

Faculti Summary

<https://staging.faculti.net/the-interaction-between-local-and-international-power-in-eu-police-reform-in-bosnia-and-herzegovina/>

This video discusses a late spinoff article based on the author's PhD research, focusing on international peacebuilding, specifically examining interactions between local and international power dynamics in post-conflict states like Bosnia. The author highlights the challenges of peacebuilding missions initiated by international organizations, such as the UN and the EU, which aim to support war-torn countries in transitioning from conflict to peace.

The piece emphasizes the legal and sovereignty constraints that peacebuilding operations face, as they require consent from the host state. The research aims to analyze the influence of international power structures versus local actors and how their interactions affect compliance with peacebuilding efforts.

Using Bosnia as a case study, the author investigates the power dynamics between the local police and international peacekeeping forces, particularly during police restructuring processes from 2003-2008. The findings reveal a disparity in compliance between the Federation of Bosnia and the Republic of Srpska, where local police were ordered to comply in the Federation, while those in the Republic of Srpska were instructed to resist reforms.

The author discusses the significance of legitimacy in compliance decisions, noting that high perceptions of legitimacy towards the EU did not guarantee compliance if contradicted by local orders. The conclusions suggest that understanding local power dynamics is crucial for the success of international peacebuilding efforts. Even with compliance from some regions, the overall success of peace reforms can be undermined if significant parts of the local structures resist change.

Moreover, the text asserts that while peacebuilding initiatives may not always lead to the anticipated progress, they can still be effective in preventing conflict relapse. The article emphasizes the importance of examining people's perceptions at the micro-level to better understand the complexities of peacebuilding and the necessity for cooperation between local and international entities.