

# Peacebuilding and Authoritarianism: The Unintended Consequences of UN Engagement in Post-Conflict Settings

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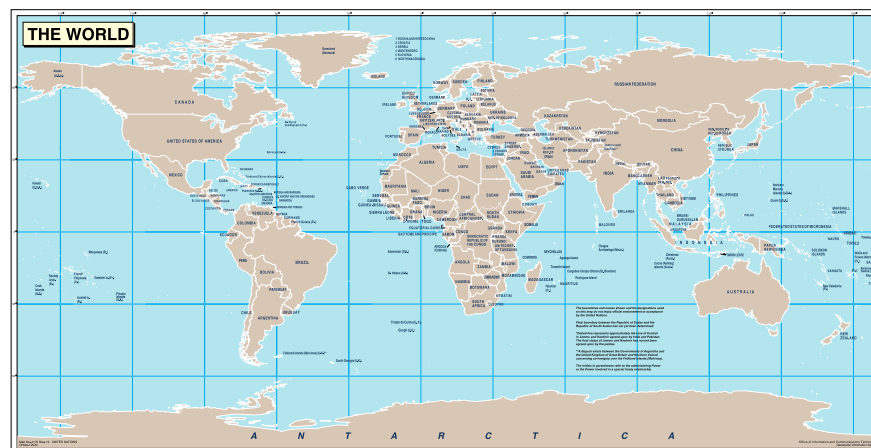
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# Peacebuilding in Authoritarian Settings

- Most UN peace operations take place in authoritarian settings and have broadly liberal goals
- Yet many host countries remain authoritarian or become increasingly authoritarian
- UN missions as enabling authoritarianism:
  1. Capacity building
    - Provision of economic, technical, security support
  2. Signaling
    - Reducing the negative consequences of authoritarianism
    - Lax enforcement of democratic norms
    - Minimizing challenges from elites and the public
- The UN is not promoting authoritarianism!

# Methodology

- Examination of PBF funding Madagascar
  - Burundi
  - Comoros
  - Côte d'Ivoire
  - Guinea
  - Guinea-Bissau
  - Kyrgyzstan
  - Sierra Leone
  - Somalia
- Three in-depth case studies
  - Cambodia
  - DRC
  - Haiti



# Key Factors

- Gravitational Pull of the State
- Focus on the Executive
- Support to Security Services
- Preventing Overthrow
- ‘Dark Side’ of National Ownership
- Rhetoric, With and Without Teeth
- Hostage of Electoral Support
- Mandates as Double-Edged Sword
- Corruption Blind Spot



# Case Study: MONUC/MONUSCO

- Capacity-Building

- Institutions

- Favored the presidency
- Kabila particularly close to UN

- Security Forces

- Joint ops/logistical support
- Force Intervention Brigade



- Signaling a Tolerance for Authoritarianism

- Lax response to electoral misconduct in 2006, 2011, 2018
- Less interaction with civil society, opposition, etc.
- Weak response to repression

# Conclusion & Recommendations

- UN dilemma of building state capacity yet risk of capacity being abused
  - Need to maintain consent/working relations, yet risk that support is read as permission to undermine democracy
1. Map power structures
  2. Track resources from start to finish
  3. Consider conditionality depending on inclusion
  4. Create a coherent signaling strategy
  5. Engage neighbors
  6. Track risks, especially during transitions
  7. Support UN leadership in country to push back

Thank you