

MAKING PEACE LAST

A SYSTEMATIC COMPARATIVE CASE ANALYSIS OF SUCCESSFUL POST-CONFLICT PEACEBUILDING

ABSTRACT

How can peace be successfully built in those countries affected by internal war or conflict? In light of the enormous political importance of this issue, it is surprising that the knowledge about conditions for lasting peace is still marginal. This dissertation project focuses on an empirical analysis of the relevant factors for successful peacebuilding in the context of intrastate wars and armed conflicts. Thus, it addresses the interface of peace and conflict research and set-theoretic methods for the first time, as transparent, systematic comparative and set-theoretic approaches have so far not been applied within this field of study.

Using the example of civil wars and armed conflicts that broke out after the end of the Cold War, the dissertation will address the question of which remote and proximate conditions are necessary and sufficient for successful post-conflict peacebuilding. The research design takes different theoretical perspectives into account and is based on two levels of analysis. On the first level the set-theoretic method of Qualitative Comparative Analysis will identify the causal structures and mechanisms underlying the complex realm of peacebuilding. In this respect, a two-step approach allows to first determine the combinations of remote conditions in which the outcome is more likely to occur than in other contexts. A subsequent analysis leads to the formulation of causal paths that result in successful peacebuilding. Based on the QCA results, structured and focused comparisons of four selected cases will bring forth a better understanding of the interaction between the causal mechanisms as well as their impact on the outcome. By means of triangulating theories, data and methods, the dissertation shall provide a comprehensive picture of peacebuilding's underlying causal mechanisms and identify those areas in which the engagement of the international community has a positive effect and may increase the chances for lasting peace.