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Unorthodox Warfare, Multinational Conflict and New Standards in Contemporary International Mediation

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ABSTRACT

In the recent decades, there has emerged a significant transformation in the nature and strategies of warfare, accompanied by the worldwide spread of armed conflicts. This phenomenon has emerged due to the growing interconnectedness of diverse civilizations, the rapid dissemination of information, the removal of hurdles in distance and time for interactions, and the concurrent involvement of an increasing number of participants in the same field. Modern works on the analysis of conflict at a detailed level and elucidating the factors that lead to unorthodox warfare have generated a significant increase in interest among scholars and researchers. This attention can be ascribed to the premise that these investigations have been undertaken.

The objective of this research is to highlight the insufficient focus in the current study on multinational mediation towards developing innovative approaches for effectively addressing emerging issues. This article will primarily address the latest studies conducted on the subject of international mediation. The cause of this phenomenon is the current spike in attention towards the analysis of conflict disaggregation and the identification of variables that contribute to non-conventional warfare. The multinational mediation mechanism was deemed insufficient in its capacity to swiftly adjust to the evolving dynamics and unforeseen trajectories of the war, resulting in its prolonged duration.

Keywords: Mediation, International Dispute Resolution, Cultural Conflict, Smart Mediation, Theology, Terrorism.

I. INTRODUCTION

In the context of international relations, power can be defined as the ability to persuade other entities to engage in actions that they would not typically undertake in order to achieve their objectives, or to influence them to act in ways they would rather avoid.[2] The financial systems of the G-8 countries are currently undergoing a rapid transition from industrial to post-industrial, and any entity aspiring to enhance its place on the global stage must develop

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[2] Richard J. Payne, Global Issues. Politics, Economics, and Culture, Normal: Illinois State University, 2011, p. 2.

strategies grounded in these novel principles of smartness. Likewise, numerous entities in the international arena possess the capacity to act as intermediaries in particular circumstances. Therefore, it is crucial for the present international mediator to prioritise the advancement of astute mediation strategies in order to enhance the efficacy of the mediation process.[3] Therefore, we suggest the concept of smart mediation as an additional approach to the traditional style of mediation. This concept is based on the unique intelligent characteristics that have been discovered in the framework of global mediation. The notion of smart power, as delineated by the Centre for Strategic & International Studies, forms the bedrock upon which this concept is constructed. The conventional method of mediation has been enhanced by the implementation of a technique known as smart mediation.

II. EXPLORING NEW THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS IN GLOBAL MEDIATION

The CSIS had been responsible for formulating the smart electricity plan. Armitage & Nye were co-chairs of the Commission on Smart Power at the CSIS in the past. The two guys held this function concurrently.[4] The CSIS assessment from 2007, titled Smart Power, defines it as the adept combination of hard & soft power, without favouring one over the other.[5] The publication occurred in 2007. It involves effectively organising and combining tools of military and non-military influence in a deliberate way, especially throughout the same operative structure.

The ongoing discourse revolves around the efficacy of coercive measures vs peaceful diplomatic attempts in conflict management. These two methodologies are commonly known as hard & soft tactics, respectively. The overwhelming majority of research conducted in the field of international mediation have placed significant emphasis on this particular aspect. The data generated by Regan, Frank, & Aydin sheds light on the main emphasis of most quantitative research on civil conflict, which is centred around coercive methods such as martial and fiscal interventions.[6] As a consequence of the quantitative character of these judgements, diplomatic techniques that offer less pressure to resolve ongoing internal disagreements have been ignored.[7] An innovative perspective to this subject is presented by the ECPEC information set, which examines the implementation of preventive measures in ethnic conflicts between 1990

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[3] Ernest J. Wilson III, "Hard Power, Soft Power, Smart Power ", in The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, vol. 616, no. 1, 2008, p. 112.

[4] Armitage Richard L.; Nye Jr., Joseph S. (2007), CSIS Commission on Smart Power, Center for Strategic and International Studies.

[5] Richard L. Armitage and Joseph S. Nye Jr., CSIS Commission on Smart Power, Center for Strategic and International Studies, , pp. 7-9.

[6] Regan, Patrick M.; Frank, Richard W.; Aydin, Aysegul (2009), "Diplomatic Interventions and Civil War: A New Dataset", in Journal of Peace Research, 46(1), 135-146.

[7] Patrick M. Regan, Richard W. Frank and Aysegul Aydin, "Diplomatic Interventions and Civil War: A New Dataset", in Journal of Peace Research, vol. 46, no.1, 2009, p.146

and 1998. The efficacy of employing both precautionary diplomacy & penal sanctions was found to be limited. Nevertheless, it has been discovered that placing sole reliance on preventative diplomacy significantly increases the likelihood of averting a crisis from escalating into an armed conflict.[8] This perspective is fascinating as it highlights the greater effectiveness of proactive diplomacy in averting the escalation of conflicts into warfare, which is a significant obstacle in resolving disputes.[9] The key discovery in this field is that the sole application of preventive diplomacy significantly increases the likelihood of preventing a situation of crisis from spiralling into a war. This finding offers an alternative perspective to the previously stated conclusion and offers a unique interpretation of how it should be understood.

However, we believe that the advancement of theoretical knowledge in this area should focus on including coercive tactics in addition to peaceful diplomatic measures during international mediation. We both share this perspective. It would be a significant advancement if we allocated more focus to this perceptual approach to promote the growth of a more profound and comprehensive comprehension of the current mediation process.[10] The terms soft & hard the process of mediation, in addition to power-based as well as trust-oriented techniques, are commonly employed in the realm of expertise. However, these notions are insufficient to fully capture the intricacies of international mediation. Nevertheless, there exists a vast array of interrelated intelligent components that necessitate more investigation. In the subsequent paragraphs, we will examine the concepts of competitiveness and cooperation, synergy, comprehension of cultural behaviour, and innovation. Nye, from a historical perspective, argues that the power relations in our contemporary society vary significantly across the military, economic, and international domains.[11] The latter, encompassing a diverse range of issues such as environmental fluctuations, global epidemics, & global terrorism, provide highly challenging responsibilities. Nevertheless, relying just on military intervention is insufficient to effectively tackle the intricacies of these issues, hence posing significant difficulties in devising viable solutions. Engaging in collaborative endeavours with others and utilising one's cognitive capabilities are crucial for overcoming these hurdles.[12] This is the sole and exclusive method to

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[8] Isak Svensson, Peter Wallensteen, The Go-Between. Jan Eliasson and The Styles of Mediation, Washington, D.C.: United States Institute for Peace Press, 2010, p. 15.

[9] . Svensson, Isak; Wallensteen, Peter (2010), The Go-Between. Jan Eliasson and The Style of Mediation, Washington, D.C., United States Institute for Peace Press.

[10] Charles Doran, "The two sides of Multilateral Cooperation", in I. William Zartman, Saadia Touval (eds.), International Cooperation: The Extents and Limits of Multilateralism, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010, p. 41.

[11] 7 I. William Zartman, "Conflict Management as Cooperation", in I. William Zartman, Saadia Touval, op cit., p.180.

[12] Chester Crocker, Fen Osler Hampson and Pamela Aall (eds.), Herding Cats: Multiparty Mediation in a Complex World, Washington, D.C., United States Institute for Peace Press, 1999, p. 249.

achieve any form of advancement. Similarly, we believe that effective international mediation requires the implementation of strategic methodologies to address the challenges of competitiveness and cooperation that occur when multiple parties are engaged in a conflict. To achieve success in the realm of multinational mediation, it is crucial to employ a multitude of strategic approaches.

Doran astutely notes that cooperation and competition are intricately interconnected. Consequently, possessing a substantial level of intellect is necessary to effectively engage in communication with others.[13] He highlights the existence of a significant amount of literature focused on studying the notion of cooperation as an independent entity. However, your perspective on the matter is entirely inaccurate. Solidarity and competition are intricately interconnected aspects of human behaviour. The existence of a purely collaborative concept, detached from human behaviour and uniquely interactive in nature, is deemed impossible. The concept of pure collaboration is non-existent as it is unattainable.[14]

Despite the endorsement of unilateral action by some neorealists, like Zartman, this perspective lacks broad consensus.[15] These proponents argue that the participation of multiple mediators generally leads to synergy and greater effectiveness compared to using only one third party. This viewpoint has been corroborated by the research conducted by an additional seven researchers.

The objective of these explanations is to initiate a discourse aimed at facilitating individuals in acquiring a more comprehensive comprehension of the most efficient innovation that can be employed in the process of mediation, as well as the optimal approaches for implementing its instruments and techniques. The objective of this debate is to promote a more profound understanding. This conversation is beneficial for us since it allows us to gain further knowledge about these innovations.

III. GLOBAL AND MULTI-CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO AMICABLE SETTLEMENT OF CONFLICTS

An integral aspect of successful mediation involves actively engaging in self-reflection

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[13] Doran, Charles (2010), "The Two Sides of Multilateral Cooperation", in I. William Zartman, Saadia Touval (ed.), International Cooperation: The Extents and Limits of Multilateralism, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

[14] Kevin Avruch, "Culture Theory, Culture Clash, and The Practice of Conflict Resolution", in Dennis J. D. Sandole et al. (ed.), Handbook of Conflict Analysis and Resolution, New York: Routledge, 2009, p. 241.

[15] Hans Küng, A Global Ethic for Global Politics and Economics, New York: Oxford University Press, 1998, p.92.

regarding one's own cultural heritage. This holds particularly true when considering the present degree of structural difficulties, which arises from the presence of globalising influences in all cultures. Although other civilizations have their own approaches to conflict resolution, the Western convention, stands out as the only one to have extensively researched and analysed this issue. Until recently, the concept of civilization has remained largely neglected in both the theoretical and practical aspects of conflict resolution.[16] This can be ascribed to the dominant realist ideology, which posits that all human behaviours are governed by political power. This was because both the theory and practise of conflict resolution failed to incorporate any discourse on culture as a pertinent element. Avruch asserts that realism and neorealist ideologies held sway in the realm of foreign affairs at that time.[17] These concepts emphasised that states act as rational agents, seeking to maximise their interests, particularly through the use of power. Coercive behaviour in its base manifestations, was often regarded as the primary catalyst for motivation and dynamics. This diminution of dominance to its very basic manifestations was widespread.[18]

Following the conclusion of the Cold War, here was a global reorganisation that led to a significant surge in the quantity of research dedicated to cultural study. This is because the conclusion of the Cold War marked the cessation of the ongoing conflict. From 1993 through 1996, Huntington introduced a novel viewpoint. The esteemed concepts of civilization proposed by Spengler & Toynbee served as the catalyst for the creation of this groundbreaking paradigm. The character of international disputes and cooperation will be significantly influenced by culture and civilization, according to this emerging viewpoint.[19]

Additionally, observations note a significant rise in the proportion of individuals who have an opposing view to the provided premise. The persons in question not only refute the premise of a conflict of societies, but they also provide potential remedies, like trans-civilizational discourse.

Theologian Kung, argued that attaining global peace through politics is contingent upon establishing concord among religious communities. He prioritised the importance of

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[16] BERCOVITCH, J., & DEROUEN, K. (2004). Mediation in Internationalized Ethnic Conflicts: Assessing the Determinants of a Successful Process. *Armed Forces & Society*, *30*(2), 147–170. https://www.jstor.org/stable/48608626

[17] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Dialog Among Civilizations, , March 2013.

[18] Bercovitch, J., Anagnoson, J. T., & Wille, D. L. (1991). Some Conceptual Issues and Empirical Trends in the Study of Successful Mediation in International Relations. *Journal of Peace Research*, *28*(1), 7–17. http://www.jstor.org/stable/424190

[19] Jacob Bercovitch, Jonathan Foulkes, "Cross-Cultural Effects in Conflict Management: Examining the Nature and Relationship Between Culture and International Mediation", in International Journal of Cross Cultural Management, vol. 12, no. 1, 2012, p.1.

conversation across different ethical & religious traditions, and introduced the concept of an international ethic that is found in all major ethical and religious traditions. Given the historical prominence of religious affiliation, it is evident that Kung placed great importance on the subject of religion. Culture encompasses a diverse range of symbols and boundaries. Consequently, we may understand the underlying reasons for the significant significance that religion plays. By acknowledging the shared ethical principles among different civilizations, the objective of this concept is to foster the development of a harmonious society.

The catastrophic tragedies of 9/11 have a profound impact on the approach taken to address issues in global affairs in their wake. The programme called "Dialogue among Civilizations coincidentally occurred in 2001. This course of affairs was both atypical and unforeseen. With the rise of an international war on terror, individuals involved in conflict resolution were once again marginalised in society.[20]

Bercovitch and Foulkes emphasise in their study that the post-9/11 era has already seen multiple conflicts characterised by a discernible cultural dimension. There is an evident correlation between certain intercultural disputes and the utilisation of terrorist strategies in armed clashes. The attacks had a significant impact on civilization, lending support to Huntington's claim regarding the perceived conflict of societies.[21] Recently, there has been a noticeable increase in terrorist acts that specifically aim to destroy important cultural landmarks, such as the intentional bombardment of places of worship. These assaults are growing more frequent. Conversely, the conflicts in Iraq & Afghanistan had been depicted as instances of civilizational conflicts on different occasions.[22]

Block Jr. alongside Siegel astutely point out that irrespective of one's agreement with Huntington's notion of civilizational conflicts, there currently is substantial verification indicating that disagreements rooted in one's identity play a crucial role in influencing conflict behaviour by enabling mobilisation. They make this statement because they argue that there is substantial data indicating that divisions rooted in identity have an impact on conflict behaviour.

In order to promote the development of a global, diverse, and open culture, international mediators must acquire a significant degree of understanding regarding the behavioural patterns connected with different cultures. Although numerous significant discoveries have been made,

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[20] Ray Block Jr. and David A. Siegel, "Identity, Bargaining, and Third-Party Mediation", in International Theory, vol. 3, no. 3, 2011, p. 420.
[21] Bercovitch, J., Anagnoson, J. T., & Wille, D. L. (1991). Some Conceptual Issues and Empirical Trends in the Study of Successful Mediation in International Relations. *Journal of Peace Research*, *28*(1), 7–17. http://www.jstor.org/stable/424190
[22] Ibidem, p. 423.

this truth still holds relevance. Mediators must perform a comprehensive analysis of cultural behaviour in order to develop successful mediation techniques. This enables them to get a deep comprehension of the mediation setting, the essence of the disputes, as well as the parties engaged. These tactics should be based on a comprehensive understanding of the mediation scenario, the characteristics of the disputes, and the individuals involved.   Mediators must possess a range of essential talents, including the capacity for innovation.   Developing creativity is a characteristic that may be cultivated through research, training, and other resolution tactics.

Several factors play a crucial role in determining the success of a contemporary mediation, which usually involves a varied group of participants and challenges.[23]   Some of these include the education of mediators, the incorporation of knowledge gained from international mediators, the utilisation of findings from scholarly research, and the development of mediators or teams for specific mediation assignments. In contemporary society, marked by an unprecedented degree of intricacy, the merging of these factors significantly contributes to the effectiveness of mediation.[24]

IV. CONCLUDING REMARKS & NOTABLE OBSERVATIONS

Currently, we shall discuss mediation organisations, groups, and alliances that are backed by recognised entities and epistemological networks. These entities provide crucial assets across the overall mediation procedure. Today, we will discuss the methods by which mediation teams, organisations, and coalitions get assistance. These epistemological groups & organisations are backed by established organisations and alliances to achieve their self-defined objectives.

Currently, several auspicious new initiatives are underway in this field, including the creation of a department of conflict resolution & mitigation inside the USAID organisation.   These advancements give us cause to be hopeful about the future. The mission statement of our organisation is to foster innovation and elevate inventiveness in the performance of USAID, enabling the agency to gain a profound comprehension of disagreement and react with greater effectiveness. At present, the office is in the process of assembling a diverse range of resources to support USAID outreach in achieving their objectives.[25] The purpose of such resources is to offer USAID operations with specific and practical programme choices, alongside various

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[23] Gartner, S. S. (2013). Introduction. Symposium: Innovations in the study of mediation and peacemaking. Conflict Management and Peace Science, 30(4), 349–353. http://www.jstor.org/stable/26275387

[24] United States Agency for International Development, Conflict Management and Mitigation, , accessed on March 2013.

[25] Keels, E., & Greig, J. M. (2019). Reputation and the occurrence and success of mediation in civil wars. Journal of Peace Research, 56(3), 410–424. https://www.jstor.org/stable/48596201

collaborators, processes, and tracking & assessment tools to select from. Furthermore, these resources strive to convey the knowledge gained from past experiences. This is done to enhance the implementation of conflict programmes that are more efficient. It is noteworthy to mention the Mediation Support Unit, which has been functioning under the authority of the UNDPA from the year 2006.[26]

The primary objective of this programme is to enhance the capacities of national & provincial institutions in facilitating conflict resolution. Furthermore, it serves as a centralised hub for mediation-related materials, including information, policies, guidelines, ideas, & instructive techniques.[27] Moreover, it enhances the capacity of national & provincial organisations to mediate disputes. The main goal is to provide appropriate personnel assistance and guidance to diplomats, along with offering counsel, monetary, & operational assistance for diplomatic endeavours.[28]   In other words, the objective of the global mediation programme must be to enhance its intelligence, inclusivity, flexibility, integration, and complexity.

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[26] Wallensteen, P., & Svensson, I. (2014). Talking peace: International mediation in armed conflicts. Journal of Peace Research, 51(2), 315–327. http://www.jstor.org/stable/24557424

[27] Mandell, B. S., & Tomlin, B. W. (1991). Mediation in the Development of Norms to Manage Conflict: Kissinger in the Middle East. Journal of Peace Research, 28(1), 43–55. http://www.jstor.org/stable/424193

[28] Rauchhaus, R. W. (2006). Asymmetric Information, Mediation, and Conflict Management. *World Politics*, *58*(2), 207–241. http://www.jstor.org/stable/40060132