

Corporate Effects on Conflict Prevention and Resolution

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Abstract: There are numerous factors that affect incidences of civil conflicts. One of such factors is the role of private companies on the peace processes conducted to resolve these civil conflicts. International companies are in a unique situation that allows them to raise the stakes on the cost of violence. As a result, this can increase the amount of time a country sees peace. This project will help consider the implications of and explore the role that private companies may play in peace-making and the prevention of civil wars.

Introduction: I am analyzing how multinational corporations and their investments affect stability and peace processes. The objective of this research is to fill the gaps in the existing literature on how these international profit-seeking organizations. This is important to the academic field because of the gap in academic understanding of this phenomenon. It will add to the literature available by discussing how the increasingly powerful businesses world is contributing to and hindering stability and peace processes internationally.

Hypothesis:

States with an actively engaged domestic private sector are better equipped to peacefully resolve disputes because these actors see it in their interest to maintain peace and stability

Results:

- The effects on private firms on conflict prevention and resolution are anything but straight-forwards
- 1. Engaged firms reduce the occurrence of violence
- 2. Engaged firms prolong ongoing violence

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Methods Used:

- Analysis and exploration of peacebuilding-related activities

<u>Armed Conflict Cause</u>	<u>Implication for Decreasing Armed Conflict Risk</u>	<u>Relevant Peacebuilding Activity</u>
Weak State →	State-strengthening →	Lawful Operations
Poverty →	Financial Opportunities →	Employment Programs
Economic Inequality →	Equal access →	Inclusion Programs
Prior Conflict →	All of the above →	Investment in Post

- Use of opportunity-cost framework that explains motives for rebelling
- Analysis of the rate of violence occurrence in states
- Analysis of the rate of “violence ending” and how long that process took
- Control for confounding variables

Conclusions:

- Corporate peacebuilding efforts can increase the opportunity cost of rebelling → prevents conflict
- Corporate engagement complicates the conflict environment and conflict resolution efforts → prolongs violence