

PO5101 Conflict, Security and Development

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Aims and Objectives

This module examines the origins and impact of contemporary conflicts and the complex relations between development and violence, both in theory and in various cases, including South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Columbia and Afghanistan. The course explores explanations for the outbreak and persistence of violent conflict, and analyses its changing nature and form in the post-Cold war era. Students will develop a critical perspective on the key theories, concepts and debates relating to conflict, as well as in-depth knowledge and understanding of a range of recent conflicts and the development and security responses they have generated.



Contents

In this course we look at the causes and dynamics of various forms of conflict, including civil war and genocide. We discuss how conflict and development are linked, relating this to the debate about statebuilding and so-called fragile states. We further examine the international responses to conflict, including humanitarian aid, military interventions and legal responses through international courts. We discuss the various meanings of 'security', and explore how the agendas of security and development have become interlinked in the post-Cold War era. We also examine how the emergence of a multi-polar world and regional organizations are contributing to change international responses to conflict.

Core Readings

There is no single text which is essential for this course. It covers a diverse range of sources, including:

- Beswick, D. and Jackson, P., eds. (2011) *Conflict, Security and Development: An Introduction*, London: Routledge.
- Duffield, M. (2001) *Global Governance and the New Wars: The Merging of Development and Security*, London: Zed Books.
- Hintjens, H. and Zarkov, D., eds. (2014) *Conflict, Peace, Security and Development: Theories and Methodologies*, London: Routledge.
- Kaldor, M. (1999) *New and Old Wars: Organized Violence in a Global Era*, Cambridge and Stanford: Polity Press and Stanford University Press.
- Keen, D. (2008) *Complex Emergencies*, Cambridge and Malden: Polity.
- North, D. C., Wallis, J. J. and Weingast, B. R. (2009) 'Violence and the rise of open-access orders', *Journal of Democracy*, 20(1), 55-68.
- Spear, J. and Williams, P. D., eds. (2012) *Security and Development in Global Politics: A Critical Comparison*, Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press.