

I. FROM PEACEKEEPING TO PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS

Background

The final death rattle of the Cold War and the consequent rise of intra-state conflict spurred a resurgent interest in both the United Nations and in different forms of peacekeeping. More specifically, it created enthusiasm for different forms of UN military operations to stem the rising tide of internal armed conflict in which genocide -- or ethnic cleansing -- and the targeting of civilians is rapidly becoming a repellent norm.¹ Traditional peacekeeping -- interpositionary military forces monitoring a cease-fire -- would not be enough it was argued.

New terms were invented and some old concepts revived: Multi-disciplinary peacekeeping, composite missions, humanitarian intervention, peace enforcement and peacebuilding. The international community became giddy with the possibilities. They were further emboldened by Security Council resolution 688 authorizing UN intervention to protect the Kurds in Northern Iraq from Iraqi military forces following the Gulf War. UNICEF Executive Director James Grant characterized the resolution as an "abrupt break with the past" and a "precedent" in the cause of humanitarian intervention when state sovereignty is invoked to violate human rights.² Respected scholars, too, leapt on the bandwagon. Witness, for example, the concluding remarks of Tom Weiss and Kurt M. Campbell in their 1991 essay on military humanitarianism:

With the humanitarian intervention in Iraq, the international community may be perched on the brink of a new era in which states will codify the principles and identify the appropriate conditions when humanitarian imperatives will override domestic

John MacKinlay has been one of the most active and cogent thinkers about the different types of UN military responses that will be required of peacekeepers in the post cold war. He refers to these different operations as first, second, and third generation peacekeeping. See John MacKinlay...

Address by Mr. James P. Grant, Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund to the Humanitarian Ceasefires: Peacebuilding For Children Conference." Ottawa: Centre for Days of Peace. *Humanitarian Ceasefires: Peacebuilding for Children. Report of a Conference*, Ottawa, 24-27 November 1991, pp.122-123.