

## THE STATE-SOCIETY/CITIZEN RELATIONSHIP IN SECURITY ANALYSIS: IMPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF U.S. INTERVENTION AND PEACE/STATE-BUILDING OPERATIONS

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Whether at the tactical or operational level, effective strategy requires the identification and utilization of the most appropriate means in pursuance of a state's political goals. A mismatch between goals and means would prevent a state from achieving its political objectives and even jeopardize its international position and status.

The U.S. Army constitutes one of the means available to the United States to pursue and achieve its foreign policy goals. The end of the Cold War, and especially the events of September 11, 2001, have led to a redefinition of the U.S. Army's role. In this new environment, the U.S. Army's purpose is not only to win a battle or a war, but also to be involved in stabilization operations that effectively provide fertile ground for peace- and state-building operations in post-conflict societies. To make its Army more effective, the U.S. Army requires knowledge about the political, societal, and cultural environment within which these operations would take place. The U.S. Army will also need to acquire a new set of skills that would allow it to handle sensitive situations relevant to this environment.

The United States is a global power with global interests and global responsibilities. Due to the presence of several "weak" states in the international system, the United States needs to devise and employ strategies aimed at preventing and managing the outbreak of domestic conflicts that have the potential to undermine regional and international peace and stability. U.S. policymakers need to have a comprehensive

understanding of the political and security situation in the states experiencing domestic strife in order to be able to design and implement effective preventive or conflict management policies. This is especially important if U.S. troops are to be used effectively in humanitarian, stabilization, and peace operations. To avoid oversimplifications in the planning process, U.S. policymakers should have a comprehensive view of the relationship between the state experiencing domestic conflict and its society and citizens. This in turn requires an understanding of the competing identities and loyalties of that state's citizens, as well as of intergroup relations. Because states differ from one another in many ways, their national security question is context dependent. Consequently, the United States may need to approach various conflict and security situations in different ways. U.S. troops also need to be aware of the possible social and cultural aspects of the peace operations in which they are involved.

To design and effectively implement peacemaking and peace- or state-building policies, U.S. strategists should be fully aware of what constitutes a security issue for both individuals and social groups in third countries. Thus, U.S. strategic planning and actions should be based on the adoption of a broad definition of security that includes the idea of human security. Since international stability is based on the stability of states, the United States needs to assist the creation and maintenance of "strong" states.

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