethiopia
- Iraq
- Sudan
- Potential
- Sri Lanka
- Somalia
- Congo
- Cyprus

# Key Established Federations

Argentina Australia Austria Belgium Brazil Canada Germany	India Malaysia Mexico Nigeria Pakistan Russia South Africa	Spain Switzerland USA Venezuela

# Federations that Failed

<u>Post-dictatorship</u> Czechoslovakia Yugoslavia Soviet Union	<u>Post-colonial</u> Malaysia (Singapore) Pakistan West Indies Central Africa
<u>Civil War</u> USA Nigeria	

# New federations emerging peacefully from unitary systems

- Established
- Belgium
- Spain
- South Africa
- Potential
- Philippines
- Indonesia
- Italy
- Bolivia

# The European Union

- Unique regime—some federal features
- Central motivation was to bring peace to Europe

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Bosnia

# Ethiopia

- Federal regime emerged from victorious revolution—liberation armies based in different regions
- One party in office at both levels
- Highly diverse society, undeveloped politics
- But significant push to develop regional structures and politics

# Iraq

- Federalism only solution acceptable to Kurds
- Highly decentralized design and many unresolved issues
- Oil dependent state
- Emergence of sectarian politics
- An asymmetric model?

# Sudan

- Followed 20 years of civil war; 2 million dead
- North-south agreement; Darfur unsettled
- Central role of oil: 50-50 split
- Asymmetric: federation within federation
- Roles of governments unclear: extensive concurrency and no criteria for settling
- Deeply divided society

# Sri Lanka

- Unitary regime failed: Senegalese definition of country
- Long, bloody civil war with rebels in control of north
- Reluctant consideration of federal options
- Any “federal” solution would likely be highly asymmetric

# Cyprus

- Officially one country, but divided since Turkish invasion in ...
- International community against division
- Annan plan

# Some Conclusions

- Most federal systems did not emerge from conflict—though some were motivated by defence or peace-making concerns
- New federations emerging peacefully have fair prospects
- International pressures to avoid break-up of certain states behind search for federal formulas in number of post-conflict situations
- Little real thought put into processes and design making problems even more difficult
- Even in best cases, success far from assured