Can International Interventions Secure the Peace?

Anke Hoeffler

Centre for the Study of African Economies
Department of Economics, University of Oxford
Types of Conflicts: Global Prevalence
Interventions: What works, what doesn’t?

Peace

- Aid
- Diplomatic Interventions
- Economic Sanctions
- UNPKO
- Arms Controls
- Security Services
- Early Intervention
1. Aid

Aid does not prevent civil war

Does aid prevent recurrence?

- No PD if violence ongoing
- PD indep. of conflict termin.
- Aid increases PD
- Peace Dividend

No evidence that particular type of aid stabilizes peace
2. Diplomatic Interventions

- Diplomacy: most common in international politics
- Mediation: third party actor
- Negotiation: bilateral dialogue between opponents
- More mediation since 1989, Europe and Middle East
- Biased vs unbiased mediation: governement bias => peace
- Forcing or fostering
- Success?
  - Occurrence of mediation
  - Termination of violence
  - Lasting peace
- Little evidence of lasting peace

Mediation is biased – governement does not perceive rebels as legitimate, alleviates fear of providing status to rebels.

Mediated/negotiated settlements more likely to break down than military victories – cost/benefit? Possibly the probability of mass atrocities is lower.
3. Economic Sanctions

- Sanctions indicate that target’s actions are not condoned, words are supported by action
  - Limit on exports
  - Restricting imports
  - Restricting financial flows
- Success? Policy goal (moderate policy change? Regime change?)
- Only a small literature of the impact of sanctions on conflict
- Some evidence that they shorten civil war and prevent similar militarized disputes in the area

Export restr most common
Import restr ↔ int trade rules
Smart sanctions relatively recent
4. Do Peace Keeping Operations keep the peace?

- UNPKO keep the peace
- UNPKO make arms embargoes more effective
- Endogeneity unlikely
  - IV analysis, matching
  - UN sends PKO to more difficult situations
5. Arms Controls

- UN Arms Trade Treaty: April 2013
  - Prohibits exports of conventional arms if used in genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes or terrorism
- 75% of arms exports: US, Russia, Germany, France, UK
- Existing controls: self interested/spread of technology
  ↔ Small Arms and Light Weapons
5. Arms Controls continued

- EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports & US Arms Export Control Act
- No amorphous black market of SALW, but illegal diversion to conflict countries
- Embargoes are effective in reducing flow of arms
- Embargoes/restrictions have to be monitored
- Global trade to LDCs: $40bn, US trade $21bn
- US ‘Blue Lantern’ program cost ~$3million
- Potential to scale up monitoring
6. Security and Military Services

- UN convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries, 1989

- in particular in weak states: protection of diplomatic staff, essential civilian installations, natural resource extraction, humanitarian organizations

- Concerns about legitimacy, image & professionalism

- International Code of Conduct for Private Security Providers (not legally binding)
7. Early Interventions

- Early warning = early action?
- Continental Early Warning System in Africa (AU)
- African Peace Facility Fund & African Standby Force
- Very little research on early interventions
Conclusions

- Post-conflict aid stabilizes societies
- UNPKO keep the peace
- Less evidence that mediation & sanctions end conflicts and keep the peace
- Promising ATT, security services should be regulated
- Too early to assess early warning systems
- Mostly instruments used in conjunction – optimal design of policy mix?
Civil Conflict and War: Global Prevalence
Aid by Purpose

Aid to peaceful countries:
- Social infrastructure: 37%
- Production: 20%
- Economic infrastructure: 13%
- Commodity: 9%
- Multi-sector: 8%
- Debt: 8%
- Other: 4%
- Humanitarian: 1%

Aid to post-conflict countries:
- Social infrastructure: 36%
- Production: 9%
- Economic infrastructure: 7%
- Commodity: 8%
- Multi-sector: 8%
- Debt: 10%
- Other: 2%
- Humanitarian: 20%