

Committee: Security Council

Topic: Post-conflict stabilization



DEFINITIONS

Stabilization A political endeavor involving an integrated civilian-military process to create conditions where locally legitimate authorities and systems can peaceably manage conflict and prevent a resurgence of violence. Transitional in nature, stabilization may include efforts to establish civil security, provide access to dispute resolution, and deliver targeted basic services, and establish a foundation for the return of displaced people and longer-term development.

Conflict Fighting between two or more groups of people or countries.

INTRODUCTION

The effects of any conflict are dependent upon the scale of said conflict and the capability of the participant countries ability to recover, in cases in which conflict has caused large scale destabilization within their governments or their economy it may be the responsibility of other countries to provide aid to assist in the stabilization of their country. these efforts may be made to stop further conflicts and or groups forming within countries which may cause further conflicts.

To quote the 2002 US national security strategy “America is now threatened less by conquering states than we are by failing ones” clearly stating the belief that it is vital to stabilize volatile areas as their danger is greater than that of a stable opposing nation.

At times when such efforts are not made disastrous consequences can follow, such as terrorist uprisings large governmental debts such issues can be seen today in the wake off old and new conflicts. Such as examples of this are groups such as ISIS

Key stabilization efforts often include the deployment of troops within the country to subdue violence rioting and the influence of terrorist groups from further destabilizing said country. Loans of money to help rebuild the economy and more specifically damaged infrastructure. Such efforts can take millions of dollars and years of work for very little success.

To quote the ‘Stabilization: Lessons from the U.S. experience in Afghanistan’:
‘U.S. policymakers came to believe that merely clearing a remote area of insurgents or other belligerents to prevent them from hosting transnational terrorist groups would be insufficient if the conditions that allowed those groups to take local control in the first place were not addressed. In practice, this generally required helping host-nation governments become legitimate and effective enough that such safe haven was impossible.’

This quote shows Americas belief that the requirements to stop harmful terrorist groups from forming within unstable nations are not as simple as control.

The stability of a country is not a single piece of information rather an accumulation of piece of data that must be managed separately such as 'less violence against government and allied forces, less violence against or among civilians, an increase in security force coverage of an area, greater freedom of movement, greater confidence in local formal government, greater confidence in local informal government ' while some data may be easy to collect, information regarding the peoples confidence in government is rather difficult as it is a matter of opinion and probably would have to be obtained through surveys.

A famous example of the failure of stabilization efforts is Germany post ww1. Germany suffered greatly from the war and its economy was heavily damaged, it had to pay expenses it had no ability to pay and thus its country was susceptible to the influence of radical leadership. This led to the treaty of Versailles being broken and the beginning of a global conflict. These historic events should act as lessons to stop the repetition of history.

CURRENT STABILIZATION EFFORTS

Using key efforts made to stabilize areas within the middle east specifically Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria by America. we can view the beneficial effects of said effort and or the potentially damaging effects of meddling with volatile areas.

Over the course of 15 years \$4.7 billion US was spent in hopes of stabilizing Afghanistan often 'The large sums of stabilization dollars the United States devoted to Afghanistan in search of quick gains often exacerbated conflicts, enabled corruption, and bolstered support for insurgents' these findings indicate that any money given as part of an effort to stabilize a country must be appropriately managed and distributed correctly to provide a positive effect. This huge influx of money to a country woefully prepared to receive it increased the risk of corruption.

'Successes in stabilizing Afghan districts rarely lasted longer than the physical presence of coalition troops and civilians.' Such assessments show that to stabilize a potentially volatile area perhaps permanent troop deployment is necessary to stop the district degrading back to its previously de-stable state. Such operations would require large funds to carry out.

Syria has suffered over the course of many years and has been in control of terrorist groups. The city of Aleppo alone suffering \$100-\$200 billion in damages in the war and millions of Syrians fleeing out of or to different areas of the country. \$15 billion US has been spent by the USA since 2014 in efforts to stabilize Syria.

The lessons learnt from stabilization efforts made by America and its allies tell us a clear set of realistic goals and an effective strategy designed to work in the environment can drastically improve the effects of stabilization efforts.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND ANY USEFUL LINKS

Please be aware that these links only provide a small insight into this very global issue, I have provided information on Americas efforts but there are many other smaller scale operations which I have not mentioned. Further information can be found through the internet or any library.

<https://www.sigar.mil/pdf/lessonslearned/SIGAR-18-48-LL.pdf> - statistics related to Americas effectiveness in Afghanistan

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/stabilization-syria-lessons-afghanistan-and-iraq> - statistics related to Americas effectiveness in Syria