

Governing security after war

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Résumé ou extrait : This book explores the political dilemmas around security governance in war-torn countries. Security assistance has become the largest component of international peacebuilding and stabilization efforts, and a primary tool for responding to civil war and insurgency. Donors and peacekeepers not only train and equip military and police forces, they also seek to overhaul their structure, management, and oversight. As international actors have attempted to strengthen oversight and curb abuse, however, they have run into thorny political obstacles. Varied outcomes have raised questions about the value of international assistance for strengthening state institutions. This book confronts these

questions by delving into the political dimensions of security governance. Shifting from the perspective of outside actors to those of leaders and officials in war-torn countries, it highlights the political challenges that arise as they seek to consolidate authority. The book shows that the extent to which state policymakers adopt changes to the management and oversight of security forces depends on internal political dynamics, specifically the degree to which leaders need to consolidate power. The political strategies leaders pursue, in turn, affect opportunities for external actors to influence institutional changes through means such as conditions on aid, norm diffusion, or day-to-day participation in decision-making. Drawing on an original dataset of security governance and field research in Liberia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Timor-Leste, as well as mini-case studies of Iraq, Afghanistan, South Sudan, and Somalia, this book explains the success and failure of international security assistance and sheds light on the politics of peacebuilding. It explains why more aid does not always improve outcomes, and when political interests enable institutional change—sometimes in unintended ways. Going beyond “context matters,” it provides practical recommendations for navigating the political challenges of institutional change in conflict-affected countries

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Construction nationale

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