



In 2018, 2019, and 2020, mass demonstrations broke out across the globe, demanding widespread political reforms such as equal rights, more citizen participation in governance, and justice. These protests have been powerful, in many cases instigating real long-term change. Sudan, Lebanon, and the United States are stark examples of mobilizations that have produced - or are in process - seismic shifts to their political systems. With this in mind, the theme of this edition of our Peace Pulse is *Challenges and Opportunities of Transitions*.

In Sudan, nonviolent civil resistance succeeded in removing the regime of former President Omar al-Bashir in April 2019 and in establishing a transitional government. Yet one year in, there is a need and opportunity for the Transitional Government and other actors to develop and build consensus around a coherent, inclusive plan for the transition period. In response to this need, CDI's Sudan Team developed and disseminated [draft options](#) for how the various transitional processes can be sequenced and linked effectively to inform a comprehensive plan. CDI then conducted a number of consultations with Sudanese actors on those options. The findings of the consultations are detailed in CDI's report "[Consultations on Options for the Sequencing and Linkages of Political Processes during the Transitional Period in Sudan](#)."

Somalia is also in the midst of a political transition, with the electoral process and the nature of federalism topics of heated national debates. The country has been preparing for direct national elections, having passed a new electoral law in February 2020 that moves the country away from the previous method of indirect elections via clan elders. However, due to COVID-19, security and other technical issues, and a lack of consensus on implementing the new electoral law, the Federal Government and Federal Member States recently agreed to maintain an indirect model of elections with an expanded voter pool for the upcoming 2020/21 elections in order to hold the elections on time. In "[Political Dialogue in Somalia: Reaching Consensus on Elections During COVID-19](#)," the Somali Dialogue Platform, including CDI, discusses in more detail the challenges and potential ways forward for the upcoming elections.

We are pleased to showcase some articles related to the challenges and opportunities of political transitions published within the last couple of months. "[Dysfunctional Federalism](#)" by the Heritage Institute discusses the boundaries of authority between the Somali Federal Government and Federal Member States and challenges of reconciliation among Somali political stakeholders. Also, [this analysis](#) from the Carnegie Endowment, examines the credibility of elections during a pandemic as well as its impact on democracy.

CDI remains committed to supporting peaceful political transitions where people and groups from different backgrounds are included and their voices heard. Our team can offer guidance on supporting parties to conflict in resolving their differences, designing political processes that promote inclusivity and participation, and addressing the root causes of conflict. We hope that these articles will support you in your work on similar issues.

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. See you in November!

Challenges and Opportunities of Political Transition

How are nations managing the challenges and opportunities that come with political transitions? This section highlights articles that explore this question.

- [After the Coup, Mali Needs a Change of Direction, Not Just a Change of Leadership](#), Gregory Mann, Jacobin, 25 August 2020
- [Can Elections Be Credible During a Pandemic?](#) Ashley Quarcoo, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 29 July 2020
- [Consultations on Options for the Sequencing and Linkages of Political Processes during the Transitional Period in Sudan](#), Conflict Dynamics International, September 2020
- [Chapter 1: Post-conflict constitution-making](#), Darin E.W Johnson, book chapter, Research Handbook on Post-Conflict State Building, 7 August 2020
- [Dysfunctional federalism: How political division, constitutional ambiguity and a unitary mindset thwart equitable distribution of power in Somalia](#), Abdirizak Aden Muhamed, The Heritage Institute, July 2020
- [How Did We Do That? Histories and Political Economies of Rapid and Just Transitions](#), Peter Newell and Andrew Simms, New Political Economy, 25 August 2020
- [Keeping Democracy Healthy: Fragile Transitions in Belarus and Ethiopia](#), Nate Schenkkan, Freedom House, 19 August 2020
- [Political Dialogue in Somalia: Reaching Consensus on Elections During COVID-19](#), Rift Valley Institute, CDI, May 2020
- [Tunisia's Transition Hits a Rough Patch Following COVID Lockdown](#), Leo Siebert, USIP, 12 August 2020

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. As worldwide demand for tools to address the roots of inequality and suffering increases, we are finalizing our Political Accommodation Handbook with a grant from the Cummings Foundation. The Handbook presents practical, user-friendly guidance to enable people to reconcile divergent interests in a fair and inclusive manner and will initially be shared through trainings in the United States and East Africa.

- [A disputed election, a constitutional crisis, polarisation ... welcome to 1876](#), Martin Pengelly, The Guardian, 23 August 2020
- [America's Divided Mind: Understanding the Psychology That Drives Us Apart](#), Beyond Conflict, June 2020
- [Amid Struggle To Protect 2020 Election, A 2nd Conflict Rages - Over Transparency](#), NPR, Philip Ewing, 3 September 2020
- [Can Elections Be Credible During a Pandemic?](#) Ashley Quarcoo, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 29 July 2020
- [Electoral college explained: how Biden faces an uphill battle in the US election](#)

Helena Robertson, Ashley Kirk, and Frank Hulley-Jones, The Guardian, 2 September 2020

- [Global Democracy Supporters Must Confront Systemic Racism.](#) Ashley Quarcoo, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 15 July 2020
- [How much do polls move after Labor Day?](#), The Economist, 5 September 2020
- [The objectivity illusion and voter polarization in the 2016 presidential election.](#) Michael C. Schwalbe, Geoffrey L. Cohen, and Lee D. Ross, PNAS, 17 August 2020
- [The United States Needs a New Foreign Policy.](#) William J. Burns, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 14 July 2020
- [Voters Rarely Switch Parties, but Recent Shifts Further Educational, Racial Divergence.](#) Pew Research Center, 4 August 2020
- [What's the Answer to Political Polarization in the U.S.?](#), Russell Berman, The Atlantic, 8 March 2020

Peacebuilding & Governance

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.

- [Afghanistan: Can Central Asia Help Spur Peace with the Taliban?](#) Adam Gallagher, USIP, 28 July 2020
- [Ahead of peace talks, a who's who of Cameroon's separatist movements.](#) Bone R. Maxwell, The New Humanitarian, 8 July 2020
- [Allies or Agitators? How Partisan Identity Shapes Public Opinion about Violent or Nonviolent Protests](#) Yuan Hsiao and Scott Radnitz, Political Communication, 18 August 2020
- [Amid COVID, We Need Enhanced International Coordination to Build Peace.](#) Jonathan Papoulidis, Corinne Graff and Tyler Beckelman USIP, 23 July 2020
- [Fighting COVID-19, Building Peace - a civil society perspective. What Local Peacebuilders Say about COVID-19, Civic Space, Fragility and Drivers of Conflict,](#) Knowledge Platform Security and Rule of Law, 14 July 2020
- [Global Peacebuilding Policy: Analysing Local to Global Engagement.](#) Life and Peace Institute, 13 July 2020.
- [How women's roles are changing in Kashmir's conflict.](#) Zahra Masrat, and Sheikh Muzamil Peerzada, The New Humanitarian, 14 July 2020
- [Localizing the 2030 Agenda in West Africa: Building on What Works.](#) Jimena Leiva Roesch and Masooma Rahmaty, International Peace Institute, 9 July 2020
- [Measuring Collective Impact: Creating a Framework for Assessing Multiple Peacebuilding Projects in Colombia.](#) Diego, Benitez, USIP, 30 July 2020
- [Mainstreaming youth into AU's peace and security agenda.](#) Rhuks Ako, Mfrekeobong Ukpanah, Orit Ibrahim and Hannah Mamo, Institute for Security Studies, 17 June 2020
- [Op-Ed: How can we support local peacebuilders during and beyond COVID-19?](#) Christian Cito Cirhigiri, Peace News, 25 July 2020
- [Protecting Civilians While Supporting the Host State: A UN Peacekeeping Dilemma.](#) International Peace and Institute, 10 June 2020
- [Violent Extremist Disengagement and Reconciliation: A Peacebuilding Approach.](#) Chris Bosley, USIP, 29 July 2020
- [Voices from Kenya and Nigeria: Working With Religious Actors to Prevent Extremism.](#) Usama Hasan, Shamsia Ramadhan, et. all, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change 8 July 2020
- [Youth to remain a focus on the UN Security Council.](#) Muneinazvo Kujeke, Gustavo De Carvalho and Priyal Singh, Institute for Security Studies, 29 July 2020

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.

- [After Beirut Blast, What's Next for Lebanon's Broken Political System?](#) Dr. Elie Abouaoun; Mona Yacoubian, USIP, 7 August 2020
 - [Authoritarian Weaknesses and the Pandemic](#), Thomas Carothers and David Wong, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 11 August 2020
 - [Can Lebanon's Fires Be Put Out?](#) Maha Yahya, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 6 August 2020
 - [How Much Will the Pandemic Change Egyptian Governance and for How Long?](#) Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Amr Hamzawy, Nathan J. Brown, 23 July 2020
 - [India's Kashmir Conundrum: Before and After the Abrogation of Article 370](#), Sameer P. Lalwani; Gillian Gayner, USIP, 5 August 2020
 - [Lebanon's Unraveling Could Upend the Region and U.S. Interests](#), Mona Yacoubian, USIP, 28 July 2020
 - [Legislature and Legislative Elections in Afghanistan: An Analysis](#), Farid Tookhy, USIP, 28 July 2020
 - [The Perils of Perestroika: Why Putin Chose to Prolong His Rule](#), Alexander Baunov, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 30 July 2020
 - [What's behind the mass protests in Mali?](#) Mohamed Salaha, Philip Kleinfeld, The New Humanitarian, 10 July 2020
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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.

- [Dysfunctional federalism: How political division, constitutional ambiguity and a unitary mindset thwart equitable distribution of power in Somalia](#), Abdirizak Aden Muhamed, The Heritage Institute, July 2020
- [Finding a Way Out of Somalia's Manmade Electoral Crisis](#), The Heritage Institute, 1 July 2020
- [Security Situation in Somalia](#), ECOI Network, 28 August 2020
- [Somalia-Somaliland: A Halting Embrace of Dialogue](#), International Crisis Group, 6 August 2020

South Sudan

CDI has supported South Sudanese 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.

- [The COVID-19 Mortality in South Sudan](#), The Sudd Institute, Augustino Ting Mayai, 22 June 2020
- [The Future and Implementation of the R-ARCSS in South Sudan](#), Christopher Zambakari, the Zambakari Advisory, 14 July 2020
- [In South Sudan, the Hope and Pain of Nonviolence](#), Yeng Lambo, USIP, 5 August 2020
- [Priorities for Peace in South Sudan](#), David Deng, Policy Brief London School of Economics, 6 August 2020
- [On Security Sector Reform in South Sudan, 2005-2020](#), Joshua Craze, The London School of Economics, 2020

- [Renewed violence and delayed implementation of the peace agreement severely threaten peace and stability in South Sudan](#), UN experts note, UN Office of the High Commissioner, 14 August 2020
- [Root Causes of the Conflict in South Sudan](#), Remember Miamingi, the Zambakari Advisory, 14 July 2020
- [South Sudan and the Peace Agreements No One Swears by](#), Jok Madut Jok, the Zambakari Advisory, 14 July 2020 The Politics of Numbers
- [South Sudan: Keeping Faith with the IGAD Peace Process](#), International Crisis Group, 27 July 2020

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.

- [Darfur's conflict could return to square one](#), Meressa K Dessu, Institute for Security Studies, 22 July 2020
- [Sudan, a coup laboratory](#), Peter Fabricius, Institute for Security Studies, 31 July 2020
- [Sudan at a Crossroads: A Humanitarian Opening?](#) Jacob Kurtzer, Center for Strategic and International Studies, 5 August 2020
- [Sudan peace agreement: What it really means for the country's transition](#), European Council on Foreign Relations, 2 September 2020
- [Troika Statement on the Peace Agreement Between Sudan Armed Opposition Groups](#), US Department of State, 31 August 2020

Books

- [Accountability in Global Governance](#), Gisela Hirschmann, Oxford University Press, 24 August 2020
- [Africa and the Middle East: Beyond the Divides](#), Collection of papers by The Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS), June 2020
- [Composing Peace](#), Vincenzo Bove, Chiara Ruffa, and Andrea Ruggeri, Oxford University Press, 6 July 2020
- [From Dissent to Democracy: The Promise and Perils of Civil Resistance Transitions](#), Jonathan C. Pinckney, Oxford University Press, 10 June 2020
- [Gender, Protests and Political Change in Africa](#), Edited by Awino Okech, Palgrave Macmillan, 3 July 2020
- [Gender, Religion, Extremism](#), Katherine E. Brown, Oxford University Press, 1 July 2020
- [The Loud Minority: Why Protests Matter in American Democracy](#), Daniel Q. Gillion, Princeton University Press, 10 March 2020
- [Things Come Together](#), Arranged by Robert Rotberg, 10 August 2020
- [Seeing Women, Strengthening Democracy](#), Magda Hinojosa and Miki Caul Kittilson, Oxford University Press, 1 August 2020
- [Violence against Women in Politics](#), Mona Lena Krok, Oxford University Press, 1 September 2020

The Peace Pulse seeks to inform readers about recent debates and scholarship related to peacebuilding and governance, and CDI's peacebuilding contexts: Somalia and Somaliland, South Sudan, and Sudan. CDI's peacebuilding initiatives aim to prevent and resolve violent conflict and to foster political stability. In working toward this goal, CDI 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.

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