



CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL CRISIS  
MANAGEMENT & CONFLICT RESOLUTION

# **The Regional and International Regulation of Ethnic Conflict : Patterns of Success and Failure**

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# Ethnic Conflict in the International Arena

- Ethnic conflict remains a **pervasive phenomenon** in international security affairs
- Not all situations in which minorities make **demands for self-determination** escalate into full-scale civil war
- International and regional organisations play a **significant role** in managing such conflicts

# The Role of International and Regional Organisations

- Three different spheres: **prevention**, **management**, and **settlement**
- Three different phases: **negotiation**, **implementation**, and **operation**
- Funding, man-power, technical expertise for
  - **Facilitation** of talks and negotiations
  - **Mediation** of agreements
  - ‘**Peace-keeping**’
  - **Implementation** and **operation** support



# Outcomes: Success or Failure?

- **Bosnia and Herzegovina**: 40,000 military personnel, \$4.5 billion
- **Somalia**: 22,000 military personnel, \$1.6bn
- **Rwanda**: 5,000 military personnel, \$450m
- **BUT**: Northern Ireland, Scotland, South Tyrol, Catalonia, Gagauzia, Macedonia, ...

# Some Possible Explanations

- Domestic **context**: mutual acknowledgement and recognition, implementation efforts, internal fragmentation
- Settlement **content**: match of institutional arrangements to structural conditions and conflict issues; dispute resolution mechanisms, constitutional entrenchment, and proper financing
- **International involvement**: sustained, well-resourced, well-informed



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