This is for my International Studies: Gender, War, & Peace class. I will upload prompts (which are more like suggestions) and rubric and helpful sources on next page. Below I will copy and paste random notes I have taken that could prove helpful: Maternalism/Maternal Thinking A frame of mind that concerns itself with promoting the next generation (Sara Ruddick: femenist peace theorist) If a woman does become politicized, it is attributed to her sociobiological role whether or not she is a mother However, misunderstood - NOT originally meant to apply solely to women Meant it as a mindframe that people get into. Her theory was oversimplified to applying only to women. Was not intended to be sexist but used in sexist ways. Why use FEMALES as bombers? The erroneous social logic plays into the hands of terrorists beautifully. Use it to strategic advantage Advantage of surprise, not suspected Practical: a force multiplier (doubles amount of available poeple) Publicity: double the shock and awe of power. Stronger recruitment and fear tool. Problem with stereotyping Essentializes women: assumed “deep” inside one true essence or identity - to bear children. Objectifies: she has relevance only with the context of other people's claims about her sociobiological role. Examples: large gap between media portrayal of behavior and how perpetrators of act express their behaviors. Reasons of males, females more complex, similar than allowed 1. Religious - offer a moral justification for immoral act (compared with Bosnia), rewards in afterlife Gaza: suicide bombers. Using religion to justify and rationalize tactics they were using. Bosnia: no SBs. 2. Nationalistic - patriotism provides additional/alternative moral justification 3. Economic - receive large amounts of money, improves family financial situation True of either men or women 4. Social - brings honor to person, family when person “dies a beautiful death” with strong gender component Contagion factor Story about Ukranian man who set himself on fire. 5. Personal - recruiters take advantage of innocence. Youth tends to be a common denominator Manipulate the young mind. Examples Palestine: woman named Idris. Media emphasized her act could be explained by her regret over her childlessness. Person she wanted to marry did not want to marry her. Before she died, according to Memri, nothing of the sort enters into rationalization that she provides Hers: being a martyr. Hurting zionists. Not allowing colonial domination of her territory. If the same sort of analysis carried out with male perpetrators of these acts, human motivation is always complex. Can never reduce it to one thing. However, what the media seizes on when comes to women is this. Palestine: she is constantly saying I reject Maternalism. Not content to be actively maternal (birthing martyrs) or passively maternal (mourning men who died for the nation) Chose to be a political figure in her own right Reading Takeaways (Mazurana) In general, what experiences of girls and women do armed opposition groups draw upon to attract them to a cause? Women’s way out of a situation they are in to provide and protect themselves. Boredom was mentioned. Exciting escape from mundane life. Depression. Expand upon experiences that women have had themselves. Like being beaten, sexually assaulted, tortured by government officials Intentionally at times Execution of loved ones So traumatic experiences → going to retaliate and do this as an act of revenge or political dissention. What issues do the leaders of armed opposition groups face in recruiting women and girls to carry out violence and how do they manage the tensions? Cultural and religious values of local community If women can do this, then what does it mean to be masculine? Religious: women should only be brought in as last resort Sri Lanka Does joining advance feminist goals? Led to sympathetic outside coverage. Gave women a voice they lacked before But not really a conversation because these women are dying. So can be manipulated to tell the story the journalists want to tell. Women in certain roles. That tended to go very badly for girls when it came time for demobilization and disarmament because technically did not have their own weapons. So they were missing that ticket to an international DDR program. Your gun is your admission to certain resources and programs. So went back into the forest in some cases. Implications for gender relations post-war For how the international community needs to best engage in ways that do not disadvantage one group in relation to another. Somalia Recruiting women to serve as wives for the fighters. Biggest Takeaways Non-state armed groups that utilize sexes have purpose-driven relationships to the societies where they work It is sophisticated and strategic Groups pay close attention to, and utilize the gender dynamics in societies they draw upon. WHY IS THIS SO FUNDAMENTALLY IMPORTANT? Another response to the question: why gender is so important in studying war Demonstrate how crucial gender is to the strategies of non-state armed groups. The international community in intervening in such conflicts must also use gender -- it is crucial to strategy. These groups would not have become what they did without crucial gender strategy.