

states to intervene - unilaterally or multilaterally - is reduced and as NGOs offer clear strengths and capabilities, NGOs enjoy an increased prominence in peacebuilding efforts. The efforts of NGOs comprise a vital part in contemporary efforts to eliminate conflict and preserve peace. The study comprises four parts. First, the author explores the new context of NGO involvement. Second, the study examines the nature and scope of NGO involvement in peacebuilding activities. Third, the paper critically analyzes the complexities and challenges presented by NGO participation in interventionist activities. Last, the paper looks to offer some initial observations and propositions regarding the niche that NGOs ought to fulfill in contemporary peacebuilding efforts.

Biography

David Gamache Hutchison is currently completing a masters degree in political science at the University of Alberta. Among his diverse research interests is a particular focus on Canadian federalism and foreign policy. During the 1998-99 academic year, David participated in the Parliamentary Internship Programme in Ottawa. His other experience in government includes an internship at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C. and a tour guide position at the Assemblée nationale in Quebec City.

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NGO-Military Cooperation in Humanitarian Interventions: The Need for Improved Coordination

Abstract

With the end of the Cold War, the context for humanitarian assistance has changed and, along with it, the role played by major agencies involved in complex emergencies. The paper examines the evolving relationship between NGOs and military missions in such interventions, with a particular focus on lessons learned in Bosnia and Herzegovina. While NGOs have sought modes of cooperation that address their security concerns but preserve their independence and neutrality, military entities have engaged in non-traditional activities to expedite the fulfilment of their objectives towards an exit strategy. The United Nations, as a central coordinator, has an important role to play in balancing the integrity of the humanitarian agenda with the optimal use of military resources in fluid environments. In order to succeed, it must acknowledge that the effective and efficient achievement of mandates in complex emergencies will depend in part on the contribution of NGOs in both the discourse and management of frameworks for cooperation.

Biography

I have eight years of NGO experience with CARE Canada, including two assignments in Croatia and Bosnia between 1993 and 1998, first to manage a Provision of Services contract with the UN, and later to manage and help indigenize a Bosnia-wide rehabilitation program. I was also briefly assigned to Burundi and Zaire during the 1994 refugee crisis to establish new sub-offices and to assist with the management of refugee camps. In 1997 I joined the UN mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) as a political affairs and human rights officer, which