

The Significance of Collaboration in the Sustainment of Positive Peace

Essay

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Abstract:

Support for positive peace can be achieved through collaboration between the governments, civilian organizations and the profession of arms. Peace can be negative, meaning the absence of war; or positive, a more comprehensive concept. NATO, a political and military alliance, is a great example of what can be achieved if people work together for a common purpose. Born out of the principle of collective defence, NATO promotes democratic values and undertakes crisis-management operations when conflicts arise. The shocking events of 9/11 changed people's and institutions' perception on how events should be handled and triggered increased awareness. NATO's mission in Afghanistan has been praised and criticised, but what would the world be like if people never got involved?

Keywords: *army, civil society, government, NATO, positive peace.*

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1 Introduction:

The sustainment of positive peace can be achieved when there is collaboration between governments, civilian organizations and the profession of arms. Each of the above mentioned entities has its well-established role in developing and sustaining positive peace. The government implements specific policies to ensure positive peace, civil institutions fulfil the role of mediator and communication between the state and society, while the army has the role of ensuring security at the national level.

Peace is a comprehensive and broad concept. There are two common conceptions of peace - Negative Peace (absence of war and direct violence) and Positive Peace (which involves the absence of direct violence but also structural and cultural peace). These concepts were brilliantly defined by Galtung: *“Just as a coin has two sides, one side alone being only one aspect of the coin, not the complete coin, peace also has two sides: absence of personal violence, and absence of structural violence. We shall refer to them as negative peace and positive peace respectively.”* (Galtung, 1969:183). The framework of positive peace may be applied on a local or national level and it can be assessed in reference to eight pillars. (see Fig. 1). The implementation of these eight factors that define positive peace is ensured by an intrinsic collaboration between governmental, civil and

military institutions. This paper highlights the way this collaboration was achieved in a particular context and its outcomes.



Fig. 1. The factors of the Positive Peace

2 Cooperation between governments and the army

The cooperation between governments and the army is a significant part in the development of positive peace. The role of the army is to protect its nation, providing security and safety to its people. The collaboration of multiple country's militaries is generated by political affairs, meaning that it can only occur when all the governments involved have a common goal. The cooperation of the armies is no longer an impossible ambition, but it is rather real, NATO is a great example of what humans can do if they work together for the greater good. But what is NATO and how did it all start?

3 The involvement of NATO

3.1 The history of The North Atlantic Treaty Organization

It all started on 4 March 1947 when, in the aftermath of World War II, the United Kingdom and France signed the Treaty of Dunkirk¹, promising to help each other if one of them was attacked. On 4 April 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty was signed by 12 countries. Currently NATO is composed of 30 countries². (see Fig. 2) From a political point of view, NATO promotes democratic values, preventing conflict by facilitating consultation and cooperation between its members in order to solve different issues and

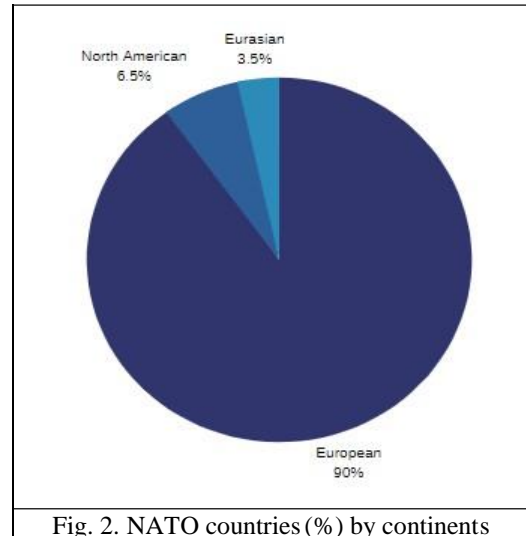


Fig. 2. NATO countries (%) by continents

build trust. However, if conflict does arise, NATO is prepared to handle it, the military power undertaking crisis-management operations. At the very heart of the organization lies the principle of collective defense, this establishing a spirit of solidarity within the Alliance. This principle is stipulated by Article 5 and was first applied after the 9/11 terrorist attacks against the United States.

3.2 What happened after 11 September 2001

In the aftermath of the 9/11 unfortunate predicament, an affiliation of countries – many of them NATO members - interfered with the military in Afghanistan in the fall of 2001. The purpose of the coalition was to destroy al-Qaida's base of operations and to constrain as many al-Qaida leaders as possible. International Security Assistance Force or ISAF had the important task of supporting the Afghan government in sustaining safety and reduced casualties. (see

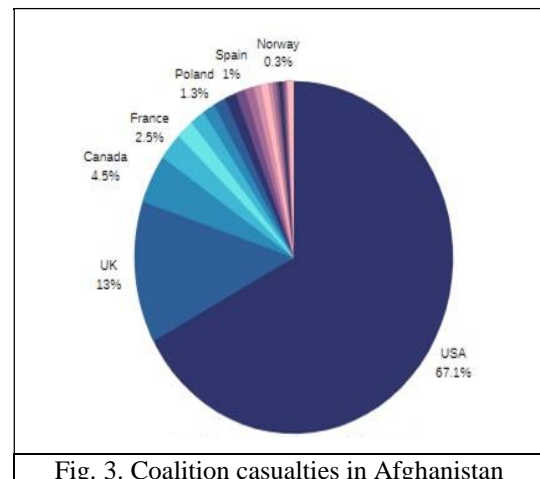


Fig. 3. Coalition casualties in Afghanistan

¹ One of the first affiliation of the Cold War era.

² Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, the United States, Greece and Turkey, Germany, Spain, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Albania, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia.

fig. 3 and Fig. 4). As the ISAF started expanding, the assignment became even more challenging, balancing the reconstruction of Afghanistan and the never ending fights required a lot of effort. That's why, in 2009, 40,000 extra troops were deployed. Around 2011, the ISAF changed its role, concentrating more on training and guiding the Afghan military. The incredible combined force of the nations built a more secure

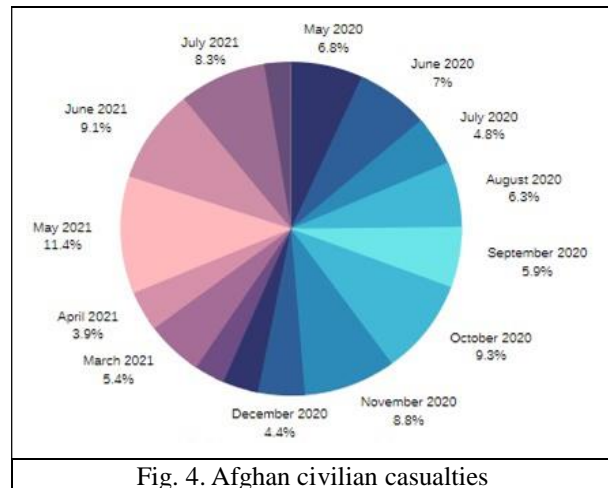


Fig. 4. Afghan civilian casualties

infrastructure of the economy and society. As the Afghan government become stronger and better organized the ISAF forces took a step back and gradually started returning to their homes. In December 2014 ISAF was dissolved and replaced by the Resolute Support Mission.

3.3 The retreat of NATO and its effects:

Last year in May, after NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg announced the withdrawal of the alliance troops, the Taliban attacked Afghanistan. By 15 August most of the Afghan territory was restrained, under the Taliban control. Unfortunately, the sacrifices made by hundreds of people were destroyed in a couple of months by a group of people that do not understand the importance of unity and acceptance. While the current situation in Afghanistan is difficult³, the efforts of NATO and their successes have shown that collaboration between different governments is possible.

³ The Afghan economy has no cash to pay salaries or buy food, millions of Afghans face acute malnutrition and starvation.

4 Civil societies and positive peace

Knowing that civil society refers to all forms of social activity carried out by individuals or groups who are neither associated to, nor handled by the State, civilian organizations are all very important, internal peace having a big influence on external peace. If chaos exists in a country, then we cannot expect it not to spread in the world. Prompt alleviation or longer-term development can be provided by civilian organization, collective interests being protected. They grant people that are excluded because of their religion, culture or ethnicity the chance to raise their voices and to develop an impression of self-identity. A civil society is deeply influenced by the society that surrounds it. It is well known that societies are always developing, being shaped by wars or other exceptional events. A benevolent organization is able to empower different groups of people, to make sure every corporation is hold accountable for their action and to establish an excellent administration.

4.1 What HIAS is and what its purpose is

A good example of a responsible civilian society is HIAS or Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society. The goal of this organization is to ensure that the refugees, the people without a home have a real chance at a fulfilling life. The society was founded around the year 1881 when thousands of Jews fled Russia and Eastern Europe and relocated in New York City. After World War II, HIAS played a crucial role in helping displaced people aiding them with food and shelter. They relocated 150,000 Jews in 330 communities in the U.S, Canada, Australia until the establishment of Israel in 1948.

4.2 What they are doing at the moment

Nowadays they are relocating Afghan refugees, making their struggles known to the world. As mentioned before, the situation in Afghanistan is very difficult and it is no surprise that some unfortunate souls tried to find an escape. Wanting to help the 54,000 Afghans that were evacuated in U.S, HIAS members were deployed to military bases around the state in August. The organization also raised billions of dollars for the administrations of the Afghan resettlement.

5 Conclusion

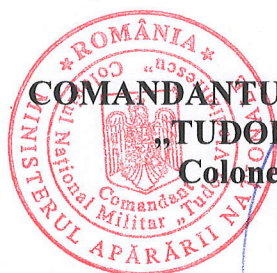
In conclusion, the sustainment of positive peace can be achieved, collaboration between governments, civilian organizations and the profession of arms being the key to it. History showed us that human nature can be as destructive as caring, and the time of international peace has come. Although there are many voices claiming that the mission in Afghanistan was a fiasco, overall it has highlighted the fact that the most effective way of sustaining positive peace can be achieved through cooperation. We all have to understand that in order to live in peace we have to leave behind our differences and learn from each other. It is also paramount to acknowledge the fact that positive peace means a lot more than the absence of war. As we have seen from the example provided peace is dependent on economic, political, religious, cultural, and geographical factors. International balance of power is crucial for positive peace and cooperation.

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8 Affidavit

I declare that I have written the present essay independently and on my own. I have clearly marked any ideas borrowed from other sources as not my own and documented their sources. The essay does not contain any work that I have handed in or have had graded as a previous scientific paper earlier on.

I am aware that any failure to do so constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism is the presentation of another person's thoughts or words as if they were my own – even if I summarise, paraphrase, condense, cut, rearrange, or otherwise alter them.

I am aware of the consequences and sanctions plagiarism entails. Among others, consequences may include nullification of the essay and exclusion from participation in the PSP Forum High School Student Writing Competition. These consequences also apply retrospectively, i.e. if plagiarism is discovered after the essay has been accepted and graded. I am fully aware of the scope of these consequences.

Signature 

Bianca Maria Peșea

Craiova, Romania in January 2022