



Exploring peace and conflict implications of elections

Elections can prove to be moments of opportunity; however, they can also lead to contention and instability. They often mark peaceful transitions of power and frequently help to mitigate violence by leading to more inclusive governance systems through promoting greater electoral participation in states emerging from conflict. In Libya, the December 2021 elections are set to establish the first unified government since the start of its civil war ten years ago; while Sudan's next election, tentatively set to occur in 2024, will mark the first elected government since the removal of President Omar al-Bashir in 2019. In contrast, elections also have exacerbated societal divisions in countries throughout the world, as 2021 saw elections in Haiti, Chad, Somalia, and the United States, among others, devolve into turmoil and outbreaks of violence. **This edition of the Peace Pulse, *Elections: Pathways towards peacebuilding***, explores the roles elections play in transitional governments, established democracies, and authoritarian regimes, as well as their effects on peace, governance, and security.

Conflict Dynamics works to assist our partners and local stakeholders in building inclusive societies that will be better prepared to benefit from peaceful elections rather than endure contentious ones. In addition, we aim to assist our partners as they incorporate different aspects of electoral law in order to ensure smooth elections that include a broad range of the general population, civil society, and minority groups. Bridging gaps in order to promote peace sits at the core of the Political Accommodation Methodology that we use in the different contexts that we work. Building the consensus required for successful elections will remain a crucial part of the future of our work.

In this edition, you will find a variety of articles and books on aspects of elections in countries around the world. In *The Changing Nature of Elections in Africa: Impact on Peacebuilding*, Franklin Oduro presents new and existing challenges that threaten peaceful elections in Africa while offering solutions for incidents of instability and violence. Readers can learn more about election threats in the modern age with Andy Carvin's investigation into a Tunisian company that worked to influence elections in multiple African presidential elections through social media. In Purna Singh's article on India's 'electoral autocracy', she links the government's mismanagement of the COVID crisis to its recent anti-democratic turn.

If you have suggestions for themes that you would like to see featured in future editions of the Peace Pulse, please send them to peacepulse@cdint.org Graduate students who would like to work on publications in the future are also encouraged to contact our team.

Elections

This section highlights articles that examine different elections and their effects on peace and governance

- [The Changing Nature of Elections in Africa](#), Franklin Oduro, Ghana Center for Democratic Development, 3 November 2020.
 - [Democratic Norms, Social Projection, and False Consensus in the 2020 U.S. Presidential Election](#), Aaron C. Weinschenk et al., Journal of Political Marketing, 1 July 2021.
 - [Elections in Africa During COVID-19](#), Khabele Matlosa, South African Journal of Political Studies 15 April 2021.
 - [Elections and Democratic Transition in North Africa: The Case of Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia](#) Fouad Aalouane, Rowaq Arabi, 17 May 2021.
 - [Elections, legitimacy, and compliance in authoritarian regimes: evidence from the Arab world](#) Scott Williamson, Democratization, 1 June 2021.
 - [Group organization, elections and urban political mobilization in the developing world](#) Elisabeth Rosvold, Henry Thompson, et al., Journal of Political Marketing, 2 July 2021.
 - [India has become an 'electoral autocracy.' Its covid-19 catastrophe is no surprise](#) Prerna Singh, Washington Post, 5 July 2021.
 - [Indirect Elections as a Constitutional Device of Epistocracy](#), Udit Bhatia, University of Oxford, 5 August 2021.
 - [Operation Carthage: How a Tunisian company conducted influence operations in African presidential elections](#), Andy Carvin, Atlantic Council, 5 June 2020.
 - [What's Happening to Democracy in Africa](#), John Campbell & Nolan Quinn, Council on Foreign Relations, 26 May 2021.
-

Peacebuilding

CDI's peace action work focuses on preventing conflict, peacemaking and building sustainable peace. Our main strategy for this is political accommodation - a method for enabling users to develop their own approaches to reconciling divergent interests equitably.

- [From Belfast to Beirut: A Tale of Elusive Peace](#), Hannah McCarthy, Newlines Magazine, 26 July 2021.
- [From the Street to the Peace Table: Nonviolent Mobilization during Intrastate Peace Processes](#) Véronique Dudouet, United States Institute of Peace, 17 August 2021.
- [How Iran and Saudi Arabia Can Together Bring Peace to the Middle East](#) Maria Fantappie, Vali Nasr, Foreign Affairs, 3 August 2021.
- ["Let us create space": Reclaiming Peace and Security in a Kenyan Somali Community](#) Caroline Faria, Sylvia Feghali, et al., Political Geography, 9 July 2021.
- [Neither the Security Council nor the AU is grasping the GERD nettle](#), Peter Fabricius, Institute for Security Studies, 30 July 2021.
- [A New Local Turn for Track One Peace Process Research: Anthropological Approaches](#) Esther Meininghaus, Negotiation Journal, 29 July 2021.
- [Religious Peacebuilding in Iraq: Prospects and Challenges from the Hawza](#) Marsin Rahim Alshamary, Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding, 22 July 2021.
- [United Nations Special Political Missions and Protection: A Principled Approach for Research and Policymaking](#), Dirk Druet, International Peace Institute, 15 July 2021.

Governance

Governance arrangements and political dialogue processes provide structure to a political system and help guide whether or not it is inclusive and participatory. CDI's governance and process frameworks support groups from different backgrounds to identify drivers of conflict in the system and develop creative solutions for addressing them.

- [The African Union's peace and security dilemma](#), Paul-Simon Handy and Felicite Djilo, Institute for Security Studies, 26 July 2021.
- [Democracy in Afghanistan: Amid and Beyond Conflict](#), Anna Larson, United States Institute of Peace, 8 July 2021.
- [The democraticness of traditional political systems in Africa](#), Axel Bayer, Clara Neupert-Wentz, et al., Democratization, 22 July 2021.
- [Development, governmentality and the sedentary state: the productive safety net programme in](#)

[Ethiopia's Somali pastoral periphery](#), Getu Demeke Alene, Jessica Duncan, et al., The Journal of Peasant Studies, 9 August 2021.

- [Discourses of Corruption in Africa: Between the Colonial Past and the Decolonizing Present](#) Aghogho Akpome, Africa Today, 1 July 2021.
 - [The Future of Democracy in Africa](#), Hassan Khannenje, Horizons: Journal of International Relations and Sustainable Development, 1 July 2021.
 - [Global governance after COVID-19: Survey report](#), Kemal Dervis and Sebastian Strauss, Brookings Institution, 9 August 2021.
 - [The Living Legacy of the Arab Uprisings](#), Mona Yacoubian and Ellen Laipson, United States Institute of Peace, 3 August 2021.
-

Peacebuilding Contexts

Somalia and Somaliland

Since 2009, CDI has worked with local partners in Somalia to support dialogue among and between Somali leaders and communities to help reconcile different interests and build lasting peace.

- [Building on Somaliland's Successful Elections](#), International Crisis Group, 12 August 2021.
- [Severe underfunding of Somalia humanitarian response leading to reduced support of the population most in need, IRC warns](#), International Rescue Committee, 16 August 2021.
- [Somalia: Climate change and conflict threaten herders](#), ICRC, 27 July 2021.
- [Somalia: Wholly inadequate Covid-19 response highlights need to use debt relief to invest in healthcare](#), Amnesty International, 17 August 2021.
- [Somaliland's Strategic Case for Independence](#), Lynsey Chutel, Foreign Policy, 7 July 2021.
- [Top UN envoy points to fresh hope for democratic Somalia](#), UN News, 12 August 2021.

South Sudan

CDI has supported South Sudan to construct a "House of Governance" that equitably serves all citizens and provides a framework for sustainable peace. We currently are exploring ways to support South Sudanese women's participation in governance and processes and the promotion of women's rights.

- [After 10 years of independence, South Sudan working to resolve conflict and humanitarian crisis](#) Chris Hufstader, Oxfam, 30 July 2021.
- [Clearing the Dimming Vision of the Liberation of South Sudan: Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of Independence](#), Francis M. Deng, The Sudd Institute, 11 July 2021.
- [Deadly Clashes Threaten South Sudan's Shaky Peace Deal](#) Abdi Latif Dahir, The New York Times, 9 August 2021.
- [Good Governance as a Means to Peaceful Coexistence in Eastern Equatoria State, South Sudan](#) Aloys Otieno Ojore, Jacob Jeketule Soko, et al., Journal of African Interdisciplinary Studies, 15 July 2021.
- [Resolution, resistance, resilience: Covering the conflict in South Sudan](#) Charlotte Ntulume, Routledge, 27 July 2021.
- [South Sudan's Dismal Tenth Birthday](#), Comfort Ero & Alan Boswell, Foreign Affairs, 9 July 2021.
- [South Sudan: Summary Executions in North](#) Human Rights Watch, 29 July 2021.
- [Succession in South Sudan](#), Colum Lynch, Foreign Policy, 7 July 2021.

Sudan

CDI works to prevent conflict and build sustainable peace in Sudan by supporting all stakeholders to develop inclusive frameworks, policies, and systems that will form the foundation of a new era of governance in Sudan.

- [Political transitions in Sudan and Ethiopia: an early comparative analysis](#) Aly Verjee, Global Change, Peace & Security, 6 August 2021.
- [Shifting Terrains of Political Participation in Sudan](#), Aroob Alfaki & Azza Ahmed Abdel Aziz, International IDEA, 20 July 2021.
- [Sudan's military may play politics with peace talks](#), Oxford Analytica, 19 July 2021.
- [Sudan's Youth and the Transition: Priorities, Perceptions and Attitudes](#) The Carter Center, 1 August 2021.

The United States

Although CDI's current work is primarily focused on East Africa, recent events have emphasized the

pervasive effects of exclusion and inequality in the United States and the potential applicability of our work there.

- [White Supremacy, Terrorism, and the Failure of Reconstruction in the United States](#), Daniel Byman, International Security, 19 July 2021.
- [The Effect of Social Media on Elections: Evidence from the United States](#), Carlo Schwarz, Karsten Müller, et al., National Bureau of Economic Research, 1 May 2021.
- [Federalism, Democracy, and the 2020 Election](#), David Landau, Hannah Wiseman, et al., Penn State Law, 1 May 2021.
- [Gender, Diversity and the United States Judiciary](#), Gbemende Johnson, Johns Hopkins University Press, 10 August 2021.
- [Shutting the Door on Voting: The Effects of "The Great Poll Closure"](#), Joshua Matthew Squires, West Virginia University, 4 August 2021.

Books

This section includes some recent publications on the thematic and geographic regions that CDI focuses on. Be sure to check out Mari Fitzduff's [Our Brains at War: The Neuroscience of Conflict and Peacebuilding](#) which offers new ways of addressing conflict.

- [Democracy, Elections, and Constitutionalism in Africa](#), Charles M. Fombad & Nico Steytler, Stellenbosch Handbooks in African Constitutional Law, 18 March 2021.
- [Incredible Commitments: How UN Peacekeeping Failures Shape Peace Processes](#), Anjali Kaushlesh Dayal, Cambridge University Press, 1 September 2021.
- [Invisible Bridges: An African Journey Through Culture](#), Francis M. Deng, African World Books, July 2021.
- [The Moral Economy of Elections in Africa: Democracy, Voting and Virtue](#), Gabrielle Lynch, Justin Willis, et al., Cambridge University Press, February 2021.
- [The Power of Populism and People: Resistance and Protest in the Modern World](#), Christopher Osmar & Nathan Stoltzfus, Bloomsbury Publishing, 12 August 2021.
- [War and Genocide in South Sudan](#), Clémence Pinaud, Cornell University Press, 1 March 2021.

The Peace Pulse seeks to inform readers about recent debates and scholarship related to peacebuilding and governance, and Conflict Dynamics' peacebuilding contexts: Somalia and Somaliland, South Sudan, and Sudan. Conflict Dynamics' peacebuilding initiatives aim to prevent and resolve violent conflict and to foster political stability. In working toward this goal, Conflict Dynamics supports people and their representatives to develop, agree upon, and implement practical arrangements for political dialogue processes and governance that accommodate diverse political interests in a balanced way.

Stay Connected



Conflict Dynamics does not necessarily endorse the content of articles and cannot guarantee the quality of articles. Please note that some articles may require subscription access. Please email questions and feedback to peacepulse@cdint.org.

Conflict Dynamics | info@cdint.org | <http://www.cdint.org>

Copyright © 2021. All Rights Reserved.