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Research Guide Series

Peacekeeping

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Peacekeeping

Peacekeeping may be defined as methods used to help develop a peace process. These methods include: the observation of the withdrawal of troops, the monitoring of elections, supplying aid to help restore previous war torn areas, and developing the legal, economic and social infrastructure of an area. Peacekeeping generally does not involve physical involvement in a war to help instigate peace, but constitutes impartial observation and supervision of events to ensure that adherence to the ceasefire and peace process is being kept. The main international peacekeeping organisation is the United Nations. Regional organisations, such as NATO and the Economic Community of West African States, may be permitted by the United Nations Security Council to undertake peacekeeping operations if it is not considered suitable for the United Nations to become directly involved. The cost of peacekeeping has risen dramatically since the end of the Cold War, and the costs keep increasing steadily. In 2001 UN peacekeeping costs were \$3 billion. In 2006 UN peacekeeping costs were \$5.03 billion. A large proportion of UN peacekeeping military and civilian police personnel are provided by developing countries, such as Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Jordan. This fact has created a great deal of controversy, with many arguing that these developing nations should not be expected to provide the majority of personnel for UN peacekeeping missions. However, for many the presence of UN peacekeepers from countries which are not superpowers is a lot less intimidating.

This bibliography has been designed to provide a guide as to where to find information on peacekeeping. Please note that the list of references below is a selection of the more relevant titles and information on the subject. The list is not intended to be exhaustive or definitive but is an introductory guide to some of the resources available.

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