

Publication

Conclusions: Switzerland as a paradigmatic case of small-state peace policy?

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This concluding article looks at the findings of the special issue through the lens of the Swiss experience. It traces the development of Swiss peace promotion activities, emphasising the emergence of a fully institutionalized peace policy since the end of the Cold War. Drawing on role theory, it makes sense of this process by referring to changes in the structure of the international system, altered role expectations by external actors, as well as internal processes of role contestation. In comparison to other small states, the article argues that Switzerland can be seen as a paradigmatic case on some levels. Notably, Switzerland extended its peace promotion activities as part of a niche foreign policy, which emerged in response to the post-Cold War world order as well as a change in dominant foreign policy role concepts. At the same time, there are a number of idiosyncrasies: Switzerland as a non-member of EU and NATO enjoys a higher degree of autonomy in crafting its peace policy and its peace promotion activities remain largely focused on civilian instruments.

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