

Abstracts

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Doubting the Legitimacy of Humanitarian Intervention: Continuities between Kosovo and Libya

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Twelve years separate the interventions in Kosovo and Libya. The respective legitimacy discourses were quite distinct – on Kosovo, an agonizing debate on the pros and cons of intervention, on Libya, broad political support. Have the doubts prevailing on Kosovo dispelled since Libya? Or are there continuities, which were only marginalized in the public discourse on the latter? This contribution argues that the divide separating both discourses are caused both by the increasing significance of United Nations Security Council authorization for legitimizing interventions and by the progressive norm change on humanitarian intervention in the time span between Kosovo and Libya. However, even though both interventions are very different at first sight, there are striking commonalities. They appear once we apply common legitimacy criteria to both. The article does so by employing the criteria the *High-level Panel* of the United Nations Secretary-General advanced in 2004.

Keywords: Responsibility to Protect, Security Council, norm change, human rights, just war

Maximilian Lakitsch

The Modern State and the State Boundary – On the Sources of State Authority

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Violence against asylum seekers and deportees in Germany and Austria, the refugee misery at the European Union's borders, ongoing police violence against Roma in France and Italy: some acts of modern states seem so rigorous that they raise doubts about their legitimacy. Yet, that doesn't appear to affect the legitimacy of the state's exertion of authority. This is the problem this article deals with. The article thereto characterizes state action by taking into account the daily reality of state violence. Through this characterization, not only shall the foundation of state authority be described, but also its manifestation in the acts of state violence which seem dubious in their legitimacy. The article assumes that state actions of dubious legitimacy do not accidentally happen due to political contingency, but rather follow a distinct logic of exertion of state authority. This logic is grounded on the so called state borders, where state action is to be described as a-legitimate.

Keywords: modern state, state violence, state boundary, legitimacy, alegitimacy

Timothy Williams

The Complexity of Evil: a Multi-Faceted Approach to Genocide Perpetration
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Research on the micro-dynamics of who participates in genocide and why is underdeveloped in peace and conflict studies and there is most of all no recognisable, comprehensive theory on the topic. The aim of this article is to review the psychological literature, as well as the political science, sociological and journalistic investigations of such cases as the Holocaust, the Armenian genocide and the Hutu genocide of Tutsis in Rwanda. From this body of empirical and theoretical results, more general insights on the micro-dynamics of genocide are teased out and synthesised to a more over-arching theory of perpetrator participation and non-participation, identifying some sufficient, though not individually necessary causes. A second model identifies different pathways into becoming a willing, an unwilling, yet persuaded, or a coerced participant, and differentiates this from remaining a non-participant.

Keywords: genocide, perpetrator, motivations, pathway, social psychology

Harald Müller

Great Power Relations, Deterrence, and Nuclear Disarmament: A Change of Perspective
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Great power relations remain a central field of peace research because of their high potential for global damage, embodied by nuclear arsenals. Presently, traditional forms of power rivalry threaten to re-emerge again. Nuclear disarmament, as proposed by President Obama, is apt to trigger and guide a transformation of great power relations from power rivalry to security cooperation. The individual disarmament steps are to be conceptualized in a way that each of them opens new space for further, farther-reaching steps that establish a dynamic of confidence-building that transforms the substance of the relations between the most powerful states of the world. This process has to work in tandem with the development of political détente and concertation. In this way, the security dilemma manifested in nuclear deterrence can be diminished and finally overcome. The alternative to this course is a multipolar high-risk nuclear arms race with unpredictable consequences.

Keywords: great power relations, arms control, nuclear disarmament, deterrence, system transformation

Bettina Engels

Representation, Discourses, and Questions of Power: Postcolonial Theory in Peace and Conflict Studies

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The article discusses in how far postcolonial theory is yet taken into account in peace and conflict studies. The paper is organized in three parts. First, existing analyses in peace and conflict studies that refer to postcolonial theory are summarized. Second, it is outlined what postcolonial approaches can contribute to the study of violent conflicts and peace. Building on this, starting points for prospective research are identified. Third, it is discussed in how far the critical political and theoretical claims which are at the core of postcolonial approaches may be weakened if postcolonial theory was integrated into dominant debates. Referring to the experience of feminist approaches, it is argued that this is indeed a risk. The paper closes with the claim that postcolonial theory, including its inherent critique of power and knowledge production, shall be granted a prominent place in academic research and teaching in the field of peace and conflict studies.

Keywords: postcolonialism, feminism, peace and conflict studies, power, critique