

In Search of a Middleground: AU/UN Hybrid Mission

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Structure of the Presentation

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The Aim

- This presentation explores the debate of whether new pragmatism of fetishizing of the local frustrates the liberal model of conflict management strategies
 - The hope is that new ways of thinking about the dialectic between the 'local' and the 'international' could be found
 - In the end the interest is to establish a hybrid mix that does not replicate the problems of local ownership and/or international involvement
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Introduction

The Paradox: To go local or International?

1. Local Ownership

- There is a recognition of the limits of externally led programmes and as such there is a plea that sustainable peace can be achieved through the engagement of those affected by the conflict
 - But conflict resolution has relegated cultural specificity to the background (Donais, 2009).
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Introduction continues...

- The argument is that domestic cultural practices are seen to be rooted in clientalism and corruption, ideas about the treatment of women runs counter to the norms promoted by the international partners

2. External Involvement

- The modern West's narratives have come to denote universalism.
 - The ideas and technologies conceived by the West has turned into general framework.
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- However Western knowledge employed support hierarchical thought and hegemonic practices (Constantinou, 2004)
 - As such there is a clash between the outsider and and insider.
 - Therefore to mitigate against this dilemma there is need to negotiate which domestic practices should be allowed and which should not
 - There is need for a package that will have western ideas and their unique ways and similarly local practices
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Need for Convergence: Hybridity?

Since outsiders can no longer ignore insiders perhaps it is important to consider an intersection of the local and international practices through hybridity.

Hybridity:

- Is not merely a summation of differences
 - It is a process of reformulation of practices beyond popular and binary models
 - It is a mix and match of capacities from different organizations
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- Hybrid operations are complex, multinational, multicultural and multidimensional
- The UN Security Council recognizes and appreciates hybridity as emphasized on the debate that took place on the 28th March , 2007

Case Study: Au/UN Hybrid Mission

- In 2007, the Security Council established an AU/UN Hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID)
 - 1st operation to be considered hybrid
 - It constitutes 26, 000 peacekeeping force deployed and commanded jointly by the UN and AU to protect civilians and support peace process
 - UN dept. of peacekeeping Operations provides logistical support for the mission in cooperation with the AU Peace and Security Directorate
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- Since its deployment there has been a number of concerns: lack of aircraft and other equipment; a series of attacks on staff and vehicles; rebel groups often deny UNAMID access to areas
 - Some warn of over enthusiasm of thinking that the convergence of regional and UN peacekeeping like UNAMID necessitates hybridization
 - Africa does not control the mandating process for UN peacekeeping operations (Coleman, 2011)
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- Others are of the opinion that this so called hybrid mission is not really hybrid as the 'hybridness' was not inbuilt from the conception of the mission.
 - This hybrid came about as a result of the government of Sudan not being comfortable with a pure UN peacekeeping force.
 - Africa has since asked to be partners in the design, execution and implementation of peacekeeping operations
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