

Abstracts

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Contested Politicization: New Strategies on Humanitarian Aid in Germany and the European Union

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Syria, South-Soudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo: Three big humanitarian crises currently exert pressure on international institutions to make humanitarian aid more effective. To this end new strategies are being formulated, such as the Comprehensive Approach, the strategy of Resilience, or Preparedness. This article analyzes stakeholder discussions on these initiatives in the European Union and Germany and links them to current academic discussions on the politicization of humanitarian aid. Some potentially problematic effects of these new strategies are revealed, most importantly that they could contribute to a weakening of the humanitarian principles, endanger humanitarian aid workers or further add to a securitization of the policy field or increase problems of acceptance. These pitfalls create doubts that the strategic re-orientation on humanitarian aid in Germany and the European Union will indeed make humanitarian aid more effective.

Keywords: humanitarian aid, politicization, European Union, stakeholder-analysis, Comprehensive Approach, Resilience

Martin Kahl

»We Are Creating More Enemies than We Eliminate« – Radicalisation, Recruitment and Militancy as a Consequence of US Drone Warfare?

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The article analyses the widespread claim that US drone warfare in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Yemen led to an increased radicalisation of parts of the local population, to increased recruitments by insurgents and terrorists as well as to an intensification of militancy. This claim is dominant in mainstream media and academic publications. Considering these critical depictions of drone warfare, the article seeks to identify different links between armed drone operations and an increased propensity towards violence. It analyses the sources of knowledge used to confirm this allegation and how several authors try to prove or to make this argument plausible. On the one hand, the article demonstrates the difficulties of proving a drone-militancy linkage, on the other hand it demonstrates that there is no empirical evidence

for the assertion that armed drones are an effective instrument for fighting terrorism, an argument maintained by supporters of drone warfare.

Keywords: armed drones, radicalisation, recruitment, militancy, non-intended consequences

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EU peace mediation as a research subject

Theoretical and empirical perspectives

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With the »Concept on Strengthening EU Mediation and Dialogue Capacities adopted in 2009«, the EU aims at expanding their skills and institutional structures in peace mediation. The EU thereby resorts to mediation experiences made by EU institutions and actors in different conflict situations. So far, little systematic attention has been paid to the role of the EU as a mediator in peace negotiations or a supporter of the mediation efforts of third parties. To develop a better theoretical and empirical understanding of EU peace mediation, the Department of International Politics of the Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz organized a workshop on »The EU as Actor in International Mediation – Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives« which took place November 2015 in Mainz. The following article discusses this project in the light of current research literature and reflects on the results of the presentations and discussion of this workshop.

Keywords: mediation, European Union, EU foreign policy, effectiveness