

peace terms

GLOSSARY OF TERMS
FOR CONFLICT MANAGEMENT
AND PEACEBUILDING

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Academy for International Conflict
Management and Peacebuilding

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Foreword

The construction blocks of peacebuilding take many forms. But perhaps the most basic is language. If we are to be successful in what inevitably is a collective enterprise, we must communicate in terms that are direct and operationally useful. But the language of peacemaking is not always clear. The meanings of diplomacy, mediation, and negotiation are relatively straightforward. But what exactly is a “resource curse,” and what do we mean by “social media”? What is the difference between autonomy and sovereignty, between proximity talks and shuttle diplomacy, and perhaps most pertinent, between peacekeeping, peacemaking, and peacebuilding?

To help answer these questions, USIP’s Academy for International Conflict Management and Peacebuilding, under the leadership of Pamela Aall, has produced this compendium of *Peace Terms*. As the Academy has developed, it has become apparent that we need to create a common set of terms that could be used across the spectrum of textbooks and courses. In order to develop this set of terms, we turned to writer and editor Dan Snoderly, whose tenure as USIP’s director for publications from 1993 to 2004 gave him a thorough understanding of the complex task he was undertaking. He has succeeded admirably. Indeed, without his skill with words and facilitation as an editor, we would still be discussing what should go under the A’s rather than presenting this extensive glossary.

The Institute’s Academy was established in 2009 as the education and training arm of the United States Institute of Peace. It encompasses and builds upon both the domestic and international programs of the Institute’s former Education and Training Center. The Academy offers practitioner-oriented courses at the Institute’s headquarters in Washington and elsewhere; conducts conflict management workshops and training in conflict zones abroad; and makes many of its courses and other resources available online to professionals, teachers, and students around the world.

Participants in the Academy’s offerings come from diverse backgrounds: U.S. civilian and military agencies, international organizations, the nonprofit sector, schools and universities, and civil society groups and officials in conflict zones, among others.



Similarly, the definitions in this glossary have been drawn from many sources, not least of which are the Institute's own publications. Notable among these are the volumes by Chester A. Crocker, Fen Osler Hampson, and Pamela Aall—*Herding Cats: Multiparty Mediation in a Complex World*, *Leashing the Dogs of War: Conflict Management in a Divided World*, and *Taming Intractable Conflicts: Mediation in the Hardest Cases*—and Chas. W. Freeman Jr.'s *Diplomat's Dictionary*, second edition, which coincidentally quotes Drazen Pehar as describing diplomacy as “primarily words that prevent us from reaching for our swords.”

Other relevant Institute books include Raymond Cohen's *Negotiating Across Cultures: International Communication in an Interdependent World*; Bill Zartman's *Peacemaking in International Conflict*; and *Guiding Principles for Stabilization and Reconstruction*, project director Beth Cole.

Finally, please note that we intend this glossary to be a living document. We welcome feedback from our readers, and we will update the web version as needed. *Peace Terms* is by no means the last word, and we look forward to a conversation with our audience as we refine this linguistic guide to conflict management and peacebuilding.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard H. Solomon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard H. Solomon, President
United States Institute of Peace

Preface

Peace Terms grew out of the development of courses for the Institute's new Academy for International Conflict Management and Peacebuilding. During this process, we soon realized that we needed to reach broad agreement on terminology, especially given the cross-disciplinary nature of the field. You have at your fingertips the result of that ambitious endeavor.

A wide range of online and print sources, as well as the senior staff at USIP, were consulted in producing this glossary. Because it is intended for a broad audience, I did not footnote the text but instead listed the major sources at the end of the glossary. I had intended to use as many existing definitions as possible but found that there were surprisingly few agreed-upon definitions. One colleague went so far as to say that every term in the field was contested in some way.

Accordingly, definitions are sometimes original, sometimes composites of existing definitions, and sometimes existing definitions that I tightened or reframed. For reasons of time and space, we decided not to include foreign words, nor to address the difficult question of how and whether English terms would translate into other languages.

I want to thank USIP senior staff for their thorough and constructive comments on the draft definitions, and especially Institute president Richard Solomon, executive vice president Tara Sonenshine, and USIP board member Chester Crocker for their encouragement and advice. Also invaluable has been the support of the Academy team and everyone else who encouraged the project and commented on various drafts. Finally, I would like to thank the staffs of the Institute library, publications, and communications programs for their many contributions.

—Dan Snodderly



Accountability: The notion that individuals, including public officials, should be held responsible for their actions. Political accountability means the responsibility or obligation of government officials to act in the best interests of society or face consequences. Legal accountability concerns the mechanisms by which public officials can be held liable for actions that go against established rules and principles. In cases of crimes against humanity, accountability means that individuals should be held accountable by the state they occurred in or by the international community.

Active listening: A way of listening that focuses on both the content of statements or responses in a dialogue and the underlying emotions. It means asking open-ended questions, seeking clarification, asking for specificity, and confirming your understanding of what the other party has said.

Adjudication: In international relations, adjudication involves the referral of a dispute to an impartial third-party tribunal—normally either an international court or an arbitration tribunal—for a binding decision. However, the state or states concerned must give their consent to participate either through special agreement or existing treaty. Referral to an international court for judicial settlement involves a permanent judicial body, which means that the method for selecting judges and procedures of the court are already established. Probably the best known such court is the International Court of Justice. For more on referral to an arbitration tribunal, *see* Arbitration.

Alternative dispute resolution (ADR): In general, ADR refers to an approach to the resolution of conflicts that does not involve litigation and seeks an outcome at least minimally satisfactory to all parties concerned. ADR tends to involve greater direct negotiation on the part of disputants than does litigation, takes much less time and money, and seeks consensus. Many analysts no longer include the word “alternative.” Others use the term “appropriate dispute resolution.”

Arbitration: A form of international adjudication that involves the referral of a dispute or disputes to an ad hoc tribunal—rather than to a permanently established court—for binding decision. By agreement, the parties define the issues to be arbitrated, the method



for selecting arbitrators, and the procedures for the tribunal. Because the parties have committed in advance (often by treaty) to accept the results, most states comply with arbitral awards. Perhaps the best-known recent example of conflict-related arbitration concerned control of the Brcko area, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as part of the Dayton Peace Agreement. Arbitration differs from mediation, in which a third party helps the disputants develop a solution on their own. *See also* Adjudication *and* Mediation.

Arms control: A process of cooperation among states aimed at reducing the likelihood or scope of military action by adopting reciprocal measures to assure against surprise attack, to limit deployments, or to reduce armaments or the size and structure of armed forces.

Asymmetry: In describing relationships, asymmetry refers to a situation where one person or party has more power or leverage than another. That power could be political, economic, or military, for example, but it also could result from greater experience or knowledge. *See also* Leverage.

Autonomy: Literally meaning self-government, autonomy was traditionally considered synonymous with self-determination and sometimes with sovereignty. Today it more frequently refers to an arrangement whereby a region of a country is granted extensive self-governance or de facto self-rule. In many cases, the region has demanded independence but agreed to autonomy in certain sectors such as police or education. Regions with autonomous arrangements include Aceh, Indonesia; Basque Country, Spain; Jammu and Kashmir, India; Muslim Mindanao, Philippines; Republika Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina; and Zanzibar, Tanzania.

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Back-channel negotiation: Communications carried out in secret, usually as part of a larger negotiation, so as to avoid public disclosure of especially sensitive matters.

BATNA (Best Alternative to a Negotiated Settlement): The measure against which parties should judge the proposed terms of any mediated or negotiated agreement.



Capacity: The ability of people, institutions, and societies to perform functions, solve problems, and set and achieve objectives. The term was originally applied to institutions—hence the related term institution building—but more recently it has been applied to a wide range of stakeholders, including individuals. At the individual level, capacity refers to the knowledge and skills that people have acquired by study or experience. At the organizational level, capacity refers to management structures, processes, systems, and practices as well as an institution’s relationships with other organizations and sectors including public, private, and community organizations. **Absorptive capacity** refers to the amount of new information or aid that a country or institution can make effective use of.

Capacity building: Enabling people, organizations, and societies to develop, strengthen, and expand their abilities to meet their goals or fulfill their mandates. Capacity is strengthened through the transfer of knowledge and skills that enhance individual and collective abilities to deliver services and carry out programs that address challenges in a sustainable way. It is a long-term and continuous process that focuses on developing human resources, organizational strength, and legal structures, and it involves all stakeholders including civil society. Related terms include **capacity development** and **capacity strengthening**. The latter term emphasizes the need to build upon existing capacity as much as possible.

Cease-fire: A suspension of armed conflict agreed to by both sides. It may be aimed at freezing the conflict in place, in which case it is often called a cessation of hostilities agreement. Or it may be a formal cease-fire with more elaborate terms and provisions including external monitoring, often undertaken as part of a larger negotiated settlement. A cease-fire is sometimes referred to as a **truce**. A cease-fire marking the permanent end of war is referred to as an **armistice**. Moving beyond an armistice, parties can enter into a **disengagement** or **separation of forces agreement**.

Chapters 6 and 7: Sections of the United Nations Charter that deal most directly with dispute resolution. Chapter 6, “Pacific Settlement of Disputes,” stipulates that parties to a dispute should use peaceful methods of resolving disputes, such as negotiation and mediation. It authorizes the Security Council to issue recommendations, but they are

generally considered advisory and not binding. Chapter 7, “Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression,” authorizes more forceful methods such as economic coercion and severance of diplomatic relations. Should those measures prove inadequate, the Security Council may then “take such action by air, sea, or land forces as may be necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security.” The informal term **Chapter 6 and a Half** refers to traditional UN peacekeeping operations that fall between the two. *See also* Peace enforcement, Peacekeeping, *and* Peacemaking.

Child soldier: An individual, typically between the ages of 15 and 18, in the armed forces of the state or of an armed group, whether or not the child is armed or is used in combat. Often conscripted by coercion or manipulation.

Citizen diplomacy: Unofficial contacts between people of different countries, as differentiated from official contacts between governmental representatives. Citizen diplomacy includes exchanges of people (such as student exchanges); international religious, scientific, and cultural activities; and unofficial dialogues, discussions, or negotiations between citizens of opposing countries, which is usually referred to as track II diplomacy. In the latter case, citizens in the United States may seek authorization from the federal government, to comply with the Logan Act, which prohibits unauthorized U.S. citizens from interfering in relations between the United States and foreign governments.

Civil-military cooperation: A broad term that covers a variety of collaborative relationships between civilian and military actors in a conflict environment. Civilian actors may include government officials, staff from international organizations, and representatives of nongovernmental organizations. Civ-mil cooperation ranges from occasional informational meetings to comprehensive programs where civilian and military partners share planning and implementation. Cooperation can be controversial, as the military may see civilians as unduly complicating their mission, and civilians—especially in the humanitarian field—may think that any association with the military will compromise their impartiality and threaten their personal safety. However, most experts see civ-mil cooperation as necessary to provide the security, knowledge, and skills needed to help transform a conflict into an enduring peace.

Civil society: A collective term for a wide array of nongovernmental and nonprofit groups that help their society at large function while working to advance their own or others’ well-being. It can include civic, educational, trade, labor, charitable, media, religious, recreational, cultural, and advocacy groups, as well as informal associations and social movements. In theory, its institutional forms are distinct from those of the state, family, and market, though in practice, the boundaries are often blurred. A strong civil society, or “public space,” can protect individuals and groups against intrusive government and positively influence government behavior. Most definitions do not include commercial enterprises but do include business associations. Some definitions do not consider the media, most of which is for profit, to be part of civil society but rather a tool that can promote civil society.



Civil war: A large-scale armed conflict within a country fought either for control of all or part of the state, for a greater share of political or economic power, or for the right to secede. Analysts differ on how to define “large-scale,” but several sources say a conflict must cause at least 1,000 war-related deaths a year to be labeled a civil war.

Coercive diplomacy: Use of threats or limited application of force to persuade an opponent to call off or undo an action—for example, to halt an invasion or give up territory that has been occupied. It differs from deterrence, which employs threats to dissuade an opponent from undertaking an action that has not yet been initiated. It can be coupled with positive inducements or “carrots.” It is sometimes referred to as **compellance** or more colloquially as **mediation with muscle**.

Communication styles: Communication occurs in a range of styles in all cultures but can be broadly defined as **low context** (individualistic) or **high context** (relationship-oriented). In low-context communication, meaning is explicitly expressed and indirectness is considered evasive and potentially dishonest. By contrast, a listener must figure out the implicit meaning at play within high-context communication, being sure to observe the nonverbal subtleties that enhance speech. Directness and confrontation are considered offensive and rude. It is often challenging for low-context professionals from countries like the United States to communicate effectively with officials from countries like Japan, Egypt, or India who have more high-context styles of interaction.

Conciliation: In international relations, the term “conciliation” is often used as a synonym for mediation. Some authors argue that there are substantive differences concerning impartiality and level of involvement, for example, but analysts tend to disagree on these issues. Mediation seems to be the more common term.

Confidence-building measure (CBM): Agreement to exchange information about and allow monitoring of political and, more frequently, military activities. Some measures establish rules regarding the movement of military forces. CBMs typically rely on tools for maintaining direct and quick communication and monitoring among governments and military forces. Such measures include hotlines, regularly scheduled exchange of information about military missions, and pre-notification about troop exercises or missile tests. Some analysts use the broader term confidence- and security-building measure (CSBM).

Conflict: An inevitable aspect of human interaction, conflict is present when two or more individuals or groups pursue mutually incompatible goals. Conflicts can be waged violently, as in a war, or nonviolently, as in an election or an adversarial legal process. When channeled constructively into processes of resolution, conflict can be beneficial. *See also* Violence *and* War.

Conflict analysis: The systematic study of conflict in general and of individual or group conflicts in particular. Conflict analysis provides a structured inquiry into the causes and



potential trajectory of a conflict so that processes of resolution can be better understood. For specific conflicts, the terms **conflict assessment** or **conflict mapping** are sometimes used to describe the process of identifying the stakeholders, their interests and positions, and the possibility for conflict management.

Conflict curve: The curve of conflict is a conceptual tool that helps illustrate how conflicts tend to evolve over time. The curve helps in visualizing how different phases of conflict relate to one another, as well as to identify kinds of third-party intervention. Practitioners can use this knowledge in the determination of effective strategies for intervention, along with the timing of those strategies.

Conflict entrepreneur: Any group or individual whose profits depend on conditions that promote conflict. Most often used to describe those who engage in or directly benefit from illegal economic activity that promotes violence or undermines efforts for good governance and economic development. These actors can exist inside or outside of government.

Conflict management: A general term that describes efforts to prevent, limit, contain, or resolve conflicts, especially violent ones, while building up the capacities of all parties involved to undertake peacebuilding. It is based on the concept that conflicts are a normal part of human interaction and are rarely completely resolved or eliminated, but they can be managed by such measures as negotiation, mediation, conciliation, and arbitration. Conflict management also supports the longer-term development of societal systems and institutions that enhance good governance, rule of law, security, economic sustainability, and social well-being, which helps prevent future conflicts. A closely related term is peacemaking, although peacemaking tends to focus on halting ongoing conflicts and reaching partial agreements or broader negotiated settlements.

Conflict prevention: This term is used most often to refer to measures taken to keep low-level or long-festering disputes from escalating into violence, but it can also apply to efforts to limit the spread of violence if it does occur, or to avoid the reoccurrence of violence. It may include early warning systems, confidence-building measures (hotlines, notification of troop movements), preventive deployment, and sanctions. Sometimes referred to as **preventive diplomacy**.

Conflict resolution: Efforts to address the underlying causes of a conflict by finding common interests and overarching goals. It includes fostering positive attitudes and generating trust through reconciliation initiatives, and building or strengthening the institutions and processes through which the parties interact peacefully.

Conflict transformation: A recently developed concept that emphasizes addressing the structural roots of conflict by changing existing patterns of behavior and creating a culture of nonviolent approaches. It proposes an integrated approach to peacebuilding that aims to bring about long-term changes in personal, relational, structural, and cultural dimensions. Recognizing that societies in conflict have existing systems that



still function, conflict transformation focuses on building up local institutions as well as reducing drivers of conflict.

Constabulary force: A specialized unit trained and equipped to operate in peace operations, providing police-type functions like crowd control in high-threat environments where traditional police tactics would be ineffective but the use of military forces would be too lethal. The unit is equipped in military fashion but operates as police. In some countries, constabulary units are permanent forces that deal with such high-violence situations as fighting the mafia or terrorism.

Constitution making: The drafting of a new constitution, especially when seen as a key element of democratization and state building. This process is crucial to outlining the vision of a new society, defining the fundamental principles by which a state will be organized, and distributing or redistributing political power. Moreover, the constitution making process itself can be a vehicle for national dialogue and the consolidation of peace. The term **constitution building** is sometimes used to encompass the entire process of making and implementing a new constitution; it may include peace agreements, new laws and institutions, and civic education.

Constructive ambiguity: If two parties to a negotiation cannot agree on an issue, they may be able to paper over their disagreement by using ambiguous language. The negotiation can then proceed, in the hope that the issue will be resolved at a later time or cease to be a concern.

Contact group: Ad hoc grouping of influential countries that have a significant interest in policy developments in a particular country or region, such as the one on the Balkans and the one on piracy off the coast of Somalia. The term is usually associated with some form of peace process or negotiation in which contact group members play a supportive role.

Convention: *See* Treaty.

Corporate social responsibility: The notion that a business should take responsibility for the impact of its activities on its employees, customers, communities, and the environment. Perhaps the best-known international example concerns the violent disputes over control of oil production in Nigeria. The foreign companies have been accused not of committing violence but of benefitting from and doing little to stop attacks against the protestors by government forces. Some analysts argue that it is unrealistic to expect corporations to play this kind of role, which is properly the domain of government.

Corruption: The abuse of power for private gain, including bribery, extortion, fraud, nepotism, embezzlement, falsification of records, kickbacks, and influence peddling. Although commonly associated with the public sector, it also exists in the business and NGO sectors.

Crimes against humanity: Mass killings and targeted attacks against civilians, including systematic rape. These crimes are described more fully in the Rome Statute of the

International Criminal Court, article 7. To be found guilty, an individual must have developed or carried out a policy of widespread or systematic violations. Crimes against humanity do not require the specific intent that genocide does.

Crisis management: The attempt to control events during a crisis to prevent significant and systematic violence from occurring or escalating. It usually involves finding a balance between coercion and accommodation.

Culture: The shared beliefs, traits, attitudes, behavior, products, and artifacts common to a particular social or ethnic group. The term **cross-cultural** refers to interactions across cultures and reflects the fact that different cultures may have different communication styles and negotiating behavior. The term **multicultural** refers to the acceptance of different ethnic cultures within a society. **Cultural sensitivity** means being aware of cultural differences and how they affect behavior, and moving beyond cultural biases and preconceptions to interact effectively. *See also* Communication styles.

Cyber-attacks: The use of computers and the Internet to disrupt computer networks and telecommunications infrastructure. These attacks range from low-level vandalism to efforts to disable major electric power grids. Most attacks have caused only minor disruptions but some analysts see the potential for far greater damage.



Declaration of principles: A negotiating framework that provides the overall structure for a subsequent detailed peace agreement. It usually contains the broad outlines of an agreement, stated in general terms and acceptable to the parties at the table, political leaders, and the general public.

Democracy: A state or community in which all adult members of society partake in a free and fair electoral process that determines government leadership, have access to power through their representatives, and enjoy universally recognized freedoms and liberties. **Democracy building** or **democratization** is the exercise of consolidating and strengthening institutions that help to support democratic government. These institutions may relate to rule of law initiatives, political party development, constitution building, public administration development, and civil society education programs.

Deterrence: An effort by one actor to persuade an opponent not to take an action by convincing the opponent that the costs and risks of doing so will outweigh what might be gained. *See also* Coercive diplomacy.

Developed and developing countries: There is no consensus on the standard for categorizing countries as developed or developing. In general, developed countries have a higher per capita income, and developing countries have a lower per capita income and a less developed industrial base. Related terms include **underdeveloped countries** and **least developed countries**.

Development: In general, development is the process of improving people's lives. Originally, the term focused on the goal of greater economic prosperity and opportunity. But it now typically includes efforts at human development that take into account such issues as governance, education, the environment, and human rights.

Development aid: Assistance given to developing countries to support their economic, social, and political development. Such assistance usually comes from individual countries or from international organizations such as the UN Development Program and the World Bank Group. Development aid tends to be aimed at long-term problems such

as poverty, whereas humanitarian aid is usually aimed at short-term problems such as providing clean water or food. **Tied aid** refers to the practice by most donors of insisting that aid be spent on goods and services from the donor country. **Conditional aid** refers to assistance that comes with specific requirements that the recipient must meet, such as reducing corruption or fighting terrorism; it is meant to change behavior.

Dialogue: A conversation or exchange of ideas that seeks mutual understanding through the sharing of perspectives. Dialogue is a process for learning about another group's beliefs, feelings, interests, and needs in a nonadversarial, open way, usually with the help of a third-party facilitator. Facilitated dialogue is a face-to-face process, often among elites. It takes place at a meeting site, whereas other third-party assisted processes may occur indirectly or by means of proximity talks.

Diaspora: The movement, migration, or scattering of a people away from an established or ancestral homeland. Also, a group of such people.

Diplomacy: The fundamental means by which foreign policy is implemented. Official or track I diplomacy is typically carried out by government officials, who use bargaining, negotiation, and other peaceful means to negotiate treaties, trade policies, and other international agreements, including agreements to prevent, limit, manage, or settle conflicts. Unofficial or nonofficial (also called citizen or track II) diplomacy refers to the use of nontraditional diplomatic agents, including business executives, religious figures, nongovernmental organizations, academics, and other private citizens who are typically conducting dialogue and problem-solving activities. The term preventive diplomacy is sometimes used as a synonym for conflict prevention. *See also* Citizen diplomacy, Public diplomacy, *and* Tracks of diplomacy.

Disappearances: A euphemism for politically motivated murders or abductions, usually performed by or with the support of government or political organizations.

Disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR): The process of disarming soldiers or other fighters, disbanding their military units, and helping them integrate socially and economically into society by finding civilian livelihoods. This can be done by comprehensive programs offering skills training, job creation, housing, psychological assistance, and re-socialization.

Displaced person: *See* Internally displaced person *and* Refugee.

Do no harm: A maxim that acknowledges that any intervention carries with it the risk of doing harm. Practitioners should proceed with programs only after careful consideration and widespread consultation, including with other institutions in the field so as not to duplicate or undercut their efforts. In assistance activities, the maxim recognizes that resources inevitably represent the distribution of power and wealth and will create tensions if careful attention is not given to how they are distributed and delivered.



Donor coordination: A term that describes efforts to integrate the work of donors, the host government, and local nongovernmental organizations so as to avoid duplication and inefficiencies.



Early warning: The assessment of high-risk situations so as to provide timely notice of escalating violence. Early warning systems have been used to assess environmental threats, the risk of nuclear accident, natural disasters, mass movements of populations, the threat of famine, and the spread of disease, as well as violent conflict.

Elections: The process by which citizens typically choose their representatives to the legislature and sometimes to the executive and judiciary branches. Voting systems vary widely, but most are either proportional or majoritarian. It is important to note that holding elections is only one part of democracy building.

Eminent persons: A group of distinguished and well-respected individuals typically gathered together for a specific task, such as the Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations–Civil Society Relations, the OSCE Panel of Eminent Persons asked to draw up a new vision for OSCE, and the ASEAN Eminent Persons Group tasked to create a charter for ASEAN.

Environmental security: A relatively new field that focuses on the connections among environment, resources, security, conflict, and peacemaking.

Escalation: An increase in intensity or scope of a conflict. The number of parties tends to increase, as does the number and breadth of the issues. **De-escalation** is the lessening of the intensity of a conflict as parties tire out or begin to realize that the conflict is doing them more harm than good, or as conflict management efforts begin to take effect. The ultimate intent of de-escalation is to create space for more intensive efforts to resolve the conflict.

Ethics: The principles of conduct—right and wrong behavior—governing an individual or a group.

Ethnic cleansing: Deliberate, organized, and usually violent expulsion of people from an area on the basis of their perceived ethnic, communal, sectarian, or religious identity.



Evaluation: The systematic collection and analysis of data on a program, both as to the process and outputs (materials and activities) and the impact or outcome (immediate and longer term effects). *See also* Metrics, Monitoring, *and* Outputs and outcomes.



Facilitation: The process or set of skills by which a third party attempts to help the disputants move toward resolution of their dispute. Facilitation can operate at many levels, from providing good offices to a more active role as a mediator. It may mean helping the parties set ground rules and agendas for meetings, helping with communication between the parties, and analysis of the situation and possible outcomes—in general, helping the participants keep on track and working toward their mutual goals. It may also mean helping them set those goals. *See also* Dialogue *and* Mediation.

Fact finding: An investigation of a dispute by an impartial third party that examines the issues and facts in the case and may issue a report and recommended settlement (for example, the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Conflict in Georgia established by the Council of the European Union). A related term is **Commission of Inquiry** (for example, the International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur established by the United Nations).

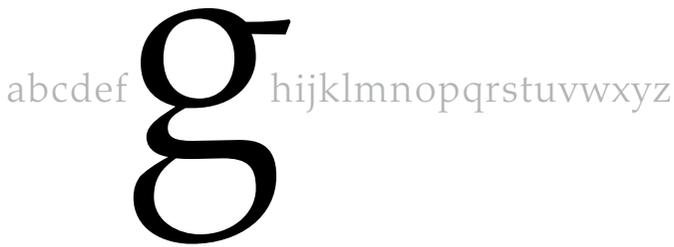
Failed state: A state that is unable to provide reasonable public services, often because of war, genocide, corruption, mismanagement, or criminal threats. Some analysts use the term **collapsed state** to refer to a situation where national structures have essentially dissolved and there is an almost complete vacuum of authority. A **weak** or **fragile state** may be on the verge of failure because of instability and weak governance.

Federalism: A system of governance characterized by two or more levels of government, each directly elected by its citizens and constitutionally empowered with legislative authority sufficient to achieve a degree of genuine autonomy. It is a power-sharing arrangement especially favored by large, culturally diverse countries such as India, Nigeria, the United States, and, formerly, Yugoslavia.

Foreign aid: A technique of statecraft whereby economic and technical assistance are used as instruments of policy in order to achieve certain goals. There are three main types of foreign aid—humanitarian, military, and development. Aid may be bilateral or multilateral, the latter usually being channeled through an international body.



Fragility: The term fragility can refer to humans, states, or the environment. A fragile state typically suffers from weak authority, legitimacy, and capacity. The drivers of fragility can be economic and social inequalities, lack of effective channels for the peaceful expression of people's demands and expectations, economic decline, and competition over natural resources. *See also* Failed state.



Gacaca: The Rwandan government's community-based judicial process, established in 2001 to help deal with the massive number of detainees accused of committing crimes against humanity during the 1994 genocide. These courts were closed in 2009.

Game theory: *See* Win-win versus zero-sum.

Gender-based violence: Violence directed against individuals or groups on the basis of their gender or sex. It includes acts or threats of acts that inflict physical or mental harm or suffering, coercion, and other deprivations of liberty, including rape, torture, mutilation, sexual slavery, forced impregnation, and murder. Although men and boys can be victims of gender-based violence, women and girls are the primary victims. *See also* Gender sensitivity *and* Sexual violence.

Gender sensitivity: The ability to recognize gender issues, especially the ability to recognize women's different perspectives and interests arising from their different social situations and different gender roles. Gender sensitivity is considered the beginning stage of gender awareness, leading to efforts to address gender-related impacts of conflict and peacebuilding. *See also* Gender-based violence *and* Sexual violence.

Geneva Conventions: The Geneva Conventions consist of four treaties, with subsequent additions and revisions. They set the widely accepted legal standards for humane treatment of noncombatants (medical and religious personnel and civilians) and combatants who are no longer able to fight, including the sick, wounded, and prisoners of war. The first convention was adopted in 1864 and the fourth in 1949; the most recent protocol was added in 2005.

Genocide: The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide defines genocide as "any of a number of acts committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group: killing members of the group; causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group, and forcibly transferring children of the group to another group."



Good offices: Typically, low-key actions by a third party to bring opposing parties to dialogue or negotiation. Good offices may include informal consultations to facilitate communication; offer of transportation, security, or site of venue; or fact-finding. The third party may suggest ways into negotiations and a settlement but usually stops short of participating in negotiations. Norway's role in the 1993 Oslo Accords concerning the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a classic example of good offices. Mediation and conciliation tend to be more active roles than good offices.

Governance: The exercise of authority to implement rules and policies in an effort to bring order to the social, political, economic, and judicial processes that allow a society to develop. **Good governance** involves a process that is informed and to a degree monitored by, and ultimately serves, all members of society. Good governance also implies a level of accountability and transparency, both of which will help to ameliorate the risk of corruption, a corrosive and destabilizing practice.

Guarantor: A state, group of states, international organization, or other entity such as an alliance that is obliged to ensure the maintenance of an agreement, in some cases by the use of force. In its original usage, the term usually referred to a formal, legal commitment to take action in the event of a breach of obligations by a party to a treaty. In recent years, the term has been used more loosely to refer to a party that monitors or bears witness to an accord.

Guerrilla war: Warfare conducted by an irregular military or paramilitary unit using techniques such as harassment, sabotage, and surprise attacks against a more powerful force. Guerrilla groups may seize control of and live among unarmed civilian populations that are influenced to provide labor, food, and other supplies. Successful guerrilla campaigns are usually protracted and have the support of the local population as well as external assistance.



Hate speech: Speech that is intended to foster hatred against groups based on race, religion, gender, sexual preference, national origin, or other traits. At the least it fosters hatred and discrimination, and at its worst it promotes violence and killing.

Holocaust: When capitalized, the term refers specifically to the genocide of European Jews and others by Nazi Germany and its collaborators during the 1930s and 1940s.

Host country ownership: *See* Local ownership.

Human capital: The stock of knowledge and skill embodied in the population of an economy. It can be increased through investments in education, healthcare, and job training. A related term is **social capital**, the resources that create a strong network of institutionalized relationships in society. These connections between individuals and between social networks facilitate civic engagement and encourage bargaining, compromise, and pluralistic politics, as well as contributing to economic and social development.

Humanitarian aid/assistance: Traditionally associated with natural disasters such as floods, fires, and famines, but more recently applied to other disasters such as social or political unrest, usually with the consent of the host country. Assistance can include providing food, shelter, clothing, and medicine and medical personnel; evacuating the most vulnerable; and restoring basic amenities (water, sewage, power supplies). Aid can be given during the emergency itself and in the rehabilitation phase.

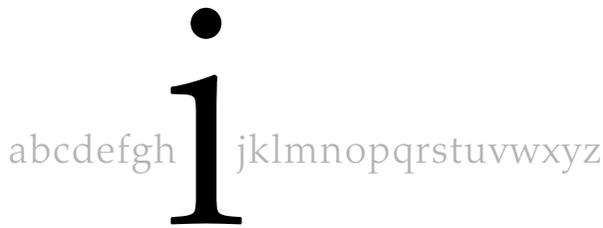
Humanitarian intervention: An intervention undertaken to protect unarmed civilian populations at risk. Some analysts use the term interchangeably with “military intervention”; others argue it should be reserved for the delivery of humanitarian aid. Broadly speaking, the term includes non-military as well as military interventions. *See also* International humanitarian law.

Human rights: The basic prerogatives and freedoms to which all humans are entitled. Supported by the United Nation’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 and several



international agreements, these rights include the right to life, liberty, education, and equality before law, and the right of association, belief, free speech, religion, and movement.

Human security: *See* Security.



Identity: Identity refers to the way people see themselves—the groups they feel a part of, the aspects of themselves that they use to describe themselves. Some theorists distinguish between collective identity, social identity, and personal identity. However, all are related in one way or another to a description of who one is, and how one fits into his or her social group and society overall. **Identity conflicts** are conflicts that develop when a person or group feels that their sense of self is threatened or denied legitimacy or respect. Religious, ethnic, and racial conflicts are examples of identity conflicts. **Identity politics** tries to exploit those conflicts for political advantage.

Ideology: A system of beliefs or theories, usually about politics or culture, held by an individual or a group.

Impartiality: Regarding foreign aid, impartiality means assistance must be based on need alone, without regard to nationality, race, religion, class, or politics; it does not imply equal provision of aid, however. In mediation or peacekeeping, impartiality means treating the contending sides equitably and with fairness. *See also* Neutrality.

Individualism versus collectivism: Broadly speaking, individualism refers to societies that stress individual identity over group identity. Individualism is associated with values like self-sufficiency, individual responsibilities, and personal autonomy. Collectivism, on the other hand, is the norm in societies that tend to emphasize “we” over “I.” Here, group rights predominate over individual rights and in-group oriented needs over individual wants and desires.

Informal economy: The exchange of goods and services that is usually neither taxed nor regulated by the government. It may be done through barter or sale, and may include such activities as day care, tutoring, and street trading as well as illegal or black market exchanges. Also called the **parallel, shadow, or underground economy**.

Information and communication technologies (ICTs): A diverse set of tools used to create, disseminate, and manage information. These technologies include the Internet, intranets, wireless networks, and cell phones, as well as such services as videoconferencing



and distance learning. The new ICTs have led to the development of a new vocabulary, including such terms as **blogosphere** (the connected community of blogs), **citizen journalism** (nonprofessionals creating their own media to report and disseminate the news), and **crowd sourcing** (outsourcing a task to a group of people through a collaborative open call).

Infrastructure: The system of public works of a country, state, or region, including buildings and equipment to support highways, airports, and facilities for waste treatment and water supply, electricity, and communications. Some analysts use the term more broadly to include political and socioeconomic aspects.

Instability: A situation in which the parties perceive one another as enemies and maintain deterrent military capabilities, although armed force is not deployed. The threat of violence is absent or only sporadic. A balance of power may discourage aggression, but crisis and war are still possible. On the conflict curve, instability is located between peace and violent conflict.

Insurgency: Paramilitary, guerrilla, or other uprisings directed against a state from within in order to achieve political objectives. Insurgencies typically aim to either replace the current regime, or to secede from the state. Successful insurgencies have the support of the local population. For that reason, **counter-insurgency** efforts seek to separate the insurgents from the population by winning their “hearts and minds,” typically by undertaking badly needed reforms.

Interests: *See* Positions *versus* Interests.

Interfaith dialogue: Efforts to promote understanding of and cooperation among different faiths, especially as a tool to advance peacemaking and peacebuilding.

Internally displaced person (IDP): A person who has been forced to leave their home, in particular as a result of armed conflict, generalized violence, violations of human rights, or natural or human-made disasters, but has not crossed an internationally recognized state border. *See also* Refugee.

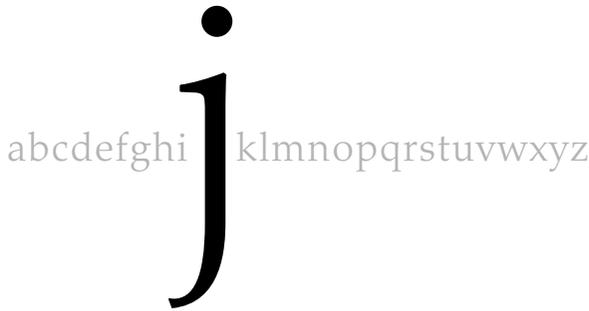
International financial institution (IFI): Generic term referring to international and regional development banks such as the World Bank Group and the African Development Bank, as well as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which focuses primarily on trade and currency issues that threaten financial stability. A related term is **Bretton Woods institutions**, named after the 1944 conference that established the World Bank and the IMF.

International humanitarian law (IHL): The law of war that is outlined in the Geneva Conventions, the Hague Conventions, and customary international law, and supported by other documents. It defines the conduct and responsibilities of nations and individuals engaged in warfare, especially as relates to the protection of civilians. It is generally applicable to international conflicts but a small subset of rules also applies to internal conflicts.

International organization (IO) or intergovernmental organization (IGO): A formal institutional structure generally created by international agreement with the goal of fostering cooperation in specific areas. In the conflict management field, the primary international organization is the United Nations, but regional organizations such as the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Organization of American States, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, to name a few, also play an increasingly active role in peace and security.

Intervention: Involvement by a third party or parties in the internal affairs of a country. It may be military or nonmilitary, requested or imposed. Traditionally, nonintervention was the norm in international relations, but recently the international community has become more willing to undertake humanitarian intervention to alleviate widespread human suffering where the state is unwilling or unable to address such conditions. Other examples of coercive actions might include punishing aggression by one state against another, enforcing violations of international agreements, and preventing an impending ecological catastrophe. *See also* Responsibility to protect.

Intractable conflict: A conflict that goes on for a long time, resisting attempts to resolve it. Typically, intractable conflicts involve fundamental value disagreements, high-stakes distributional questions, domination issues, and denied human needs—usually the most difficult kinds of problems.



Justice: The minimum form of justice is fair and equal treatment before the law—a system of rule of law based on legal procedures that apply to all members of society.

Social justice refers to a situation characterized by rule of law and fair distribution of resources and opportunities in society. Some see justice as a prerequisite for a stable and lasting order, others argue that there can be no justice without order. **Access to justice** refers to efforts to make the justice system accessible to those who are otherwise excluded.

Non-state justice, also called **customary** or **traditional justice**, refers to the settlement of disputes outside the formal state justice system, for example through tribal and community councils. Such mechanisms are widely used in rural and poor urban areas but sometimes reinforce local inequities and social exclusion, especially concerning women.

Just war theory: The belief that the use of military force is acceptable only if it meets certain standards: right authority, just cause, right intention, last resort, proportional means, and reasonable prospects of success. The actual conduct of the war must meet the standards of proportional means and discrimination (immunity for noncombatants). Note that different sources cite somewhat different standards.

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Knowledge transfer: The process of sharing information and skills with a target audience and enabling them to integrate that knowledge into their daily practice. Full integration occurs when they can pass the knowledge along to others. Knowledge transfer can be accomplished by such methods as education, training, mentoring, advising, and shadowing.



Legitimacy: In terms of an intervention, legitimacy refers to the degree to which: (a) the operation is authorized by an appropriate international or regional body, and (b) the operation's mandate and conduct are accepted or at least tolerated by the affected population and the host country government.

Leverage: The power that one party has to influence the behavior of another. Leverage can come from many sources, such as being able to wait longer than the other party, or having something the other party wants or needs. Leverage can be raised through facilitation, communication (providing translation or intelligence), or manipulation (reframing, rearranging, relocating).

Liberalism: A school of thought that argues that peace can best be achieved by the spread of democracy, freedom and equality, a market economy, the rule of law, and collective security. Traditionally, liberalism focused on limiting government power, but more recently it became associated with government efforts to ensure individual welfare, and to use international law to promote liberty and justice abroad. Liberalism is often contrasted with realism. **Neo-liberalism** adds to the traditional view an emphasis on institution building and the work of international organizations, nongovernmental organizations, multinational corporations, and other nonstate actors. *See also* Realism.

Local ownership: The notion that the affected country must drive its own development needs and priorities even if transitional authority is in the hands of outsiders. Also called **host country ownership**.



Mass atrocities: Large-scale and deliberate attacks on civilians. The victims of mass atrocities are typically targeted because of their identification as members of a group. *See also* the related terms **genocide**, **crimes against humanity**, **war crimes**, and **ethnic cleansing**, but note that the distinctions between these related terms are not always clear.

Media peacebuilding: The notion that it is desirable and possible to enhance the capacity of media for building peace. **Conflict-sensitive journalism** goes beyond this by encouraging journalists to be aware of what effects their language and reporting can have on the conflict. **Peace journalism** is a more agenda-driven reporting style. It approaches activism, as it focuses attention on the search for nonviolent solutions to conflict. Media strategies include citizen media (blogs, wikis, etc.), social marketing, and media regulation.

Mediation: A mode of negotiation in which a mutually acceptable third party helps the parties to a conflict find a solution that they cannot find by themselves. It is a three-sided political process in which the mediator builds and then draws upon relationships with the other two parties to help them reach a settlement. Unlike judges or arbitrators, mediators have no authority to decide the dispute between the parties, although powerful mediators may bring to the table considerable capability to influence the outcome. Mediators are typically from outside the conflict. Sometimes mediators are impartial and neutral, in other cases they have a strategic interest that motivates them to promote a negotiated outcome. Mediators may focus on facilitating communication and negotiation but they also may offer solutions and use leverage, including positive and negative incentives, to persuade the parties to achieve an agreement.

Metrics: Measurable indicators of progress, typically to assist in implementing an agreement. The most useful metrics gauge impact or outcomes, such as fewer weapons-related deaths, reduced child mortality, increased literacy, and reduced gender disparity in education, rather than input.

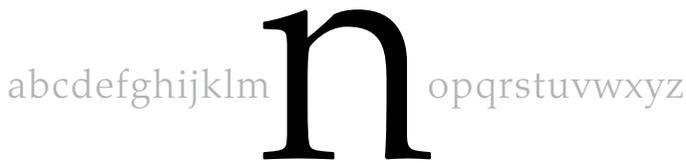
Monitoring: The close observation of an activity or process, usually by an independent party or party from another country. It can refer to elections, to military or political actions as part of confidence-building measures, or, in capacity building, to



the ongoing evaluation of a project to assess the process and impact and to redirect the project if necessary.

Multitrack diplomacy: *See* Tracks of diplomacy.

Mutually hurting stalemate: A situation in which neither party thinks it can win a given conflict without incurring excessive loss, and in which both are suffering from a continuation of fighting. The conflict is judged to have entered a period of ripeness, a propitious moment for third party mediation. There is substantial literature concerning the conditions, implications, and utility of “ripeness” as an analytical tool.



Narrative versus story: In the context of international relations, narrative means much more than just a story. It might be understood as a people's most strongly held beliefs about the way history has unfolded. This is not only an explanation of events, but also a separate view of reality. In divided societies—where there has been protracted conflict—there are often parallel narratives. The differing peoples do not agree on what occurred in the distant past and this core disagreement often causes them to dispute what has happened in recent times.

Nationalism: A sentiment of loyalty toward the nation that is shared by people. Elements of cohesion are provided by such factors as language, religion, historical experience, and physical closeness, although no one factor seems to be necessary. Such bonds subjectively define a group of people as different from their neighbors. *See also* State versus nation.

Nation versus state: *See* State versus nation.

Negotiation: The process of communication and bargaining between parties seeking to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome on issues of shared concern. The process typically involves compromise and concessions and is designed to result in an agreement, although sometimes a party participates in negotiations for other reasons (to score propaganda points or to appease domestic political forces, for example). **Prenegotiation** refers to preliminary talks to agree on such issues as the format, procedures, time frame, who will participate, and sometimes the scope of the formal talks. **Endgame** refers to the final stages of a negotiation, when substantive progress has been made but important details remain to be ironed out and the agreement hammered into final form.

Neutrality: A deliberate policy of not taking sides in hostilities or, for many NGOs, of not engaging in controversies involving politics, race, religion, or ideology. *See also* Impartiality.

Nongovernmental organization (NGO): A private, self-governing, nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing an objective or objectives such as alleviating human suffering; promoting education, health care, economic development, environmental protection, human rights, and conflict resolution; and encouraging the establishment of democratic



institutions and civil society. Some people use the term international nongovernmental organization (INGO) to differentiate those organizations that transcend national boundaries from local NGOs. Also known as **private voluntary organizations, civic associations, nonprofits,** and **charitable organizations.**

Nonprofit versus not-for-profit: These terms are generally used interchangeably, although some analysts use the term nonprofit only for those organizations that have a formal legal existence or charter.

Nonstate actor: A large category that includes nongovernmental organizations, multinational corporations, media, terrorist groups, warlords, insurgents, criminal organizations, religious groups, trade unions, universities, and diaspora communities. Most types of nonstate actors would be considered part of civil society. Also called **nonofficial actors.**

Nonviolent civic action: Action, usually undertaken by a group of people, to persuade someone else to change their behavior. Examples include strikes, boycotts, marches, and demonstrations. Nonviolent civic action can be categorized into three main classes: protest and persuasion, noncooperation, and intervention. It operates on the precept that all political relationships require varying degrees of cooperation or acquiescence, which can be withdrawn. Nonviolent civic action is also known as **strategic nonviolence, nonviolent resistance, direct action,** and **civil resistance.** Gandhi used the term *Satyagraha*, roughly translated as “firmness in truth,” to describe his concept of nonviolent action.

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Outputs and outcomes: In performance assessment, outputs are the products or services delivered (often called deliverables); outcomes are the impacts on social, economic, or other indicators arising from the delivery of outputs. *See also* Evaluation *and* Metrics.



Pacifism: The rejection of war or violence as a means of resolving conflict. Some pacifists reject violence under all circumstances, even self-defense. Others make exceptions for certain circumstances such as the Holocaust. Some pacifists will take part in noncombat activities such as providing medical care. For some, pacifism includes nonviolent action to promote justice and human rights, but it is not a pre-condition.

Parties to the conflict: The disputants can be divided into first or primary parties, those who have decision-making power and must be involved in any negotiation, and secondary parties, those who have a less direct stake but can affect the outcome by supporting or repudiating actions of the first parties.

Peace: The word “peace” evokes complex, sometimes contradictory, interpretations and reactions. For some, peace means the absence of conflict. For others it means the end of violence or the formal cessation of hostilities; for still others, the return to resolving conflict by political means. Some define peace as the attainment of justice and social stability; for others it is economic well-being and basic freedom. Peacemaking can be a dynamic process of ending conflict through negotiation or mediation. Peace is often unstable, as sources of conflict are seldom completely resolved or eliminated. Since conflict is inherent in the human condition, the striving for peace is particularly strong in times of violent conflict. That said, a willingness to accommodate perpetrators of violence without resolving the sources of conflict—sometimes called “peace at any price”—may lead to greater conflict later.

Peacebuilding: Originally conceived in the context of post-conflict recovery efforts to promote reconciliation and reconstruction, the term peacebuilding has more recently taken on a broader meaning. It may include providing humanitarian relief, protecting human rights, ensuring security, establishing nonviolent modes of resolving conflicts, fostering reconciliation, providing trauma healing services, repatriating refugees and resettling internally displaced persons, supporting broad-based education, and aiding in economic reconstruction. As such, it also includes conflict prevention in the sense of preventing the recurrence of violence, as well as conflict management and post-conflict recovery. In a larger sense, peacebuilding involves a transformation toward more

manageable, peaceful relationships and governance structures—the long-term process of addressing root causes and effects, reconciling differences, normalizing relations, and building institutions that can manage conflict without resorting to violence.

Peace dividend: The benefit a country receives from cutting back military spending, especially after the end of a war. The “dividend” comes when the money is redirected to social programs or to tax reductions.

Peace enforcement: Coercive action undertaken with the authorization of the United Nations Security Council to end armed hostilities, restore a cease-fire, or enforce a peace agreement. It includes diplomatic and military measures, the latter usually being carried out by a third-party or multinational force. Enforcement operations do not require the consent of the affected parties.

Peacekeeping: Traditionally, action undertaken to preserve peace where fighting has been halted and to assist in implementing agreements achieved by the peacemakers. Typically authorized by the UN Security Council under Chapter 6 or 7 of the UN Charter, these operations usually include lightly armed military personnel and have the consent of the parties. The scope of peacekeeping activities has gradually broadened since the end of the Cold War to include civilian and humanitarian activities such as food distribution, electoral assistance, refugee return and reintegration, civilian protection and prevention of gender-based violence, restoration of transportation and other basic services, and establishing safe havens. In recent years, peacekeepers have been placed in areas where fighting is continuing, and their role is more to position themselves between hostile parties, a situation in which there is often a mismatch between their mandate and their capability.

Peacemaking: Activities to halt ongoing conflicts and bring hostile parties to agreement, essentially through such peaceful means as those foreseen in Chapter 6 of the Charter of the United Nations: “negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or agreements, or other peaceful means.” Peacemaking typically involves the process of negotiating an agreement between contending parties, often with the help of a third-party mediator. A closely related term is **conflict management**.

Peace operation: A generic term sometimes used to encompass peacemaking, peacekeeping, peace enforcement, and peacebuilding, the lines between which are not always clear.

Peace process: Series of steps or phases in a negotiation or mediation that are necessary in order to eventually reach a peace agreement and sometimes to implement one. These steps are not necessarily sequential or linear. They may include confidence-building measures, risk-reduction strategies, good offices, fact-finding or observer missions, conciliation and mediation efforts, and deployment of international forces.

Peace (and conflict) studies: An interdisciplinary field of study that focuses on conflict analysis, conflict management, and conflict transformation; nonviolent sanctions;



peacebuilding, peacekeeping, and peace enforcement; social and economic justice; war's causes and conduct; and international and domestic security. Peace research is a constituent element of peace studies, drawing on the work of academicians and nongovernmental organizations alike. Although peace studies generally refers to college-level work, the term **peace education** encompasses all levels of students.

Political violence: Organized or systematic use of force, the motive for which is primarily political, that is, aimed at influencing government policy, rather than criminal. It can include terrorism, rebellion, war, conquest, revolution, oppression, and tyranny.

Positions versus interests: Broadly speaking, positions are what parties say they want. Interests are what they really need. Interests are frequently unstated and may be difficult to identify. Often parties' interests are compatible, and hence negotiable, even when their positions do not seem to be. Focusing on underlying interests can help parties identify which issues are of most concern to them and to find solutions that might not be evident from their stated positions. Some analysts distinguish between interests and **needs**, arguing that needs such as identity and security are more fundamental than interests. Some analysts also distinguish between interests and **values**, the ideas we have about what is good or worthwhile.

Post-conflict recovery: The long-term rebuilding of a society in the aftermath of violent conflict. It includes political, socioeconomic, and physical aspects such as disarming and reintegrating combatants, resettling internally displaced persons, reforming governmental institutions, promoting trauma work and reconciliation, delivering justice, restarting the economy, and rebuilding damaged infrastructure. Related terms include **war-to-peace transitions** and **post-conflict reconstruction**. The term "recovery" has a broader connotation than reconstruction, which implies an emphasis on physical aspects.

Power: The ability to influence others to get a particular outcome. It may involve coercing them with threats, providing inducements, or coopting them. **Hard power** refers to the use of military and economic means to influence the behavior of others through coercion or inducements. **Soft power** refers to the ability to attract or coopt others through one's values, policies, and performance. The term **smart power** encompasses both hard and soft power, emphasizing the need to employ whatever tools—diplomatic, economic, military, political, legal, scientific, and cultural—are appropriate for the situation.

Power sharing: A system of governance in which different segments of society are provided a share of power. Traditionally that has meant coalition governments, minimum representation in government institutions, and decision making requiring a high threshold or consensus. Power-sharing arrangements often increase the legitimacy of governments, especially in diverse societies, but because of their emphasis on group rights and consensus, some power-sharing arrangements lead to deadlock.

Preventive diplomacy: *See* Conflict prevention.

Prisoner of war: A combatant captured in war, especially a member of the armed forces of a country who is taken by the enemy during combat.

Problem-solving workshop: An informal, confidential dialogue workshop that brings together adversaries to reevaluate their attitudes and think creatively about joint solutions. These face-to-face meetings occur outside the context of diplomatic negotiations, but may feed into them. As such, they are a kind of track II diplomacy.

Proliferation: Traditionally, the term “proliferation” has referred to the spread of nuclear weapons. In conflict management, however, proliferation also refers to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons (everything from pistols to machine guns to anti-tank missiles and landmines), the kinds of weapons that fuel most violent conflicts. But the term can also refer to all conventional weapons (meaning all weapons short of weapons of mass destruction).

Proximity talks: Diplomatic discussions conducted through an intermediary, usually because the disputants are unwilling to meet face to face but are in separate locations close to each other. The hope is that proximity talks will lead to direct negotiations. A closely related term is **shuttle diplomacy**, which usually means that the intermediary travels back and forth between the disputants’ places of business.

Public diplomacy: Advocacy openly directed at foreign publics in support of negotiations or broad policy positions and to enlist their backing for a particular position or outcome.



Rapprochement: Restoration or establishment of improved relations between states and governments that were previously estranged.

Rational choice theory: From the field of economics, the theory that people act rationally, that is, they try to maximize gains and minimize losses. Consequently, it should be possible to build models to make predictions about future actions.

Readiness: In mediation, readiness means having operational and political capacity (requisite people and skills, necessary resources and institutional support, solid and durable mandate, and the right leadership) and strategic and diplomatic capacity (the ability to catalyze international coalitions and orchestrate initiatives).

Realism, or *realpolitik*: A school of thought that views the international system as inherently chaotic and sees the state as the primary actor in international politics; the state's goal is therefore the pursuit of power to protect its interests and ensure its survival.

Neo-realism, or structural realism, adds to this traditional view an emphasis on how the structural constraints of the international system (for example, alliances, international agreements, accepted norms, globalization, dependency) affect the behavior of individual states. *See also* Liberalism.

Reconciliation: The long-term process by which the parties to a violent dispute build trust, learn to live cooperatively, and create a stable peace. It can happen at the individual level, the community level, and the national level. It may involve dialogue, admissions of guilt, judicial processes, truth commissions, ritual forgiveness, and *sulha* (a traditional Arabic form of ritual forgiveness and restitution).

Reconstruction: The process of rebuilding degraded, damaged, or destroyed political, socioeconomic, and physical infrastructure of a country or territory to create the foundation for long-term development. *See also* Post-conflict recovery.

Reframing: To look at a problem from new perspectives in order to find ways to reduce tensions or break a deadlock. Reframing is the process of redefining a situation—seeing a conflict in a new way, usually based on input from other people.

Refugee: A person who has been forced to leave their home, in particular as a result of armed conflict, generalized violence, violations of human rights, or natural or human-made disasters, and has crossed an internationally recognized state border. Some sources restrict use of the term refugee to individuals with a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a social group, or political opinion. *See also* Internally displaced person.

Regime type: The set of political institutions by which a government of a state is organized. Regime types include democracy, dictatorship, monarchy, and theocracy. Many governments include in their official name a specific government type, for example: commonwealth, emirate, federation, kingdom, republic.

Regional organization: Intergovernmental organizations that focus on a specific geographic area or group of countries, such as the African Union, Arab League, Association of Southeast Asian Nations, European Union, and Organization of American States.

Religion: Like peace, religion is difficult to define. It has been described as a personal set or institutionalized system of religious attitudes, beliefs, and practices. Religion could be thought of as a kind of “deep culture,” sometimes shaping a society in ways that people do not realize. For example, the language of a development or justice program that western professionals believe to be neutral might be seen as too “Christian” by a local Buddhist, Hindu, or Muslim person.

Rent seeking: A somewhat confusing term that does not refer to rent in the usual sense but instead refers to lobbying the government for special privileges such as a subsidy, a tariff on competing goods, or a regulation that hampers competition.

Reparations: Compensation for war damage by a defeated state, or compensation to victims of mass crime committed by a former regime.

Resource curse or the paradox of plenty: The argument that mismanagement of natural resource abundance often produces weak states, little to no growth, and conflict. In the **Dutch disease**, abundant natural resources contribute to economic stagnation because capital and labor only focus on the booming natural resources for tradeable exports. In the **honey pot effect**, abundant supplies of valuable local resources create incentives for rebel groups to form and fight to capture the resource. In **rentier states**, governments that take in a significant amount of revenue (“rents,” or excess profits) from natural resource exports are prone to corruption because they can afford to buy off or intimidate opponents.



Responsibility to protect (R2P or RTP): A recently developed concept, R2P asserts that states have an ethical and legal responsibility to protect their people against genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing, but if a state is unable or unwilling to do so, that responsibility falls to the international community, which may intervene militarily in extreme cases. A controversial concept, R2P can be applied to all parts of the conflict curve, for those who accept its far-reaching implications.

Right of return: The right of any person to re-enter his or her country of origin. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that “everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.” Many countries have enacted laws concerning the right of return, mostly to facilitate the immigration of members of diaspora communities.

Ripeness: Period in a conflict where parties are most likely to be open to negotiation, usually due to conditions of a mutually hurting stalemate. A conflict is said to be ripe when it has reached such a stalemate and all the parties have determined that their alternatives to negotiation will not get them what they want or need. It is also possible for third parties to help create a perception of ripeness by introducing alternative ways of framing a conflict or by providing actual incentives or disincentives.

Risk management: The identification of risks to an organization and the development of strategies and techniques to confront them. Such risks might include accidents, natural disasters, wars, and financial issues.

Rule of law: A principle of governance in which all persons and institutions, public and private, including the state itself, are accountable to laws that are publicly announced, equally enforced and independently adjudicated, and consistent with international human rights norms and standards. The drafting of laws must be transparent, and they must be applied fairly and without arbitrariness. In addition, all persons must have access to justice—the ability to seek and obtain a remedy through informal or formal institutions of justice.

Rules of engagement (ROE): The rules delineating the circumstances and limitations under which force should be used by the military or police, including when, where, and against whom.



Sanctions: Actions typically taken by countries to influence the behavior of other parties. Sanctions can be diplomatic (reduction of diplomatic ties, for example), economic (embargoes, freezing of assets), personal (targeted travel bans), or cultural (limits on educational exchanges). The effectiveness of sanctions has been much debated, as have the detrimental effects on innocent civilians.

Security: Traditionally, security has meant freedom from military attack and has been synonymous with **national security**. In addition, a state could enter into alliances that provided **collective security**. More recently, the concept has expanded to include environmental and economic concerns. And the term **human security** has been used to emphasize the need to focus on the needs of the individual, including freedom from fear and freedom from want, as well as specific needs such as food security.

Security sector: The security sector is defined as those who are, or should be, responsible for protecting the state and communities within the state. This includes military, paramilitary, intelligence, border control, and police services as well as those civilian structures responsible for oversight and control of the security forces and for the administration of justice.

Security sector reform (SSR): The set of policies, plans, programs, and activities that a government undertakes to improve the way it provides safety, security, and justice.

Self-determination: The right of a people to determine their own political status. That could mean full independence, or it could mean a greater degree of autonomy and linguistic or religious identity within an existing state. *See also* Autonomy.

Sexual violence: A form of gender-based violence, sexual violence refers to any act, attempt, or threat of a sexual nature that results, or is likely to result in, physical or psychological harm. It includes all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse, such as rape, spousal battering, sexual abuse of children, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation, sexual harassment and intimidation at work and in educational institutions, and trafficking and forced prostitution. Sexual violence has also been used as a tool of

ethnic cleansing, as has been recently documented in Bosnia and Darfur. *See also* Gender-based violence *and* Gender sensitivity.

Shuttle diplomacy: *See* Proximity talks.

Side payment: A payment made to a party or parties to induce them to join an agreement. Such inducements frequently take the form of aid or trade preferences.

Social capital: *See* Human capital.

Social contract: An implicit agreement among individuals or between them and their government in which they give up part of their freedom in exchange for such benefits as social order and security.

Social media: Internet-based applications that allow users with little technical knowledge to create and share content. They include blogs, wikis, social networking websites like Facebook and LinkedIn, photo- and video-sharing sites like Flickr and YouTube, news aggregation sites, and social bookmarking sites (for sharing web bookmarks). This use of the web as a social platform is sometimes referred to as **Web 2.0**. *See also* Media peacebuilding.

Social well-being: A situation in which basic human needs are met and people are able to coexist peacefully in communities with opportunities for advancement. It is characterized by access to basic services (water, food, shelter, and health services), provision of primary and secondary education, return or resettlement of displaced persons, and restoration of social fabric and community life. Social well-being is considered critical for societies emerging from conflict—equally as important as security, rule of law, economic development, and good governance.

Soft power: *See* Power.

Sovereignty: The principle that states have primacy over their internal affairs. It is the basis for the international norm of noninterference in the affairs of independent and self-governing states. In practice, however, state sovereignty is not absolute and states restrict or share authority either through their own volition (for example, through treaties or consent to peacekeeping) or through the exercise of UN Security Council authority. *See also* Autonomy *and* Responsibility to Protect.

Spoiler: Anyone who seeks to block or sabotage a peace process or the implementation of an agreement, usually because it threatens their power and interests. *See also* Conflict entrepreneur.

Stability: The ability of a state to recover from disturbances and resist sudden change or deterioration. **Stabilization** is the process of ending or preventing the recurrence of violent conflict and creating the conditions for normal economic activity and nonviolent

politics. **Stability operations** work to restore stability in post-conflict situations. *See also* Instability *and* Post-conflict recovery.

State versus nation: A state, or country, is a sovereign, self-governing political entity, for example any state in the United Nations. (The term state is also used to refer to a division of a federal system, as in the United States.) A nation is a group of people who feel bound by a common language, culture, religion, history, or ethnicity, such as the Kurds, who reside mostly in Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Turkey, and the Basque, who inhabit parts of northern Spain and southern France. A nation-state occurs when a nation and a state largely coincide, for example Egypt, Hungary, and Japan. The terms **state building** and **nation building** are most often used these days as synonyms to refer to the process of building or rebuilding state institutions to create a legitimate and sustainable state.

Strategy versus tactics: Strategy is the activity, process, or plan to attain desired objectives as efficiently as possible, usually in competition with others who are developing similar activities. Tactics are limited and particular actions decided on short-term bases. If conducted efficiently, the choice of tactics will be informed by a strategy. For example, the strategy might call for a boycott, but the tactics might include picketing.

Summit meeting: A gathering of heads of government. At most summit meetings, the principals' main role is to put the finishing touches on agreements that have already been negotiated at a lower level. Summits are also useful in giving leaders opportunities to judge first-hand each other's character and mode of operating.

Sustainability: In general, the ability to maintain something indefinitely. In capacity building, sustainability means creating capacity that will remain in place and effective even after the initiative ends or the intervener departs. In development, it means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In the context of natural resources, sustainability refers to harnessing natural resources without depleting them. In the broader context of the environment, it means satisfying basic human needs while maintaining environmental quality.



Terrorism: The use of violence, typically against civilians, for the purpose of attracting attention to a political cause, encouraging others to join in, or intimidating opponents into concessions. Some terrorists aim to produce a harsh reaction by their opponents that will in turn generate support for the terrorists' issues. Although the distinctions are not always clear, **state terrorism** generally refers to acts committed by governments either domestically or abroad, while **state-sponsored terrorism** refers to support for nonstate actors that commit terrorist acts.

Third party: An individual or group that gets involved to help disputants resolve their problem, typically as mediators, arbitrators, or conciliators. Third parties can be insiders or outsiders, impartial or partial. Neutrality is required in some cases, but the ability to put pressure on one or both sides through carrots or sticks can be useful.

Time, attitudes toward: Time management in a post-conflict environment is often affected by attitudes or values not always shared by westerners, such as a need to cultivate personal relationships before completing a task, a strong belief in fate or the inability to control one's destiny, or a general focus on the past instead of the future. Temporal orientation can also be understood in terms of the difference between **monochronicity** and **polychronicity**—preferring to do one thing at a time versus engaging in several things simultaneously, which often involves a blurring of personal and professional space.

Tracks of diplomacy: Over the years, scholars have delineated several levels of diplomacy. Tracks I and II are the most frequently used terms. A composite term is multitrack diplomacy.

Track I diplomacy: Formal discussions typically involving high-level political and military leaders and focusing on cease-fires, peace talks, and treaties and other agreements. Third-party interveners are almost always official—a government or international organization, for example.



Track II diplomacy: Unofficial dialogue and problem-solving activities aimed at building relationships and encouraging new thinking that can inform the formal process. Track II activities typically involve influential academic, religious, and NGO leaders and other civil society actors who can interact more freely than high-ranking officials. The range of unofficial interveners is similarly broad—religious institutions, academics, former government officials, nongovernmental organizations, and think tanks, among others. Some analysts use the term **track 1.5** to denote informal dialogue and problem-solving formats with high ranking politicians and decision makers. These activities involve track I participants but employ track II approaches in an attempt to bridge the gap between official government efforts and civil society. Track 1.5 can also refer to situations where official representatives give authority to nonstate actors to negotiate or act as intermediaries on their behalf.

Track III diplomacy: People-to-people diplomacy undertaken by individuals and private groups to encourage interaction and understanding between hostile communities and involving awareness raising and empowerment within these communities. Normally focused at the grassroots level, this type of diplomacy often involves organizing meetings and conferences, generating media exposure, and political and legal advocacy for marginalized people and communities.

Multitrack diplomacy: A term for operating on several tracks simultaneously, including official and unofficial conflict resolution efforts, citizen and scientific exchanges, international business negotiations, international cultural and athletic activities, and other cooperative efforts. These efforts could be led by governments, professional organizations, businesses, churches, media, private citizens, training and educational institutes, activists, and funders.

Transitional justice: Efforts to address a legacy of large-scale human rights abuses that cannot be fully addressed by existing judicial and nonjudicial structures. Government responses have included criminal prosecutions, truth commissions, reparations, gender justice, security system reform, memorialization, and other reconciliation efforts.

Translation versus interpreting: Translation refers to the production of a written text in another language, while interpreting refers to oral or sign-language communication. Both require skilled professionals, since cultural differences are reflected in differences in the meaning of seemingly equivalent words across languages. These differences are often lost in translation, which can lead to confusion.

Transnational actors: Actors whose actions cross borders. They include intergovernmental organizations, multinational corporations, international nongovernmental organizations, and many religious organizations, as well as international terrorist networks and criminal networks.



Transparency: Visibility or accessibility of information regarding decision-making and financial practices, such that stakeholders not only have access to the decision-making process but also the ability to influence it.

Treaty: A formal and mutually binding written agreement between two or more states or other political authorities. Treaties are usually ratified by the lawmaking authority of the state. The term **accord** also refers to a formal agreement, but it sometimes implies a status below that of a treaty. A **convention** typically addresses major interstate issues, for example the Geneva Conventions on the rules of warfare or the Convention on Biological Diversity. Some conventions have enforcement mechanisms, others do not. The term **protocol** is sometimes used to refer to an original draft of a document, the record of an agreement, or an amendment to a agreement.

Tribunal: In international law, this term is sometimes used for courts set up for special purposes, such as the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda or the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, which were established by the UN Security Council.

Trigger: An event that initiates or accelerates the outbreak of a conflict (for example, the assassination of a leader, election fraud, or a political scandal).

Truth (and reconciliation) commission or truth and justice commission: An official body, usually set up by states after periods of state-perpetrated violence, whose main task is to establish a record of wrongdoing as part of an overall process of catharsis and reconciliation. Such commissions are sometimes empowered to grant full or partial amnesty in exchange for full disclosure, but this practice is rare. Some commissions also address issues of reparation and rehabilitation. *See also* Reconciliation.

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Violence: Psychological or physical force exerted for the purpose of threatening, injuring, damaging, or abusing people or property. In international relations, violent conflict typically refers to a clash of political interests between organized groups characterized by a sustained and large-scale use of force. **Structural violence** refers to inequalities built into the social system, for example, inequalities in income distribution. *See also* Conflict and War.

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War: Clausewitz famously described war as the “continuation of politics by other means.” War is sustained fighting between conventional military forces, paramilitary forces, or guerrillas. It may vary from low-intensity but continuing conflict or civil anarchy to all-out “hot” war. Some sources say that an armed conflict must cause 1,000 or more reported battle deaths in a calendar year to be considered a war. **Conventional war** uses the arsenal of official armed forces (for example, small arms, bombs, missiles) but excludes the use of weapons of mass destruction. **Limited war** is war for objectives declared by those conducting it to be narrow and limited. *See also* Civil war *and* Guerrilla war.

War crimes: Crimes committed during armed conflict in violation of the laws of war or international humanitarian law, described more fully in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, article 8. Most war crimes are perpetrated against noncombatant and civilian populations; they include murder, torture, deportation, rape, the taking of hostages, and forced labor.

Watchlist: Lists of countries at risk for specific concerns, maintained by government agencies or nongovernmental organizations as early-warning mechanisms. There are watchlists for crimes against humanity, for terrorism, for famines, and for humanitarian emergencies, among others. Some watchlists focus on individuals or groups suspected of planning crimes, other lists focus on countries that might be at risk.

Weapons of mass destruction (WMD): A term that typically refers to nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons. Weapons that do not fit into this category are generally called conventional weapons, regardless of their destructive power.

Whole-of-government approach: An approach that integrates the collaborative efforts of the departments and agencies of a government to achieve unity of effort toward a shared goal. Also known as **interagency approach**. The terms **unity of effort** and **unity of purpose** are sometimes used to describe cooperation among all actors, government and otherwise.

Window of opportunity: A short period of time during which the chances of success in an endeavor are greatly increased. In negotiations, such an opportunity is often produced by a change of leadership, an altered military situation, or an external event that impacts the conflict (for example, after the devastating 2004 tsunami the Aceh rebels were more willing to negotiate with the Indonesian government).

Win-win versus zero-sum: A **win-win** or **positive-sum** outcome means everyone wins, usually through cooperation and joint problem solving. A **win-lose** or **zero-sum** outcome means that one side wins only if the other side loses; it is an adversarial approach. A **lose-lose** or **negative-sum** outcome means all the parties lose. These terms originated in **game theory**, which comes from the field of mathematics and analyzes behavior in specific situations.

World Bank: According to the World Bank website, the term “World Bank” refers only to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA). The IBRD aims to reduce poverty in middle-income and creditworthy poorer countries, while IDA focuses on the world’s poorest countries. The term “World Bank Group” incorporates those two institutions plus three closely associated entities: the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), and the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

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1. “The list does not provide authoritative United Nations definitions. It is intended to assist with understanding the usage of terms in this document only. Official United Nations definitions are being considered in the context of the ongoing terminology deliberations of the General Assembly’s Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations on the basis of the DPKO Interim Glossary of Terms.”

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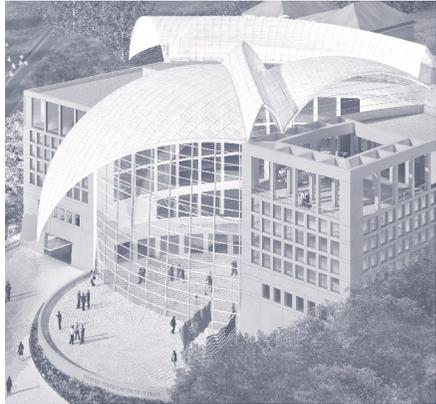
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