

In each instance, foreign intervention either directly or indirectly influenced the dynamics of the political, economic, and social conditions of El Salvador. This in turn, influenced the capacity of the El Salvadoran government and military to suppress its people, and to use humanitarian violations as a tool to *manage* its constituents. Further considerations will be made in regards to the linkages between fear and peace.

Possibilities for the Future

As the detailed accounts above indicate, foreign intervention in El Salvador has had both positive and negative effects, depending on which vantage point is taken. Several factors have influenced the outcomes, including the goals and objectives of the foreign actors and organizations, the foreign policy interests, and the information used to create the international directives. With the United States' focus on military solutions, the Salvadoran government's dependence left it with few alternatives. It is interesting to note the dynamic role of power and influence in selecting the data gathered and used to influence a state or organization's objectives. In case of the United States, lack of information and interest outside the 'military solution', severely limited the options focused on addressing problems of social exclusion, inequities, and humanitarian rights offences.

On a positive note, foreign intervention had some constructive impacts on El Salvador. With the peace accords signed, the process of implementing the agreement helps promote the conditions for democracy. While the transition process itself is not without criticism and problems, the fact that two 'enemies' were able to mutually agree to the process of establishing peace and ending the civil strife was an accomplishment in itself. Overcoming the deeply imbedded corruption and anger between both groups will be a challenge that goes beyond the scopes of the peace accord.

The creation of the Truth Commission and ONUSAL helped build confidence in the peacebuilding process, and created 'legitimate' bodies to give Salvadoran greater hope in the entire initiative. Despite its criticisms, the organizations did create greater awareness to 'truths' and a *voice* to the helpless victims that suffered throughout decades of social exclusion and human rights violations. It gave the *silenced* a chance to seek justice through awareness, and educate others to prevent future abuse from occurring. Although not all the murderers have been brought to justice, the increased awareness and freedom of speech has inspired citizens to mobilize locally and internationally at the non-governmental organizations and grassroots level so that they may *help others help themselves*.

International involvement in El Salvador's civil war also promoted cooperation at the local, regional and international level. Thus, through assistance from the UN in the peace process, and pressure from several regional actors, a resolution was reached. In essence, greater public awareness of the human rights violations helped mobilize and motivate people into action at every level.