Can International Interventions Build States? Evidence from the United Nations Development Programme

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Research Question: Are international interventions successful at state-building in failed and fragile states?

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► Findings: As exemplified by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), international interventions are associated with decreased violence in failed and fragile states

Outline

State-building efforts usually fail

State-building efforts usually fail: by nature

Assisting Uncertainty: How Humanitarian Aid can Inadvertently
Prolong Civil War

Neil Narang
University of California, Santa Barbara and the Stanford Center for International Security and Cooperation

Peacekeepers against Criminal Violence—Unintended
Effects of Peacekeeping Operations?

Jessica Di Salvatore   University of Warwick

THE CIVILIAN TARGET IN SIERRA LEONE
AND LIBERIA: POLITICAL POWER, MILITARY
STRATEGY, AND HUMANITARIAN
INTERVENTION

Danny Hoffman

Do All Good Things Go Together? Development
Assistance and Insurgent Violence in Civil War

Michael Weintraub, Universidad de los Andes and Binghamton University (SUNY)

Humanitarian Assistance and the Duration of Peace
after Civil War

Neil Narang   University of California, Santa Barbara and the Center for International Security and
Cooperation (CISAC), Stanford University

African Solutions to African Challenges:
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Allard Duursma

Stopping the Violence but Blocking the Peace:
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Kevin Russell and Nicholas Sambanis

Only Here to Help? Bargaining and the Perverse Incentives of
International Institutions

William Spaniel
University of Pittsburgh

State-building efforts usually fail: poorly implemented

The Trouble with the Congo

Local Violence and the Failure of International Peacebuilding

SÉVERINE AUTESSERRE
Barnard College, Columbia University

Aiming at the Wrong Targets: The Domestic Consequences of International Efforts to Build Institutions

MARK T. BUNTAINE
University of California–Santa Barbara

BRADLEY C. PARKS
College of William and Mary
AND
BENJAMIN P. BUCH
Stanford University

The democracy dilemma. Aid, power-sharing governments, and post-conflict democratization

Felix Haass
Arnold-Bergstraesser-Institute, Freiburg and GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies, Hamburg, Germany

Peaceland

Conflict Resolution and the Everyday Politics of International Intervention

SÉVERINE AUTESSERRE
Barnard College, Columbia University

State-building efforts usually fail: limited to no impact

The UN at the peacemaking–peacebuilding nexus

Kyle Beardsley
Duke University, USA

Peacekeeping and development in fragile states: Micro-level evidence from Liberia

Eric Mvukiyehe ●
Research Department, World Bank
Cyrus Samii ●
Politics Department, New York University

Managing Threat, Cost, and Incentive to Kill: The Short- and Long-Term Effects of Intervention in Mass Killings

Jacob D. Kathman[1] and Reed M. Wood[2]

International interventions can (sometimes) succeed

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Evaluating the Conflict-Reducing Effect of UN
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Håvard Hegre, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University,
and Peace Research Institute Oslo
Lisa Hultman, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University
Håvard Mokleiv Nygård, Peace Research Institute Oslo

**Beyond Keeping Peace: United Nations Effectiveness in the
Midst of Fighting**
LISA HULTMAN   *Uppsala University*
JACOB KATHMAN   *University at Buffalo, SUNY*
MEGAN SHANNON   *University of Colorado, Boulder*

**Managing Mistrust: An
Analysis of Cooperation
with UN Peacekeeping
in Africa**

Andrea Ruggeri[1], Theodora-Ismene Gizelis[2,3], and
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The Legacy of Peacekeeping on the Liberian Security
Sector
Sabrina Karim

Government Department, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA

**International Intervention and the Rule of
Law after Civil War: Evidence from Liberia**
Robert A. Blair

Outline

Missing puzzle piece: UNDP
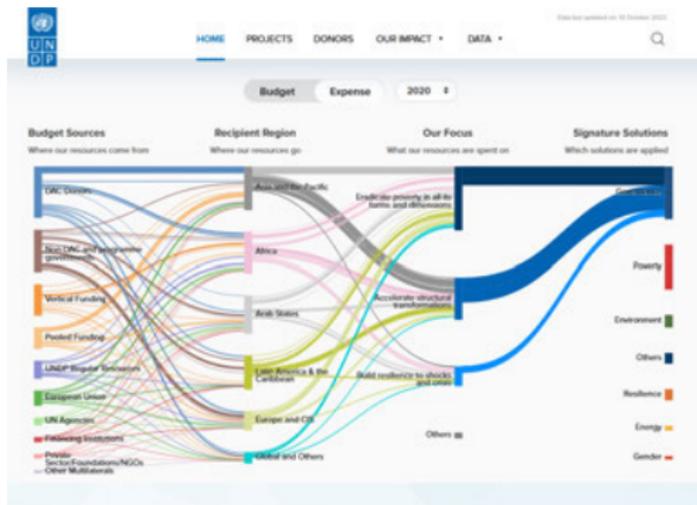
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▶ I collected a new dataset to answer these questions on the efficacy of international interventions

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- ▶ Depth: A deeper intervention presence, as evidenced by more expenditures, will be associated with decreased violence

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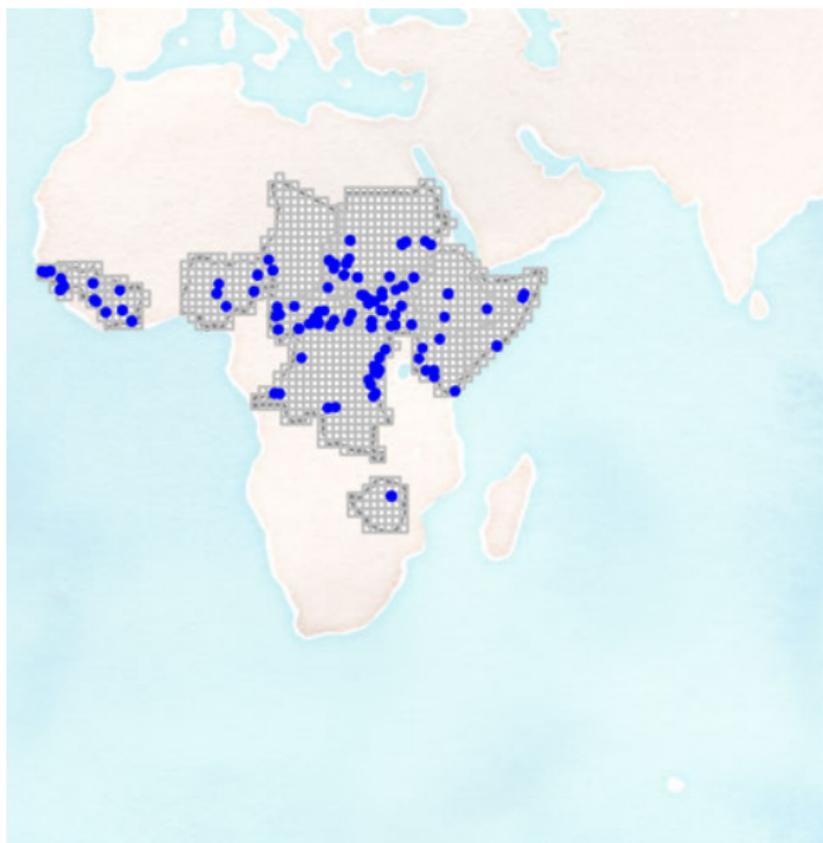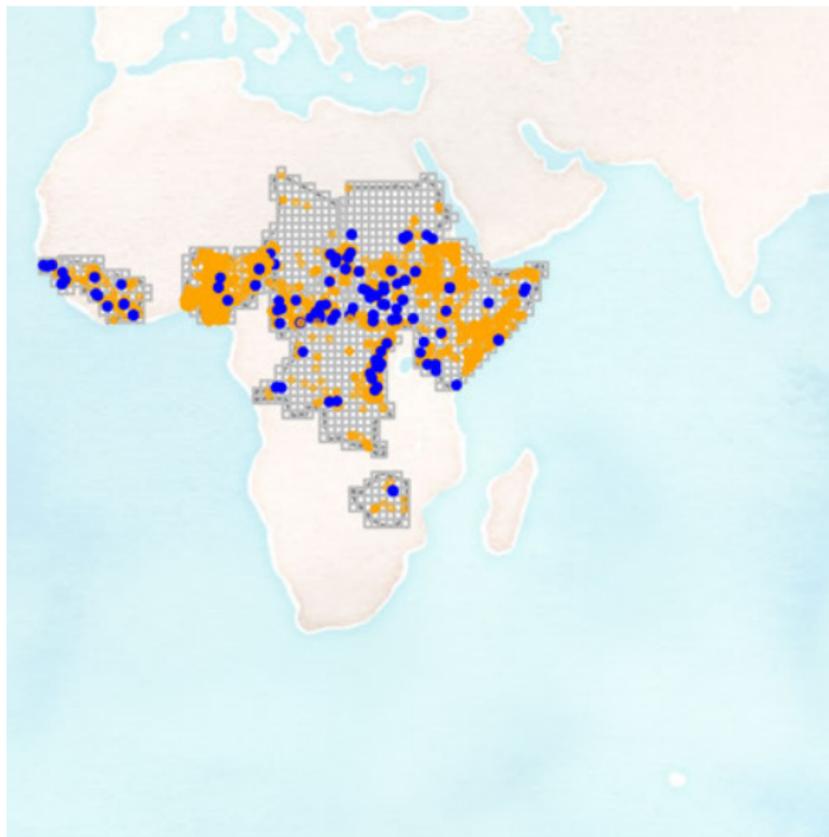
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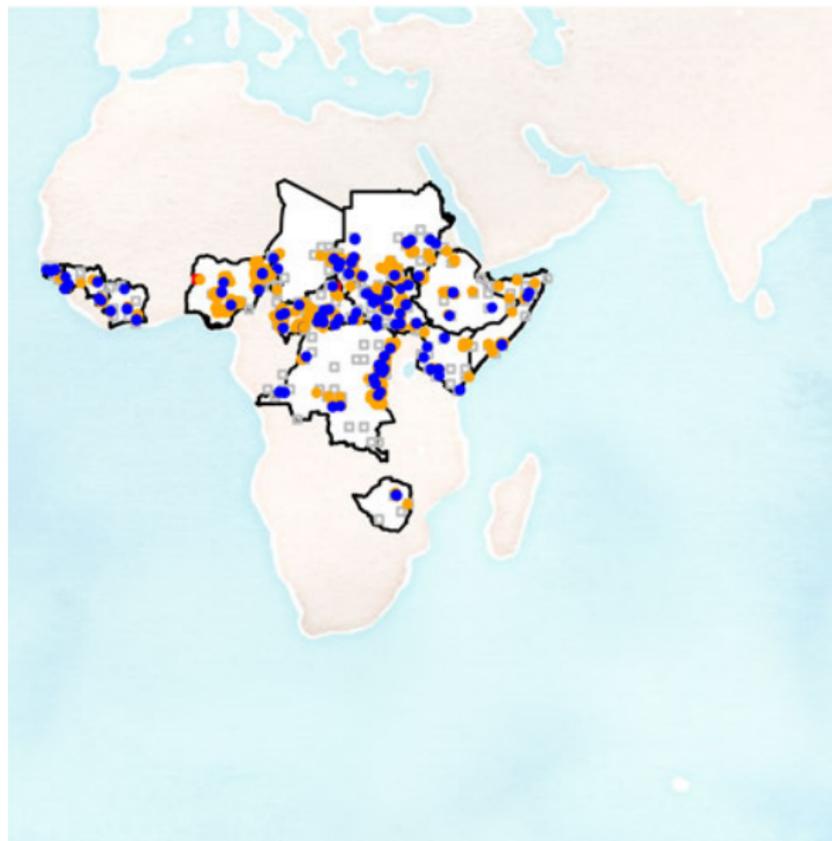
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Outline

Results:

	Event Count	Event Count
L Project Count	-0.40^{***}	
	(0.08)	
L Project Expenses		-0.80^{***}
		(0.2)
Lagged DV	Yes	Yes
Grid FE	Yes	Yes
Year FE	Yes	Yes
R^2	0.90	0.90
Adj. R^2	0.89	0.90
Num. obs.	1,890	1,890

$^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$; expenses in millions USD

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  - ▶ More state-building projects → fewer violent events
  - ▶ Larger state-building expenditures → fewer violent events
- ▶ Arguably small effect size

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  - ▶ Broader definition of state-building
  - ▶ Experiment for testing mechanism
- ▶ Gives hope that international interventions can effectively mitigate violence and build states

Thank you!

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Full Regression Results: Breadth

Table 1: Project breadth and violence: regression on matched data

	Dependent variable:		
	Non-state	State	All
	(1)	(2)	(3)
Lagged State-building Count	−0.22***	−0.14***	−0.40***
	(0.05)	(0.05)	(0.08)
Lagged Non-state Violence	0.45***		
	(0.03)		
Lagged State Violence		0.29***	
		(0.02)	
Lagged All Violence			0.43***
			(0.02)
Grid FE	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes
Constant	−1.14	−0.84	−2.09
	(4.10)	(4.18)	(7.25)
Observations	1,890	1,890	1,890
R^2	0.81	0.91	0.90
Adjusted R^2	0.79	0.90	0.89
Residual Std. Error (df = 1670)	12.07	12.31	21.32
F Statistic (df = 219; 1670)	33.23***	77.29***	69.03***

Note: *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Full Regression Results: Depth

Table 2: Regression Results, UNDP' State-building Expenditures with Matching

	Dependent variable:		
	Non-state	State	All
	(1)	(2)	(3)
Lagged State-building Expenditure	−0.5***	−0.3***	−0.8***
	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.2)
Lagged Non-state Violence	0.5***		
	(0.03)		
Lagged State Violence		0.3***	
		(0.02)	
Lagged All Violence			0.4***
			(0.02)
Grid FE	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes
Constant	−1.1	−0.9	−2.1
	(4.1)	(4.2)	(7.3)
Observations	1,890	1,890	1,890
R²	0.8	0.9	0.9
Adjusted R²	0.8	0.9	0.9
Residual Std. Error (df = 1670)	12.1	12.3	21.4
F Statistic (df = 219; 1670)	33.1***	77.3***	68.7***
Note:	*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01		

Summary Statistics of Matched Panel

Independent Variables:

	Mean	Median	Min	Max	Std. Dev.
Count	3.1	3	0	210	12.6
Expenditure	1.1	0	-0.2	49.7	4.4

Dependent Variables:

	Mean	Median	Min	Max	Std. Dev.
All	17.3	3	0	1091	63.6
State	8.4	1	0	755	38.6
Non-state	7.9	1	0	392	26.3

NB: data at grid-cell year level.

Balance Pre- and Post-Matching

Pre-matching

	Fatalities	All	State	Non-state	Area	Dist. to Capital
Control	88.2	15.2	5.89	8.55	0.986	44.6
Treatment	511	120	57.9	56.5	0.993	42.2

Post-matching

	Fatalities	All	State	Non-state	Area	Dist. to Capital
Control	130	17.8	8.46	8.48	0.990	42.4
Treatment	511	120	57.9	56.5	0.993	42.2

Violence statistics from 1997-2011.