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Peace-building Strategies in Post-Conflict Societies

استراتيجيات بناء السلام في مجتمعات ما بعد النزاع

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ملخص:

تستكشف هذه الدراسة أبرز استراتيجيات بناء السلام التي ستلعب دورًا حاسمًا في تحقيق الأمن والاستقرار في المجتمعات الخارجة من النزاعات. تناولت الدراسة في البداية الإطار النظري، بالتركيز على عدد من النظريات التي حاولت تحليل مفهوم بناء السلام، بما في ذلك النظرية البنائية، والنظرية الواقعية، والنظرية الليبرالية، ونظرية يوهان غالتونغ. كما سلطت الدراسة الضوء على الإطار المفاهيمي للسلام، وبناء السلام، والعنف. وتناولت أيضًا أهم التحديات التي تواجه بناء السلام في هذه المجتمعات التي عانت من العنف وعدم الاستقرار، وما هي الاستراتيجيات الأكثر فعالية التي تسهم في إنهاء العنف وتعزيز بناء السلام. علاوة على ذلك، تفترض الدراسة أنه لا يمكن بناء السلام في المجتمعات الخارجة من النزاعات دون تبني استراتيجيات فعالة لمنع النزاعات والعنف.

الكلمات المفتاحية: السلام، بناء السلام، العنف، المجتمعات الخارجة من النزاعات.

Abstract:

The study explores the most prominent peace-building strategies that will play a decisive role in achieving security and stability in post-conflict societies. This study first addressed the theoretical framework, by focusing on a number of theories that attempted to analyze the concept of peace-building, including the Constructivist Theory, the Realist Theory, the Liberal Theory and Johan Galtung's Theory. This study also shed light on the conceptual framework of peace, peace-building and violence. The study also addressed the most important challenges facing peace-building in these societies that suffered from violence and instability and what are the most effective strategies that contribute to ending violence and enhancing peace-building. Moreover, the study assumes that peace cannot be built in post-conflict societies without adopting effective strategies to prevent conflict and violence.

Keywords: Peace, Peace-building, Violence and Post-Conflict Societies.

Objectives of the Study: the study aims to identify the underlying causes of societal conflict in post-conflict societies, and what are coherent peace-building strategies to ensure durable peace and ending conflicts.

Problem Statement: Most post-conflict societies still face significant challenges due to the lack of successful strategies for building sustainable peace and ending conflict. Therefore, this research seeks to answer the following questions:

- 1- What are the main challenges facing the peace-building process in post-conflict societies?
- 2- What are the most appropriate strategies for building lasting and sustainable peace?

Research methodology: the adopted methodology in this study is Johan Galtung's theory which assumes that true peace is positive peace and that peace-building must aim to address the root causes of structural violence, not simply stop the

apparent violence. The other theory is strategic peace-building theories that focus on long-term comprehensive peace planning, taking into account the political, economic, social and cultural dimensions of conflict..

Scope of the Study: the study is located in the field of peace-building in the post-conflict societies, with reference to post-conflict societies in Africa and South America.

1-Introduction

If the wars and conflicts are significant issues that require in-depth consideration in order to understand their causes and the motives behind them, the issues of peace are no less important than the issues of conflict and war, because they contribute to ending the conflict on the one hand and sustaining the state of peace on the other hand. There have been many studies that have addressed the issues of peace, specifically after the end of World War II, as a result of the disastrous consequences of the war. The peace building process requires specific strategies in order to sustain peace and stability and to end the violence. This study will focus first on the theoretical and conceptual aspects, which include the most important theories of peace-building, moreover, explain the concept of peace, peace-building and violence, then we will discuss the major challenges facing peace-building in post-conflict societies and what are the fundamental strategies that help in building sustainable peace and avoiding a major escalation in violence and conflict.

2- Theories of peace

There are many theories that have tried to explain the concept of peace, its requirements and the basic components. Some theories have emphasized cultural and social factors as one of the main pillars of peace, while other theories, claimed that peace cannot be achieved without the role of the state that considered as the main player in the international system and the only party capable of using power. Furthermore, theories that have focused on the role of non-state actors in achieving peace, and there are those who believe that economic and social factors have a major role in establishing peace and ending violence.

A- The Constructivist Theory

Construction Theory views peace as a positive and dynamic concept that is created through mutual understanding and cooperation, it highlights the role of social interaction and cooperation in peace-building, it focuses on the importance of political discourse that plays an important role in bringing viewpoints closer and may become a major factor in escalating violence, In addition, this theory emphasizes the role of cultures and identities in peace-building, cultural differences and multiple identities can be a source of conflict and at the same time, can be used as a basis for cooperation and dialogue by recognizing respect for cultural diversity`.

B- Realist Theories of Peace

Realists argue that states are the main actors in the international system and are primarily focused on the pursuit of domination and national interest, Realism is based on the premise that peace can be achieved or maintained through a balance of power or the use of force, security can only be achieved through two methods: the first is the balance of power in order to prevent war, and the second is the ability to use power in order to maintain peace, therefore, according to the realistic perspective, achieving peace is primarily linked to the national interests of states^٤.

C- Liberal Theories of Peace

Unlike realism, liberalism assumes that the main actors in the international system are international organizations, individuals, and private groups, this perspective is rooted in the liberal tradition, which holds that states can promote peace through cooperation and respect for the rules of international law, Liberal theory asserts that international institutions such as the United Nations are able to promote peace through cooperation and dialogue between states as a platform for negotiation and peaceful resolution of disputes, in addition, Liberalism believes that the spreading liberal values such as democracy and human rights have a great impact in preventing conflict and achieving peace^٥.

D- Johan Galtung's Theory

Johan Galtung is considered the father of peace studies through his distinguished work, which is called "The Tripartite Approach to Peace: Peacekeeping, Peacemaking and Peace-building", Galtung was interested in the causes of conflict in society, so he concluded that the root cause of all conflicts are economic and social, he used the term "structural violence" to describe the conflicts that arise as a result of institutional structures^٦. In 1964 Galtung introduced two concepts of peace, namely negative peace and positive peace, he believes that working to eliminate direct violence that causes direct harm to individuals and does not lead to an end to structural violence is negative peace, as for positive peace, it is achieved when structural violence disappears by creating greater diversity, equality and opportunity and achieving social justice^٧.

3- The Concept of Peace

The concept of peace refers to a situation in which people are free to make their own decisions and are able to settle their differences in a non-violent manner, whether it be in the electoral system, state institutions or free markets^٨. Peace is a prerequisite for social existence in general and personal happiness in particular, peace is one of the things that people crave inexpressibly, especially in times of violence, moreover, they are willing to pay any price for its return, Johan Galtung proposed a distinction between positive peace and negative peace, positive peace refers to desirable states of mind and society such as harmony, justice, and equality, as for negative peace, it refers historically to the absence of wars and other forms of violent conflicts between human groups^٩.

Some scholars confirm that the concept of peace is one of the complex concepts, but it can be defined as a comprehensive process that encompasses several dimensions, such as: the absence of organized physical and moral violence, the provision of basic community needs, participation in the decision-making process, and the protection of fundamental human rights. It can also be defined as the absence of war and violence, such as bloody conflicts, threats, social deterioration, discrimination based on race or religion, persecution, exploitation, poverty and injustice^١.

4- The Concept of Peace-building

This concept refers to post-conflict efforts to promote reconciliation and reconstruction, nowadays, it has become a broad concept Includes: conflict prevention, non-recurrence of violence, conflict management and beyond, in other words, the transition to more peaceful relations, and after the end of the Cold War, the concept of building peace became one of the most popular terms of the United Nations agenda, due to two important factors: the first is the violent civil conflict around the world had reached its peak in the early nineties, the second factor is the end of global competition after the collapse of the Soviet Union, which enabled the Security Council to work more freely in the field of peace-building, as a result, the annual peacekeeping budget of the United Nations was estimated at approximately \$230 million in the early nineties, and the budget since 2014 to 2017 was reached 7 Billion dollar^٢.

According to Reyhler and Paffenholz, peace-building is a conception that includes : monitoring, humanitarian aid, development, active conflict resolution and conflict transformation^٣. John Paul Lederach believes that peace-building is a full set of processes, methods and stages necessary to transform conflict towards more sustainable and peaceful relations, in addition, it involves a wide range of activities that precede and follow formal peace agreements, metaphorically, they argue also that peace is not seen as just a certain period of time or a specific case, but it a social construct^٤

5- The Concept of Violence

This term refers to a situation in which the life expectancy of individuals and societies is reduced due to the presence of certain threats, the main indicators of this situation are the average age of individuals, new births, deaths, daily calories, access to school and so on^٥. Reyhler and Paffenholz assume that there are several types of violence^٦:

- A. Armed violence, that aims to deter people, coerce them, injure or even kill them.
- B. Psychological violence, this type targets minds and hearts and tries to cause psychological suffering and spread fear and hate.
- C. Structural violence, this type exists in the social structure and is less visible than physical or psychological violence, such as the former apartheid regime in South Africa.

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D. Cultural violence, refers to the aspects of culture that legitimize the misuse of the above-mentioned tools of violence.

There are those who divide violence into two parts: direct violence and indirect (structural) violence, as for direct violence, it can be seen on the street or even at home, and according to international sources, 95% of this type is committed by people between the ages of 12-60 years, an example of this kind is physical harm, killing or preventing another person from doing a vital and important job, and the other type is indirect violence, that cannot be seen clearly, and there are those who believe that direct violence is a result of structural violence, for example, groups who have suffered fierce persecution due to religious, cultural or ethnic differences, therefore, these groups will resort to direct violence to defend itself^٤. The following table shows the difference between direct and indirect violence.

Table (1): The Difference between Direct and Indirect Violence.

Direct Violence	Indirect (Structural) Violence
kills people directly	kills people indirectly
Kills quickly	Kills slowly
Physical harm	Physical deprivation
Dramatic	Familiar
Intermittently	Continuous
Intentional and unethical	Unintentional and unethical

Source: Bassem Ali Khreisan. Structural peace in Iraq: A study in Johan Galtung's peace theory. Middle East Research Journal 10, no. 78 (2022), p:162.

6- Challenges for Peace-building in Post-conflict Societies

There are several factors that impede peacebuilding in post-conflict societies, these factors can be summarized in the following points:

1- The Declining Standards of Democracy and Human Rights

Democracy is more than just practices related to voting in elections and choosing the representatives of the people, it means plurality of opinions, freedom of expression, political pluralism, free and inclusive elections, basic human rights, rule of law, in addition, it does not mean majority rule, because even the majority may move away from democratic practices and turn into a dictatorial regime^٥.

With regard to human rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights includes a set of rights that can be divided as follows: first, civil rights such as freedom from slavery, torture, inhuman punishment, arbitrary arrest, imprisonment, freedom of expression, faith, the right to life, security and justice. Secondly, political rights, which include the right to vote, run for public office, and the right to form and join political parties. Third, social and economic rights such as the right to education, the right to work, food, clothing, housing and medical care^٦.

Major aspects of human rights is ensuring the rights of minorities, which have a pivotal role in achieving political and social stability, LaGro and Jorgensen believe that human rights are represent the bright side of modernization that includes: the stability of institutions, the rule of law, political participation and the protection and respect of minorities^{١٧}. There is a close relationship between peacebuilding and human rights, peace cannot be achieved without human rights, violence and conflict are among the main causes of human rights violations, consequently, the policy of the United Nations is based on the basis for achieving sustainable peace by focusing on the close interdependence between human rights, peace, security and development^{١٨}.

2- Economic Factor

Many specialists believe that the major impediments to the success peace-building in post-conflict societies is exploitation and greed by those in power and the misdistribution of wealth and plundering of this wealth in order to achieve private, political and economic gain, which leads to the exacerbation of social and economic conflict^{١٩}.

Throughout history, there have been several major events, including a bloody conflicts caused by social and economic injustice, for example, South American countries, such El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala, these countries have suffered from continuous conflicts for decades because of the inequality between the minority rich and the majority poor^{٢٠}. Another example of the impact of economic factors on impeding peace-building and the occurrence of conflicts is the African continent, this area has witnessed high rates of poverty and unemployment, particularly in the south of the Sahara desert, with over 300 million people live below the poverty line, where nearly half of population live on less than \$1 a day^{٢١}.

The table below shows Human poverty index in African countries that suffer from conflicts and political instability.

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Table (2): Human Poverty index in African Countries that Suffer from Conflicts and Political Instability

Source: Francis, David, ed. Peace and conflict in Africa. London. Zed books Ltd Publishing, 2009, p:173.

3- Quality of Governance

No	Country	Human Development Index Rank	Human Poverty Index Rank	Value (%)
1	Comoros	134	61	31.3
2	Ghana	135	65	32.2
3	Mauritania	137	87	39.2
4	Congo	139	57	26.2
5	Swaziland	141	73	35.4
6	Sudan	147	69	34.4
7	Kenya	148	60	30.8
8	Djibouti	149	59	28.6
9	Zimbabwe	151	91	40.3
10	Uganda	154	72	34.7
11	Eritrea	157	76	36.0
12	Nigeria	158	80	37.3
13	Guinea Conakry	160	103	52.3
14	Côte d'Ivoire	160	103	52.3
15	Burundi	167	81	37.6
16	DR Congo	168	88	39.3
17	Ethiopia	169	105	33.3
18	Chad	170	108	56.9
19	Central Africa R	171	98	43.6
20	Guinea Bissau	176	99	44.8
21	Sierra Leon	177	102	51.7

Governance is one of the most important factors in the success of the peace-building process in post-conflict countries, the absence of governance impedes peace-building and the continuation of conflict in those countries, the World Bank points out six dimensions of governance quality that considered as a fundamental building block of sustainable peace^{٢٢}:

- 1- Voting and accountability: the extent to which citizens are able to participate in choosing their government, freedom of expression, association and media freedom.
- 2- Political stability and the absence of violence: the continuation of violence seriously undermined efforts to renew the peace process, whether this violence is at the level of individuals or through terrorist organizations.
- 3- Government effectiveness: represented by the quality of public service and the independence of state departments from political pressures.

- 4- Organizational quality standards: that means the government's inability to formulate and implement policies and regulations that encourage and develop the private sector. All of these factors lead to the deterioration of economic condition and exacerbate divides within societies.
- 5- The rule of law: the poor performance of the state departments, specifically the police and the courts, leads to an exacerbation of the conflict and the individuals resorting to other means to ensure their safety.
- 6- Controlling corruption: represents a major obstacle to peace-building, when the state is unable to prevent corruption, and control of the ruling elites and special interest groups, will create divisions in society.

4- Ethnic Conflicts

In most of the countries that witnessed ethnic conflicts, especially in African and Latin American countries, Genocidal regimes often target specific ethnic groups to eliminate them completely, according to experts, there are several factors related to ethnicity that may impede peace-building^{٢٣}:

- 1- When power is deeply divided along ethnic and religious lines, the ruling elites may favor their own ethnic group over others
- 2- Ethnic groups tend to live together in one places and share the same language, customs and social relations, this means that if these groups are subjected to injustice, it will be easier for them to mobilize support for social change.
- 3- Ethnic identity is usually less flexible than other types of identities, and as a result these groups will have more reasons, opportunities, and incentives to mobilize and fight than non-ethnic groups.

In peace-building studies, two mechanisms that lead to obstructing conflict resolution have been highlighted, the first is that in democratization processes, businessmen and political parties usually carry out specific actions that correspond to a specific race, resorts to blatant ethnic cleansing and genocide as a means of consolidating its ill-gotten gains, for example, when Kenyan opposition leader Raila Odinga ran in the 2007 elections on the basis of an electoral platform that was based on a policy of ethnic cleansing against the dominant ethnic group, second: the need to cling to power may push leaders to play the ethnic card and incites, promotes or justifies hatred, discrimination or hostility towards another group, and this is confirmed by most specialists, that the diversity of interests makes it difficult to maintain political alliances, and often the solution is a "belligerent nationalist coalition"^{٢٤}.

7- Strategies for Peace-building

There are many effective strategies that can enhance peace-building opportunities and reduce social crises and conflicts, these strategies can be summarized as follows:

1- Enhancing the Role of Society in Peace- building

Society can have a pivotal role in peace- building and avoiding conflict through several methods^{٢٥}:

- A- Actors, they are leaders or social groups who make important decisions that concern the community and determine its future.
- B- Structural factors, these are elements that cannot be changed easily, require a long time and have a significant impact on the nature of the social and political system, changing these elements may contribute to establishing peace and renouncing violence, for example, some cultures and traditional beliefs or practices that associated with certain groups in society may undermine social stability, so working to change these elements will lead towards stability, security, and peaceful coexistence.
- C- Institutions, these include political and institutional rules that have a major role in shaping the behavior of actors and their ability to work together in order to achieve the required goals.

Peace-building must be based on peace infrastructure at the local level, this means that social alliances can create effective peace infrastructures that must be strengthened by local and international actors, these structures not only provide the opportunity to manage and transform conflicts, but also provide the opportunity to build real peace based on a democratic foundation, for instance, the social coalitions in Colombia, that contributed to the consolidation and maintenance of peace and stability, such as The Youth Social Coalition, The Women's Rights League, The Human Rights Alliance, and The Impulso Committee which made great efforts to invite all parties to dialogue in order to build peace in this country that has suffered from the ravages of war and civil strife^{٢٦}.

2- Promoting Good Governance

This factor has an vital role in building peace and renouncing conflict and violence, good governance is promoted through consideration of fundamental human rights and democracy through wide participation in the decision-making process, such as the peace-building experience in Burundi which achieved great progress in consolidating peace by establishing an inclusive transitional government that will organize democratic elections, this experience was adopted through the formation of the Peace-building Commission Ad Hoc for Burundi in October 2006*, under the auspices of the United Nations and the African Union^{٢٧}.

3- Enhancing the Rule of Law and Security Sector Reforms

The rule of law will contribute to establishing social justice, ensuring the independence of the judiciary and the aggressor cannot escape punishment, at the same time, the reform of the security sector has a pivotal role in building peace, and this is done by disarming the civilian population, because the illicit use of these weapons contributes to crime and to political, social and economic destabilization^{٢٨}. For example, the progress that occurred in Sierra Leone after decades of civil war, Sierra Leone has made significant progress in the field of peace-building, with the support of the international community, by reducing the size of its armed forces and conventional weapons, improving the relationship between the local community and the security forces, as well as improving the living conditions of members of the armed forces^{٢٩}.

4- Achieving Economic Reforms and Human Development

This factor has a major impact in achieving stability and peace-building process in a post-conflict society, a study conducted by United Nations University and World Institute for Development Economics Research indicates that enacting sweeping reforms of economic policies that favor one narrow elite or group over another, is crucial for broad-based recovery and reconstruction and to prevent the re-emergence of conflicts, economic reforms in many countries particularly African countries have contributed to reducing conflicts, promoting peace-building and coexistence, including Angola, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea Bissau, and Mozambique, but these countries were able to achieve stability and societal peace as a result of economic reforms and development^{٣٠}.

For example, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)*, that focused on two levels: the first level is building a peace process during the war by working to reduce low growth, persistent poverty, weak governance and the social and economic disruption resulting from conflict, the second level is building peace after the end of the war, through assisting member states that were affected by the war, by promoting economic and social reconstruction and supporting democratic institutions^{٣١}.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) had important achievements in several places, such as Sierra Leone through the signing of (The Lomé Peace Agreement 1999-2002), this agreement included the establishment of a fact-finding, reconciliation, reorganization and security committee, and the establishment of a number of democratic parties, such as the National Elections Commission and the Political Parties Registration Committee^{٣٢}.

Conclusion

Peace-building in post-conflict societies is no longer a social requirement, but rather a social necessity to move these societies from a state of fragile peace to a state of lasting peace and prevent a return to conflict and internal fighting. In order to achieve this, appropriate strategies must be available to meet the

requirements of peace- building, the most popular strategies are the role of society, strengthening good governance, the role of the law enforcement and security agencies and economic reforms.

Recommendations

This study includes a number of recommendations that can be summarized as follows:

1- Achieving peace through the development of institutions, in order to enhance peace-building initiatives in post-conflict societies, it is necessary to move from a society ruled by narrow elites and stakeholders to a society governed by institutions in order to achieve social justice and enhance trust among members of society.

2- Peace-building through promoting security, security is considered an essential requirement for peace-building in society.

3- Achieving peace through democratic change, democratic change necessary to success of peace-building processes in post-conflict societies, this is done through the peaceful transfer of power through the ballot box and guaranteeing the rights of ethnic and religious minorities.

4- Carrying out real economic reforms and ensuring a fair distribution of wealth among the different components of society, in order to ensure social stability and peace.

5- Promoting peace through mediation and dialogue processes between all the different parties, to encourages the conflicting groups to prioritize the public interest over private gain.

6- Building peace through education, education has a fundamental role in building peace in post-conflict societies, because education is a bulwark against ignorance and helps foster a more informed society.

footnotes

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* It is an organization established in the West African region in 1975. It includes 15 countries and is headquartered in Abuja, the capital of Nigeria. This organization aims to enhance cooperation and integration with the aim of raising the standard of living of the peoples of the region, maintaining economic stability, achieving development, preserving Islam and making peace.

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