

Karakus, Dogukan Cansin (2021) Power Mediators and Pure Mediators: Exploring their Impact on Implementing Internal Peace Agreements, eDiss Open Access der Niedersächsischen Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen (SUB), Göttingen

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Abstract

Recent studies on international mediation have mainly focused on the impact of mediation on armed intra-state conflicts, emphasizing successfully completed ceasefires and peace agreements. Scholars have largely neglected the important part which mediation has played in implementing peace agreements. Accordingly, this dissertation aims at closing the research gap, analysing the impact of “pure” and “power” mediation on the successful implementation of peace agreements. To explain why some agreements have been successfully implemented, whereas others have experienced less progress, one should duly acknowledge the third-party mediators’ performance involving various qualities such as leverage power, facilitation, communication, monitoring, dispute resolution, confidence-building, providing security and spoiler prevention, planning timetable and arranging financial support for the implementation process. This study demonstrates that multiple power mediators (the UK and the Republic of Ireland in Ulster) and multiple pure mediators (the UN and COPAZ in El Salvador) are mutually supportive in the successful implementation of peace agreements. They are by far more successful than a singly acting pure mediator (Organization of Islamic Cooperation in Mindanao) or a single power mediator (Syrian Arab Republic in Lebanon). My thesis conducts a case analysis and likewise a comparative case analysis of four comprehensive peace agreements, revealing the two highest and the two lowest degrees of implementation. It takes extensive account of the difficult conditions under which governments and rebels have implemented peace agreements supported by international mediators. It thus reinforces the theories and practice of international mediation, of implementing peace agreements and of sustainable peace. Failed implementation leads to humanitarian disasters such as in Angola, Rwanda, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Keywords: intra-state conflict, mediation, pure mediator, power mediator, peace agreement, agreement implementation, case analysis, comparative analysis, sustainable peace