



INTERSTATE PEACEKEEPING

Causal Mechanisms and Empirical Effects

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MAINTAINING peace in the aftermath of war is a difficult endeavor, and the international community is often called on to help. Arguably the most important innovation in international conflict management since World War II is the practice of peacekeeping: the deployment of international personnel to monitor a cease-fire or to interpose themselves between belligerents to keep peace after a war.¹ During most of its history, peacekeeping was used to help maintain peace after interstate wars. Since the end of the cold war, the practice has been adapted to the context of civil wars, taking on new tasks such as election monitoring, police training, and even providing an interim administration. This article analyzes whether and how peacekeeping stabilizes peace in its traditional interstate setting.