

Research Project

Making Peace, Constructing States. Peace agreements and the dynamics of statehood in post-conflict Africa

Project funded by own resources

Project title Making Peace, Constructing States. Peace agreements and the dynamics of statehood in post-conflict Africa

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Organisation / Research unit

Departement Gesellschaftswissenschaften / Politikwissenschaft (Goetschel)

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Since the end of the Cold War, there has been an upsurge of conflicts throughout Africa, especially in the 1990s. They rarely ended with the clear victory of one party over the other, but rather through negotiated peace settlements. Most of these conflicts were not interstate but inner-state conflicts and their causes were deeply rooted in the respective societies. With the UN Agenda for Peace (1992) post-conflict reconstruction has become a major element of national and international policies on the continent. One of the problems is that much of this reconstruction process rests on the false assumption that that developing countries which emerge from war are like a “blank slate” (Christopher Cramer) upon which a neo-liberal vision of the State can be built.

Against this “blank slate” vision, which is often linked with a very ‘technicist’ approach to peace making and peace-building, this module argues that peace is not just the end of a ‘moment’ in a country’s history (war, or violent conflict) and the beginning of a new era of ‘post-conflict’ which would mark a clear rupture with the past. On the contrary, it builds on the assumption and will show that the achievement of peace is but a step in a long historical and political process, and that conflict, war and peace are all part of the historical dynamics of state construction and formation – in Africa and elsewhere.

For this, the module looks at two crucial elements of peace process and peace agreements, whose implications on state-building in post-conflict-phases is largely under-researched: Firstly, it considers the way in which past memories of (social, political, cultural, ethnic) divisions that were at the origins of violent conflict have been – or not been – integrated into the peace process. In other words, this first part of the module looks at how the issue of dealing with the past was treated in the peace agreements, with examples drawn from Burundi and Sierra Leone. processes in the two countries.

Secondly, it deals with various forms of mediation in peace processes and their consequences on following power-sharing agreements and the functioning of society. By examining the dynamics of inclusion and exclusion that prevail in peace processes, the module will shed new light on the links between the actual peace negotiations and the dynamics of power sharing as well as the institutionalisation of power relations in a post-conflict setting. Thereby it builds on the assumption that efficiency in mediation does not necessarily correlate with sustainable ways of structuring a “post-conflict society”.

Keywords peacebuilding, statehood, dealing with the past, mediation, international norms and ideas

Financed by

University funds

Other funds

Add publication

Published results

108649, Lanz, David, Subversion or reinvention? : dilemmas and debates in the context of UNHCR's increasing involvement with IDPs, 0951-6328, Journal of refugee studies, Publication: JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)

139208, Mason, Simon; Lanz, David, Mehrwert oder Leerlauf? : der "Whole of Government"-Ansatz der Schweiz in Sudan, Bulletin 2009 zur schweizerischen Sicherheitspolitik, Publication: Book Item (Buchkap., Lexikonartikel, jur. Kommentierung, Beiträge in Sammelbänden etc.)

139216, Lanz, David, Complicating Darfur : review of de Waal, Alex (ed.) 2007: War in Darfur and the Search for Peace, The Fletcher forum of world affairs, JournalItem (Kommentare, Editorials, Rezensionen, Urteilsanmerk., etc. in einer wissensch. Zeitschr.

139226, Lanz, David, Involving IDPs in the Darfur peace process, Forced Migration Review, Publication: JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)

139239, Lanz, David, Conflict management and opportunity cost: the international response to the Darfur crisis, Publication: Discussion paper / Internet publication

139244, Lanz, David, Northern Uganda, Juba Talks, Publication: ConferencePaper (Artikel, die in Tagungsbänden erschienen sind)

139255, Lanz, David, Sudan/Darfur, Abuja Negotiations and the DPA, Publication: ConferencePaper (Artikel, die in Tagungsbänden erschienen sind)

139262, Lanz, David, Gerechtigkeit oder Frieden, Publication: NewsItemPrint (Artikel in einer Tages, Wochen- oder Monatszeitschrift)

139275, Lanz, David, Vom linken Projekt zur gängigen Praxis : viele Methoden der zivilen Friedensförderung sind heute weithin akzeptiert, Publication: NewsItemPrint (Artikel in einer Tages, Wochen- oder Monatszeitschrift)

139280, Giroux, Jennifer; Lanz, David; Sguaitamatti, Damiano, The Tormented triangle: The regionalisation of conflict in Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic, Publication: Discussion paper / Internet publication

140379, Lanz, David, Save Darfur : a movement and its discontents, 0001-9909, African Affairs, Publication: JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)

141391, Lanz, David, Of lions and mice in Darfur : [Rezension von] The scramble for Africa: Darfur-intervention and the USA, von Steven Fake and Kevin Funk : 2009, Publication: Discussion paper / Internet publication

Add documents

Specify cooperation partners

ID	Kreditinhaber	Kooperationspartner	Institution	Laufzeit - von	Laufzeit - bis
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ID	Kreditinhaber	Kooperationspartner	Institution	Laufzeit - von	Laufzeit - bis
103696	Goetschel, Laurent	Hurni, Hans, Director	CDE, University of Bern	01.01.2009	31.12.2013
103697	Goetschel, Laurent	Müller-Boeker, Ulrike	Institute of Geography, University of Zurich	01.01.2009	31.12.2013