

A young child with a somber expression stands in the doorway of a building. The child is wearing a bright red t-shirt and light-colored shorts. The doorway is framed by dark, heavy door frames. The wall behind the child is a textured, light-colored material, possibly plaster or concrete, with some peeling and discoloration. To the left of the child is a light-colored door with a small window. The ground in front of the doorway is reddish-brown dirt. The overall scene is dimly lit, with the light coming from the doorway, creating a strong contrast between the interior and exterior.

# Unintended Consequences of Peacekeeping Operations

EDITED BY  
Chiyuki Aoi  
Cedric de Coning  
Ramesh Thakur

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## Contributors:

Chiyuki Aoi  
Cedric de Coning  
Ramesh Thakur  
Shukuko Koyama  
Henri Myrntinen  
Vanessa Kent  
Katarina Ammitzboell  
Shin-wha Lee  
Stuart Gordon  
Kwesi Aning  
C. S. R. Murthy  
Arturo C. Sotomayor  
Françoise J. Hampson  
Ai Kihara-Hunt  
Florian F. Hoffmann  
Frédéric Mégret

Peacekeeping operations have unintended consequences – this fact has long been ignored by both practitioners and researchers. The deployment of a large number of soldiers, police officers and civilian personnel inevitably has various effects on the host society and economy, not all of which are in keeping with the peacekeeping mandate and intent or are easily discernible prior to the intervention. Such unintended consequences are especially serious when they cause harm to the local community, as in the case of sexual abuse and exploitation, corruption or the creation of a false economy. Unintended side-effects can also negatively affect the ability of the peacekeeping mission to achieve its mandate.

This book is one of the first attempts to improve our understanding of unintended consequences of peacekeeping operations, by bringing together field experiences and academic analyses. The book investigates unintended consequences of peacekeeping operations on individuals and groups of individuals, on the host society and economy, and on the troop-contributing countries. It also analyses the degree to which the United Nations has tried to manage some of these side-effects, as well as the United Nations' accountability in the context of the international legal framework. The aim of the book is not to discredit peace operations but rather to improve the way in which such operations are planned and managed.

**Chiyuki Aoi** is an Associate Professor of International Politics at Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo, Japan. **Cedric de Coning** is a Research Fellow at the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), in South Africa and the Noweigian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI). **Ramesh Thakur** is a Distinguished Fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation and Professor of Political Science at the University of Waterloo in Canada.

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