



PROGRAMME TITLE: MSc Conflict, Security and Development

SUMMER READING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM TEACHING STAFF 2026

Staff member nominating the book	Title	Author(s)	Comments
Simeon Koroma	<i>War and Conflict in Africa</i>	Paul D. Williams	A widely used and highly accessible introduction to armed conflict and security dynamics across Africa. The book examines the historical, political and regional dimensions of conflict, while also engaging with peacekeeping, international intervention and post-conflict reconstruction. Particularly useful for students seeking a broad grounding in contemporary conflict analysis.
Simeon Koroma	<i>Useful Enemies: When Waging Wars Is More Important Than Winning Them</i>	David Keen	Keen challenges conventional understandings of war by showing how conflicts often persist because they serve political, economic or social interests. The book encourages students to think critically about the incentives that sustain violence and the blurred boundaries between war economies, governance and power.
Simeon Koroma	<i>The Frontlines of Peace: An Insider's Guide to Changing the World</i>	Séverine Autesserre	Drawing on field experience and peacebuilding practice, Autesserre critiques top-down international interventions and highlights the importance of local agency, relationships and everyday peacebuilding. The book is especially valuable for students interested in humanitarianism, development practice and the limits of international intervention.
Simeon Koroma	<i>New and Old Wars: Organised violence in a global era</i>	Mary Kaldor	A classic and influential contribution to debates on the changing nature of warfare. Kaldor explores how contemporary conflicts are shaped by globalisation, identity politics, state fragmentation and transnational networks, offering an important framework for thinking about modern insecurity and political violence.



Simeon Koroma	<i>Peace Formation and Political Order in Conflict Affected Societies</i>	Oliver P. Richmond	Richmond introduces critical debates around liberal peacebuilding and explores how peace is negotiated, resisted and reshaped from below. The text is particularly useful for students interested in peace processes, local political orders and the tensions between international models and local realities.
Fiction/Memoir/Documentary			
Simeon Koroma	<i>Half of a Yellow Sun</i>	Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie	A powerful novel set during the Nigerian Civil War that explores violence, identity, memory and everyday life during conflict. The book offers an important human perspective on war and its long-term social consequences.
Simeon Koroma	<i>The Act of Killing</i>	Documentary	A challenging and innovative documentary examining violence, impunity and memory in Indonesia through the perspectives of former perpetrators.
Simeon Koroma	<i>Virunga</i>	Documentary	A compelling documentary exploring the intersections of armed conflict, conservation, resource extraction and international politics in eastern Congo
Simeon Koroma	<i>Restrepo</i>	Documentary	A documentary following US soldiers in Afghanistan that offers insight into the everyday realities of conflict, insecurity and military life.