

BOOK REVIEW

Between War and Peace in Sudan and Sri Lanka Deprivation and Livelihood Revival

By N. Shanmugaratnam (editor)

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The book draws attention to address internationalised grievances generated by protracted conflict in a comparative perspective. It focuses on notable comparative differences between Sudan and Sri Lanka in the organizational and operational arrangement for Relief, Rehabilitation, Development (RRD) and the role of the government. In addition to this the book clearly discusses the role of international actors and decisive internal factors for peacemaking, peace building in globalising milieu at different levels.

The first three chapters discuss the various phases of conflict resolution and peace building in Sudan and Sri Lanka.

The main key aspects of chapter 3,4,5,7 and 8 are critical investigations of vulnerability, livelihood revival and social change which are discussed in diverse setting in Sudan and Sri Lanka. These five chapters are mainly on qualitative studies which are based on interviews and interactions. In addition to this the core concern of these chapters are of the livelihood status and the changes experienced by the people. The advance investigation has assisted greatly in capturing the scale of deprivation, recovery and social mobility in Sudan and Sri Lanka. The context in chapter 8 treats the fisheries sector of northern Sri Lanka which is said to have complex relations between war and livelihoods on a much broader scale as well as utmost forms of insecurity and suffering. Furthermore, chapter 6 deals with a theoretical discussion of the different context of vulnerability. Chapter 3, 4, and 6 provide evidence to support the fact that differentiation is a universal feature of development and social change.

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The differentiation is accompanied by marginalization and exclusion in some of the great concern in these chapters. Manager relates in his chapter about the international community very briefly but instead discusses more about the UN and the World Bank having to make an important contribution to peace building and development. Moreover the Manager emphasis about developing a more superior civil society, and then immediately returns his attention to the role of the UN and other donors at various points. Furthermore, he emphasizes that escalations of intra-state conflict may stir serious implications of the comprehensive peace agreements and arise major issues and is looking into the future of potential challenges in the post comprehensive peace agreement, peace building and development. The two studies of Yirol deal with different aspects of livelihood revival. Tofte and Haug's focal point is on local views of wealth, poverty and the role of Civil Society Organizations, while Sundes and Shanmugaratnam focuses on land resource availability and emerging land issues. In chapter six the authors proceed to show amalgamation between protagonist in the development policy and the role of international donors in the favour of peace process. Furthermore, conflict deduction or conflict exacerbation through aids depends on how it is used in particular contexts. Their analysis resonate with Ian Smillies (1998) and he also explains that, the understanding connection is important because development aid like emergency assistance itself has in some cases contributed exacerbation of the conflict. In Chapter 8 of Stokke et al' the Sri Lankan peace process is being placed in its international context by Shanmugaratatnam and Stokke and they argue that the donors peace conditionality and the international facilitation have turned out to be parameters which cannot be disregarded. Haug argues that defining purely on humanitarian relief by donors and international NGO's are not appropriate therefore she is offering a comparative analysis and notes that, international NGO's should play a greater role in overturning marginalisation and developing peoples livelihood.

The context of this book consists of livelihood revival and security to peace in war torn-communities and it also exposes some of the political and institutional challenges of creating and supporting the effective links between relief and development. The book also clearly notifies that it should be viewed as a step towards long term peace building and the main core of the book is devoted for livelihood themes.

Reference

Smillie, Ian 1998. *Relief and Development- The Struggle for Synergy*, Occasional Paper, institute for International Studies, Brown University, USA.