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Volume 14, Number 1 (Spring 2007)

Abstract

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Volume 14, Number 1

Peace and Conflict Studies

- Understanding Oil Company – Community Conflicts in the Niger Delta (Nigeria)

Ibaba Samuel Ibaba

- Encounters in the Looking-glass of Time: Longitudinal contribution of a Life Story Workshop to the dialogue between Jewish and Arab Young adults in Israel

Tal Litvak Hirsch and Dan Bar-On

- Challenges in Laotian Refugees Search for Freedom

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- The Role of Gender in Civil – Military Cooperation: A Unique Opportunity for Change

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- Enigmatic Bosnia Matters: Coexistence in Bavljinje during the Light and Darkness of Yugoslavia's War.

Adnan Cardzic and Sean Byrne

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Notes: PCS transitioned from its style guide to the Chicago Manual of Style in 2005, with input from the readers, contributors, and editorial team.

UNDERSTANDING OIL COMPANY – COMMUNITY CONFLICTS IN THE NIGER DELTA (NIGERIA)

Ibaba Samuel Ibaba

Abstract

This paper examines the contradictory realities that have thrown up the conflicting relationship between oil companies and oil producing communities in the Niger Delta of Nigeria. To achieve this objective, the paper, after the introduction which provides the background and framework of analysis, situated the conflict in its political setting. It established that the privatization and ethnicisation of politics in Nigeria, has resulted to a resource distribution system that alienates Oil Producing Communities from the oil wealth. State legislations on the oil industry and manipulations of the revenue allocation system have made this possible. The article demonstrates that although the causes of the conflicts are complex and interrelated, material deprivation is central to the conflicts. It highlights oil based environmental degradation induced productivity losses and occupational disorientation, inadequate compensation for damages caused by oil industry activities, poor channels of communication by the oil companies, failed community development programmes of the oil companies, among others as causes of the conflicting relationship. The paper notes that current policies have not addressed these factors that motivate conflict. In addition to compensation, the paper suggests the integration of the people into the oil economy, and the direction of public resources to public good as the likely solution.

**ENCOUNTERS IN THE LOOKING-GLASS OF TIME: LONGITUDINAL
CONTRIBUTION OF A LIFE STORY WORKSHOP TO THE DIALOGUE
BETWEEN JEWISH AND ARAB YOUNG ADULTS IN ISRAEL**

Tal Litvak Hirsch and Dan Bar-On

Abstract

The field of encounter groups between Jews and Arabs in Israel is commonly discussed in academia; nevertheless, despite the multitude of studies that deal with encounter groups, longitudinal research in this area is very limited in the literature. The purpose of this article is to pinpoint, the contributions of an encounter group that was researched over a long period of time. The article describes the results of a four year longitudinal, qualitative study of a group of Jewish and Arab university students. Initially all of the students took part in a year-long encounter group workshop that was based on the "life story model". We recognized that our students went through a process during the seminar and the next few years that followed it. Based on the analyses of interviews with the participants we have created a four stage model that we would like to suggest as a means for examining participants processes in the looking glass of time. We discuss the contributions as well as problematic aspects of the "life story" method and suggest recommendations and implication for future experience with this method in different contexts and groups.

CHALLENGES IN LAOTIAN REFUGEES SEARCH FOR FREEDOM

Stephanie Phetsamay Stobbe

Abstract

The small, landlocked country of Laos has followed a challenging path towards freedom. The conflict of the Vietnam War led to massive exodus of Laotian refugees. The paper will explore Amartya Sen's concept of freedoms and Martha Nussbaum's central human capabilities as applied to Laotian refugees in Canada. A discussion of Laotians' understanding of freedom, challenges of resettlement, and effective processes in adjustment to western culture will be presented. This dialogue is critical in developing policies and programs to address conflicts faced by refugees as they strive to increase their quality of life.

**THE ROLE OF GENDER IN CIVIL – MILITARY COOPERATION: A
UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR CHANGE**

Charlene Cook and Donna Winslow

Abstract

Post-conflict reconstruction provides a unique opportunity to redress the experience of women during war and capitalize on the shifting gender roles prompted by conflict to advance a more equitable female citizenship. However, most post-conflict initiatives have not incorporated a gender-based action plan, impeded by a disparate prioritization of gender by civil and military actors. In order to ensure equitable post conflict outcomes, gender representation and mainstreaming must be comparably prioritized by civil and military engagement in peace building. This paper explores Bosnia as a case study to highlight the necessary role of civil-military cooperation in gender-based peace building.

**ENIGMATIC BOSNIA MATTERS: COEXISTENCE IN BAVLJINJE
DURING THE LIGHT AND DARKNESS OF YUGOSLAVIA'S WAR**

Adnan Cardzic and Sean Byrne

Abstract

Constructive stories of coexistence during protracted interethnic conflict are rare; however, they have important implications for interethnic reconciliation and peacemaking (Senehi, 2002). The events that took place in the village of Bavljinje highlight the humanity displayed by neighbors in the midst of ethnic cleansing. Such stories illustrate that positive relationships can prevail in interethnic warfare and can be an important source of healing from the trauma of violent ethnic conflict. The story of Bavljinje also indicates the complexity of intergroup conflict and the need of such powerful metaphors in the postconflict peacebuilding process.

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