

**Committee:** Disarmament and International Security (GA1)

**Issue:** Addressing the simultaneous military interventions in the attempts to resolve urban African civil conflicts

**Student Officer:** Emmanuela Sykianaki

**Position:** Deputy President

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## PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

First and foremost, I would like to welcome you to the 7th session of ACGMUN, themed “Reaching Net-Zero.” My name is Emmanuela Sykianaki, I am a 16-year-old student at the German School of Athens (DSA), currently attending the 11th grade, and it is my utmost honor to serve as a Deputy-President of the Disarmament and International Security Committee in this year's ACG-MUN.

This school year of 2023-2024 is my fourth year of faithfully attending MUN. I decided to first take part in my school's MUN club when I was an eighth grader and was immediately astonished by the world of MUN and debate. The one thing that stuck out to me were my first Student Officers. Although I couldn't understand how they could work so well together, they made me realize how MUN can help me improve my teamwork and social skills, which I will surely need in the future. Their kindness, assertiveness, and resilience still accompany my MUN career, as I am trying to gain these qualities as well.

The following study guide will provide you with a general overview of the topic and essential details for comprehending it and grasping its significance. However, aside from this guide, you should conduct your own additional research to gather information on the topic relevant to your country's stance on it. Should you have any questions, concerns, or any further clarification, do not hesitate to contact me at: [emmasykianaki@gmail.com](mailto:emmasykianaki@gmail.com). I am truly looking forward to meeting you all!

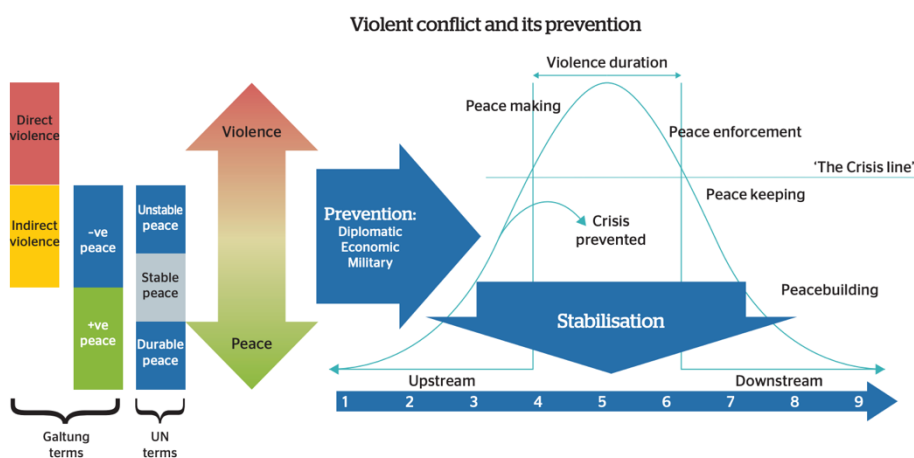
Kind regards,

Emmanuela Sykianaki

## TOPIC INTRODUCTION

Military intervention has gained widespread recognition as a significant approach to addressing conflicts on a global scale. It entails the involvement of external actors, including states, international organizations, and regional bodies, to safeguard civilians, avert human rights violations, and alleviate any conflicts or crises. The fundamental aim of such interventions is to re-establish peace and stability in conflict-ridden areas.

The image below illustrates the current theory of how violent conflict prevention should operate, which is based on the conflict cycle. For further clarification, the sequence of “shape” means to alter the actors' operating environment, “deter” mean to offer a threat of action so that the conflict escalates, “coerce” is the means to make that threat and “intervene” is when the military acts. Hence, military intervention — is used in order to deter violent conflict or to stop its escalation.<sup>1</sup> It can be said that the crisis has been avoided if the intervention is successful. Should it fail and the "crisis line" be crossed, a full-scale violent confrontation will take place. In this, the military plays an escalation and de-escalation role.



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<sup>1</sup> [assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7f746540f0b6230268f987/20150430-U2P\\_Main\\_Web\\_B5.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7f746540f0b6230268f987/20150430-U2P_Main_Web_B5.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> [assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7f746540f0b6230268f987/20150430-U2P\\_Main\\_Web\\_B5.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7f746540f0b6230268f987/20150430-U2P_Main_Web_B5.pdf).

## Causes of civil wars

### Different values and principles

Since Africa is composed of a variety of multi-ethnic states, these states are likely to continue to be a feature of international politics. However, the more abundance of ethnicities there is, the more vulnerable or likely to ethnic conflict is the land going to be. Since every ethnicity represents and respects different values and principles, there's surely going to be disputes in certain political issues. If there is a powerful state to act as a mediator between ethnic groups, it is very simple to achieve peaceful solutions. However, when the mediator becomes politically weak or the different ethnic parties grow in number, it's no longer possible for peace to exist, so when wars spark, military interventions are necessary.

### Political discrimination

Differences in ethnicity has bred the feelings of suspicion, hatred and distrust among members of the various ethnic groups in Africa and has no doubt retraced political integration in Africa. Africa has 56 sovereign states, dozens of religions, hundreds of ethnic and language groups, and probably thousands of tribal, clan, and familial groupings. All in all, these different groups want to feel or act superior to the others due to their differences, which makes the other governance feel weak and inferior, which sparks conflict between them, in combination to any ancient historical hatred.<sup>3</sup>

### Corruption

The destructive effects of corruption are one of the main causes of internal conflicts in Africa. The theft and misappropriation of public monies, which is a manifestation of corruption, has crippled development initiatives and prevented Africa from moving forward with its political and socioeconomic unification. Africa's resources have been poorly managed over the years resulting in populations across the continent to feel unsatisfied with their leaders. This has provoked militant nationalism against Africa leaders. The result, expectedly, is the unending conflict across African states.

All these aforementioned arguments are the main components of why so many civil wars are taking place in Africa. When the situation gets out of control, the only means to combat extreme conflict is military intervention.

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<sup>3</sup> "Social Conflict and Political Violence in Africa." *FSI | SPICE - Stanford Lesson Plans, Teacher PD & Online Courses*, [spice.fsi.stanford.edu/docs/social\\_conflict\\_and\\_political\\_violence\\_in\\_africa](https://spice.fsi.stanford.edu/docs/social_conflict_and_political_violence_in_africa).

## Consequences

Firstly, military intervention can weaken a target government and other domestic institutions. In other words, it reduces the state's ability to provide public services to their people. Secondly, such intervention can damage the physical infrastructure (hospitals, schools, roads, industrial plants, communication networks, etc.) of the country, or even their fields (land, which is used for cultivation of resources). Consequently, not only are their lands for resources destroyed, but also public health will diminish if access to providers is disrupted, literacy rates will go down when schools are destroyed, and access to goods and services will be affected when roads are blocked. Third, intervention can produce internally displaced people, which then might overwhelm/ overcrowd operating health and education services.

Another factor that needs to be taken into consideration is Africa's unemployment issue, which has been made worse by the continent's wars and these military interventions. The high percentage of unemployment in Africa today, especially among young people, is a serious cause for worry. It has been expanding at a pace of 7% each year<sup>4</sup>. However, we must not forget a serious consequence, which is the number of deaths caused by the violent acts of interventions. A great number of Africans: young, old, male, female, civilians and military men alike, have lost their lives to various wars and conflicts on the continent. In Liberia, over 250,000 lives were lost in the country's fourteen-year civil war between 1990 and 2004. Finally, continued strife and political instability in most countries of Africa hurt the continent's economic fortunes. Indeed, the disruptive impact of military intervention because of war and crisis on the economy of Africa has been considerable. The political stalemate and periodic eruptions of violence have resulted in significant cumulative declines in Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This problem has been compounded by the frequent recurrence of drought in some sub- regions of Africa. This has promoted poverty across Africa. As of 2003, an estimated 340 million Africans were living below poverty line.<sup>5</sup>

Hence, this study guide intends to shed light on the multifaceted nature of addressing urban African civil conflicts and the necessity of an amicable approach to find sustainable solutions. It highlights the importance of cooperation, diplomacy, and international collaboration, aiming to navigate the complex web of interventions and bring about lasting peace in these conflict-affected urban areas.

<sup>4</sup> "Africa: Unemployment Rate 2024." *Statista*, 14 Nov. 2023, [www.statista.com/statistics/1319860/unemployment-rate-in-africa/](https://www.statista.com/statistics/1319860/unemployment-rate-in-africa/).

<sup>5</sup> *OPHI | Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative*, [www.ophi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/B56\\_Africa\\_online.pdf](https://www.ophi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/B56_Africa_online.pdf).

## DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

### Military intervention

"A power relation between two states which entails movement of forces of one or more countries into the land or water jurisdiction of another state, aimed at altering its political dynamics, while being limited in scope and time."<sup>6</sup>

### UN peacekeeping

"UN peacekeeping is a unique global partnership. It brings together the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Secretariat, troop and police contributors and the host governments in a combined effort to maintain international peace and security. Its strength lies in the legitimacy of the UN Charter and in the wide range of contributing countries that participate and provide precious resources."<sup>7</sup>

### UN peacekeeper

"Peacekeepers are civilian, military and police personnel all working together. The roles and responsibilities of peacekeepers are evolving as peacekeeping mandates become more complex and multidimensional."<sup>8</sup>

### Conflict resolution

"Conflict resolution can be defined as the informal or formal process that two or more parties use to find a peaceful solution to their dispute."<sup>9</sup>

### Peacebuilding

"Peacebuilding seeks to address the underlying causes of conflict, helping people to resolve their differences peacefully and lay the foundations to prevent future violence."<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> "What is Military Intervention | IGI Global." *IGI Global: International Academic Publisher*, [www.igi-global.com/dictionary/military-intervention-as-an-international-normative-custom-and-human-security/107123](http://www.igi-global.com/dictionary/military-intervention-as-an-international-normative-custom-and-human-security/107123).

<sup>7</sup> "What is Peacekeeping." *United Nations Peacekeeping*, [peacekeeping.un.org/en/what-is-peacekeeping](http://peacekeeping.un.org/en/what-is-peacekeeping).

<sup>8</sup> "Our Peacekeepers." *United Nations Peacekeeping*, [peacekeeping.un.org/en/our-peacekeepers](http://peacekeeping.un.org/en/our-peacekeepers).

<sup>9</sup> Shonk, Katie. "What is Conflict Resolution, and How Does It Work?" *PON - Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School*, 25 July 2023, [www.pon.harvard.edu/daily/conflict-resolution/what-is-conflict-resolution-and-how-does-it-work/](http://www.pon.harvard.edu/daily/conflict-resolution/what-is-conflict-resolution-and-how-does-it-work/).

<sup>10</sup> "What is Peacebuilding?" *Conciliation Resources*, [www.c-r.org/who-we-are/why-peacebuilding/what-peacebuilding](http://www.c-r.org/who-we-are/why-peacebuilding/what-peacebuilding).

### Non-state actors

"Non-state actors include organizations and individuals that are not affiliated with, directed by, or funded through the government. These include corporations, private financial institutions, and NGOs, as well as paramilitary and armed resistance groups."<sup>11</sup>

### Disparity

"A lack of equality or similarity, especially in a way that is not fair."<sup>12</sup>

### Divisions

"A disagreement or difference in opinion, way of life, etc., especially between members of a society or an organization."<sup>13</sup>

### Subjugation

"The act of defeating somebody/something; complete control over somebody/something."<sup>14</sup>

### Violence

"Extremely forceful actions that are intended to hurt people or are likely to cause damage."<sup>15</sup>

### Sovereignty

"The state of being a country with freedom to govern itself."<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> "Non-State Actors." *ESCR-Net*, [www.escr-net.org/resources/non-state-actors](http://www.escr-net.org/resources/non-state-actors).

<sup>12</sup> "Disparity." *Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus*, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/disparity](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/disparity).

<sup>13</sup> "Division." *Oxford Learner's Dictionaries | Find Definitions, Translations, and Grammar Explanations at Oxford Learner's Dictionaries*, [www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/division?q=division](http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/division?q=division).

<sup>14</sup> "Subjugation." *Oxford Learner's Dictionaries | Find Definitions, Translations, and Grammar Explanations at Oxford Learner's Dictionaries*, [www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/subjugation?q=subjugation](http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/subjugation?q=subjugation).

<sup>15</sup> "Violence." *Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus*, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/violence#google\\_vignette](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/violence#google_vignette).

<sup>16</sup> "Sovereignty." *Oxford Learner's Dictionaries | Find Definitions, Translations, and Grammar Explanations at Oxford Learner's Dictionaries*, [www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/sovereignty?q=sovereignty](http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/sovereignty?q=sovereignty).

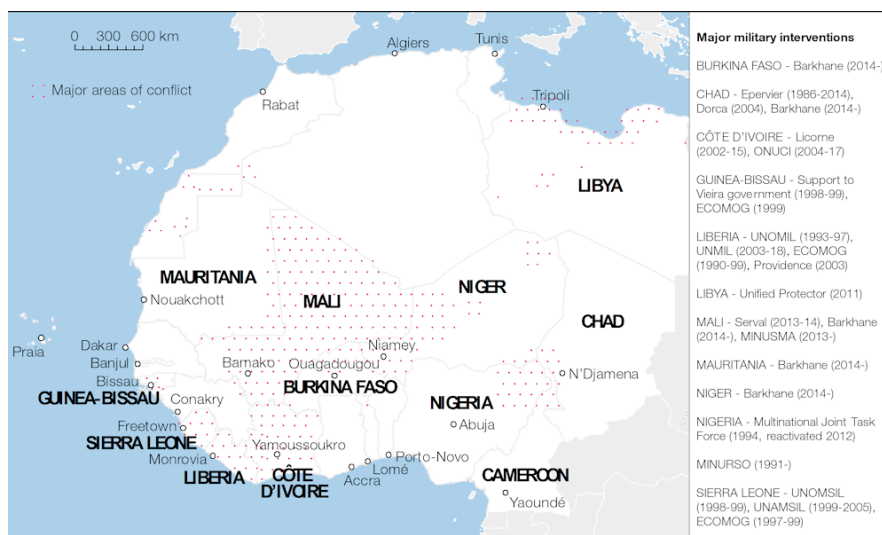
## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Almost all African countries have experienced some form of conflict. The fragile circumstances and transitions they have experienced, from independence struggles to post-independence conflict, to the search for stability and state building processes, have left scars and unaddressed issues that have been sources of conflict. In addition, the world is changing quickly, and new sources of tension are constantly being woven into the old, causing widespread harm. With all these waves of tension, people are consequently being displaced and deprived of opportunities for education, healthcare and employment.

Inefficient governmental, historical, political, ideological and external factors have combined to create various episodes of violent conflict across the African continent since most countries gained independence in the 1960s. Millions of lives have been lost and violent consequences of these wars have cost African countries billions as a result of wanton destruction and foregone economic gains, in spite of numerous attempts to foster sustainable peace. Over time, the nature and causes of violent conflict have changed as political, economic, social and environmental circumstances evolved.

Military interventions have punctuated the recent history of North and West African countries with regularity. Since the end of the Cold War, no fewer than 20 major military interventions have been carried out to prevent war crimes, restore political stability or fight against extremist organisations in 12 countries, from Guinea-Bissau to Chad. In detail, North Africa's most important military intervention of the last decade was the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Operation Unified Protector (2011). In West Africa, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has intervened three times to put an end to the civil wars of Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea-Bissau in the 1990s using the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG).

Hence, we can clearly see that mostly North and West Africa are heavily facing military interventions. For further clarification, the picture below shows the places, with the most interventions.



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## Major past conflicts

### Liberian Civil War (1989-2003)

The civil war in Liberia began in 1989. An estimated 150,000 people – one in twenty Liberians – died in the conflict. The fighting involved widespread killing and rape of civilians and forced recruitment of child soldiers. Even though most violent acts ended in 1997, renewed clashes in 2003 drew international attention, and consequently led to the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping force to the country.

“The dynamics of the Liberian first civil war (1989 - 1997) can be traced back to the historiography of Liberia, when ex-slaves from the United States of America (U.S.A.) were shipped to Liberia around 1822”.

At first, Liberia was ruled under the sovereignty of the U.S. government, until the Liberia-Americans declared their independence in 1847. Since its founding, the indigenous people remained under the Liberia-American subjugation and domination. Therefore, heightened antagonism between the new political party and the indigenous community was startled. An indigenous Liberian named Samuel Doe took over the government in 1980, through a military coup, favoring his own ethnic group, the Krahn. He used oppressive policies toward those he believed as threats. This management or mismanagement of politics in Liberia caused rage, discontent, and irritation from the other ethnic minorities, who pushed Charles Taylor to start the first Liberian civil war (1989-1996), with the goal of shutting Doe’s system of discrimination down. He did this by launching a rebellion against Doe’s government.

<sup>17</sup>"Home." *OECD ILibrary*, [www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/2ae51f45-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/2ae51f45-en#section-d1e15168](http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/2ae51f45-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/2ae51f45-en#section-d1e15168).



The consequences of this war were eminent and severe. They included the deaths of thousands of people, including the murder of pregnant women. In addition to this, the infrastructure of the country was laid to waste. Buildings, including hospitals and power facilities, were burned down. Water and sanitation systems were destroyed and were rendered useless. By the end of the war, the nation was left without power, water or sanitation. The war displaced nearly one-third of the population into refugee camps across the country and West Africa.

It is clearly demonstrated that ethnic identity played a salient role during the first Liberian violent conflict and subsequent wars.<sup>18</sup> The military intervention was responsible for the brutal killings but also for gruesome amputations and mutilations simply for their own personal enjoyment.<sup>19</sup>

Regarding the military intervention, many crimes, including killings and the eviction of people, were committed as a result of its involvement in the Civil Liberian War. Additionally, they sided with political and ethnic groups, which exacerbated ethnic tensions and increased factionalism, making peace attempts more difficult. The involvement of military forces in Liberia left a legacy of destruction, displacement, and socio-political challenges, requiring sustained efforts for post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation.

### **Sierra Leone Civil War (1991-2002)**

The Sierra Leone Civil War was an armed conflict in the West African country of Sierra Leone from 1991 to 2002. March 23<sup>rd</sup> of 1991 was the beginning of the war, when the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) under Foday Sankoh, with support of Liberian rebel leader Charles Taylor and his group, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NFPL), attempted to displace the government of Sierra Leonean President Joseph Momah.

The Sierra Leone Civil War was one of the bloodiest in Africa resulting in more than fifty thousand people dead and half a million displaced in a nation of four million people. During Momah's seven-year term, there was an increase of corruption and a total collapse of the economy and the education system. The state was unable to give compensation for government employees and teachers. This caused desperation, which led to the looting of government property. There was also a lack of basic supplies, such as gasoline. Without an educational system, a majority of Sierra Leoneans wandered the streets aimlessly in the late 1980s. Most professionals left the country as infrastructure and common morality

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<sup>18</sup> <https://journalofcmsd.net/policies/>, journalofcmsd.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/The-First-Liberian-Civil-War-1989-1997.pdf.

<sup>19</sup> "Firestone." natural rubber company, media.business-humanrights.org/media/documents/files/media/bhr/files/Firestone-statement-Liberia-civil-war-Jul-2008.pdf.

declined. Sierra Leone became one of the poorest countries in the world by 1991 even though it profited from an abundant number of natural resources. This led to 75% of the population living in extreme poverty.<sup>20</sup> The war was characterized by widespread atrocities, including the abduction of children and systematic rape. The conditions that led to the war included an abusive, oppressive state, dependence on mineral rents, the impact of structural adjustment, a large, excluded youth population, the availability of small arms after the end of the Cold War, and interference from regional neighbors.<sup>21</sup>

### **Ethiopian Civil War (1974-1991)**

The Ethiopian Civil War, spanning from 1974 to 1991, began with the overthrow of Emperor Haile Selassie by the Marxist Derg regime, which subsequently faced challenges from various opposition groups, including Eritrean separatists and domestic rebel factions.

The causes of the conflict were rooted in political discontent, economic hardship, and ethnic tensions exacerbated by the authoritarian rule of the monarchy. The Derg's brutal actions, including executions, torture, and imprisonment without trial, further fueled opposition and insurgency. The military intervention from foreign powers, notably the Soviet Union and Cuba, prolonged the conflict, turning Ethiopia into a Cold War battleground.

The consequences of the war were devastating, leading to widespread suffering, displacement, particularly during the mid-1980s Ethiopian famine that drew international attention.<sup>22</sup> Ultimately, the EPRDF coalition succeeded in overthrowing the Derg regime in 1991, bringing an end to decades of his rule. However, the conflict continues to impact Ethiopia's socio-political landscape, highlighting the challenges of post-war reconstruction and reconciliation in the pursuit of a stable and prosperous future for the nation and the broader African continent.<sup>23</sup>

### **Advantages**

Military interventions can manifest in various forms, each tailored to address specific situations and objectives.

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<sup>20</sup> "Case Study Sierra Leone." | UNDP, Mary Kaldor James Vincent, [web.undp.org/evaluation/documents/thematic/conflict/SierraLeone.pdf](http://web.undp.org/evaluation/documents/thematic/conflict/SierraLeone.pdf).

<sup>21</sup> Jang, Se Y. "The Causes of the Sierra Leone Civil War." *E-International Relations*, 28 Mar. 2021, [www.e-ir.info/2012/10/25/the-causes-of-the-sierra-leone-civil-war-underlying-grievances-and-the-role-of-the-revolutionary-united-front/#google\\_vignette](http://www.e-ir.info/2012/10/25/the-causes-of-the-sierra-leone-civil-war-underlying-grievances-and-the-role-of-the-revolutionary-united-front/#google_vignette).

<sup>22</sup> "Ethiopian Civil War." *Research Begins Here - New World Encyclopedia*, [www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Ethiopian\\_Civil\\_War](http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Ethiopian_Civil_War).

<sup>23</sup> "Ethiopian Civil War." *Research Begins Here - New World Encyclopedia*, [www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Ethiopian\\_Civil\\_War](http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Ethiopian_Civil_War).

One of the main benefits of military interventions, including humanitarian ones, is that they can put an end human rights abuses and stop atrocities. One of the main reasons given for humanitarian intervention is that without intervening militarily, governments and non-state armed groups can act with impunity when committing human rights violations against civilians.

Plus, one of the potential advantages of military intervention is the ability to provide a robust and immediate response to protect vulnerable populations from imminent harm. The presence of military forces can deter perpetrators of violence, create safe spaces for civilians, and restore a sense of security.

### Disadvantages

However, the limitations and challenges inherent in military interventions must also be acknowledged. A complexity lies within the concept of achieving a balance between impartiality and the use of force. There underlies a potential risk of unintended consequences, such as collateral damage or further exacerbation of the conflict.<sup>24</sup> Another reason against humanitarian interventions is that more lives may be lost if military action is used against those who are perpetrating crimes. While the goal of a humanitarian intervention is to stop more violations of human rights, military operations frequently lead to more violence in the targeted nations. Additionally, military operations have a significant financial cost to the nation. Millions are needed to purchase modern military hardware. This is in addition to the requirement to be able to project military power globally and maintain standing armies, air forces, and fleets. Large sums of money must be committed to carry out a humanitarian operation. Hence, the intervention of military force is of very delicate nature, while maintaining the credibility and legitimacy of the intervention

## MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

### African Union (AU)

The AU is active in solving issues across the African continent, specifically in the urban areas. Their main goal is to ensure peace, security, and stability. The AU's approach to military intervention in urban conflicts generally aligns with its commitment to conflict prevention, resolution, and peacekeeping, as outlined in the organization's Constitutive Act and Peace and Security Council Protocol.<sup>25</sup> In detail, this Act allows the African Union to intervene in a Member State in grave circumstances, namely war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity. The

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<sup>24</sup> "Just a Moment..." *ResearchGate | Find and Share Research*,  
[www.researchgate.net/publication/372401296\\_The\\_Effectiveness\\_of\\_International\\_Humanitarian\\_Intervention\\_in\\_Conflict\\_Zones](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/372401296_The_Effectiveness_of_International_Humanitarian_Intervention_in_Conflict_Zones).

<sup>25</sup> [www.peaceau.org/uploads/psc-protocol-en.pdf](https://www.peaceau.org/uploads/psc-protocol-en.pdf).

African Standby Force (ASF) is composed of multidimensional capabilities, including military, police, and civilians on standby in their countries of origin and ready for rapid deployment. Moreover, the African Union has established and supported peacekeeping missions in conflict zones, some of which involve urban areas.

For example, the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM)<sup>26</sup> has been involved in addressing security challenges, including those in urban settings. The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) is an active, regional peacekeeping mission operated by the African Union with the approval of the United Nations.

### **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)**

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was created on May 28, 1975, in Lagos, Nigeria. The aim of the community is to promote cooperation and integration, leading to the establishment of an economic union in West Africa in order to raise the living standards of its people, maintain and enhance economic stability, foster relations among Member States, and contribute to the progress and development of the African continent. ECOWAS played a key political role during the civil wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone, where it brought peace. In 1990, West African leaders sent a neutral military force to Liberia to intervene in the civil war between the forces of President Samuel Doe and two rebel factions.<sup>27</sup> The unprecedented deployment of a regional force, the ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG),<sup>28</sup> helped restore some security but the troops were complicit in a series of human rights abuses, according to Human Rights Watch.

### **NATO**

NATO's Operation Unified Protector<sup>29</sup>, launched on March 2011, was initially a mediatory military intervention against the Libyan government or the rebels with the aim of "enforcing an arms embargo, maintaining a no-fly zone and protecting civilians and civilian-populated areas from attack or the threat of attack" However, the initial mission to protect civilians morphed into a sustained air assault on Libyan forces even where they did not actively pursue rebels and, ultimately led, to a regime change. The Operation officially ended shortly after Muammar Gaddafi was killed in late October of that year.

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<sup>26</sup> "AMISOM Background." *AMISOM*, [amisom-au.org/amisom-background/](https://amisom-au.org/amisom-background/).

<sup>27</sup> Daniel Inaju - Challydoff Limited. "About ECOWAS | Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)." *Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)*, [ecowas.int/about-ecowas/](https://ecowas.int/about-ecowas/).

<sup>28</sup> "Reuters.com." *Reuters.com*, [www.reuters.com/world/africa/military-interventions-by-west-african-ecowas-bloc-2023-08-04/#:~:text=SIERRA%20LEONE,a%20coup%20a%20year%20earlier.](https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/military-interventions-by-west-african-ecowas-bloc-2023-08-04/#:~:text=SIERRA%20LEONE,a%20coup%20a%20year%20earlier.)

<sup>29</sup> <sup>29</sup>

[www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2009\\_2014/documents/sede/dv/sede200312factsheetunifiedprotector\\_/SEDE200312factsheetunifiedprotector\\_en.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2009_2014/documents/sede/dv/sede200312factsheetunifiedprotector_/SEDE200312factsheetunifiedprotector_en.pdf).

<sup>29</sup> "Home." *OECD ILibrary*, [www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/2ae51f45-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/2ae51f45-en#section-d1e15168](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/2ae51f45-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/2ae51f45-en#section-d1e15168).

The NATO intervention did not put an end to the conflict in Libya. Fighting between various factions of the rebellion started shortly after the end of the operation.<sup>30</sup>

### France

France has historically played a significant role in military interventions to address urban civil conflicts in Africa. Firstly, France is known for its French-led Operation Barkhane.<sup>31</sup> Operation Barkhane was an operation, which was led by the French military against Islamist groups in Africa's Sahel region and consisted of a roughly 3,000-strong French force, which was permanently headquartered in N'Djamena, the capital of Chad. The operation has the stated aim of helping the countries' governments maintain control of their territory and preventing the region from becoming a safe haven for Islamist terrorist groups that plan to attack France and Europe. Operation Barkhane is France's largest overseas operation, with a budget of nearly 600 million euros per year. It engages in everything from combat patrols alongside Malian forces and partner militias to intelligence gathering and training to local development activities meant to fill the hole left by an absent government.<sup>32</sup>

### TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of event
October 1950	Adoption of the Fourth Geneva Convention
21 October 1986	The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights came into effect
1989-2003	Liberian Civil War
1974 to 1991	Ethiopian Civil War
1991-2002	Sierra Leone Civil War
19 January 2007	Creation of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM)

<sup>30</sup> "Home." *OECD ILibrary*, [www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/2ae51f45-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/2ae51f45-en#section-d1e15168](http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/2ae51f45-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/2ae51f45-en#section-d1e15168).

<sup>31</sup> "Operation Barkhane - Mapping Armed Groups in Mali and the Sahel." *New Ideas for Europe's Relations with China, Russia, and Beyond*, [ecfr.eu/special/sahel\\_mapping/operation\\_barkhane](http://ecfr.eu/special/sahel_mapping/operation_barkhane).

<sup>32</sup> "Operation Barkhane - Mapping Armed Groups in Mali and the Sahel." *New Ideas for Europe's Relations with China, Russia, and Beyond*, [ecfr.eu/special/sahel\\_mapping/operation\\_barkhane](http://ecfr.eu/special/sahel_mapping/operation_barkhane).

2011 march	Launch of NATO's Operation Unified Protector
1 August 2014	Start of the counterinsurgency operation "Operation Barkhane"
9 November 2022	End of the operation "Barkhane"

## RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

1. Chapter VII: Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression (Articles 39- 51)<sup>33</sup>

Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter sets out the UN Security Council's powers to maintain peace. It allows the Council to "determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression" and to take military and nonmilitary action to "restore international peace and security". Chapter VII also gives the Military Staff Committee responsibility for strategic coordination of forces placed at the disposal of the UN Security Council.

The objective of measures under Article 40 of the Charter is to "prevent an aggravation of the situation". While not expressly enumerated in the United Nations Charter, the types of measures that could be typically assumed as falling under the provision of Article 40, and which are distinct from recommendations made under Chapter VI of the Charter, include a withdrawal of armed forces, a cessation of hostilities, or a withdrawal from military intervention or a creation of the conditions necessary for unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance.

2. The Fourth Geneva Convention<sup>34</sup>

Civilians in areas of armed conflict and occupied territories are protected by the 159 articles of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Civilians are to be protected from murder, torture or brutality, and from discrimination on the basis of race, nationality, religion or political opinion. It was adopted in August 1949, and came into force in October 1950. Specifically, the rights of those who are protected are safeguarded in occupied regions under Article 27. It forbids unreasonable hold-ups in the evacuation or repatriation of people, especially in situations involving military occupations and interventions. Additionally, Article 32 prohibits acts of violence or threats against protected persons, their personal dignity, and their lives. It emphasizes the obligation of the parties to the conflict to provide for the basic needs of the civilian population.

<sup>33</sup> United Nations. "Chapter VII: Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression (Articles 39-51)." *United Nations*, [www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/chapter-7](http://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/chapter-7).

<sup>34</sup> "fourth Geneva convention." *Welcome to the United Nations*, [www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocity-crimes/Doc.33\\_GC-IV-EN.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocity-crimes/Doc.33_GC-IV-EN.pdf).

It primarily focuses on protecting civilians in times of armed conflict. It does not specifically address military intervention but establishes standards for the treatment of civilians in cases of territories occupied by military intervention.

### 3. UNSC Resolution 1973 (2011)<sup>35</sup>

Resolution 1973 was adopted by the United Nations Security Council on 17 March 2011 in response to the First Libyan Civil War. The resolution formed the legal basis for military intervention in the Libyan Civil War, demanding "an immediate ceasefire" and authorizing the international community to establish a no-fly zone and to use all means necessary short of foreign occupation to protect civilians. In detail, this resolution demands the immediate establishment of a ceasefire and a complete end to violence and all attacks against, and abuses of, civilians.

## PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

### The United States Africa Command (USAFRICOM)<sup>36</sup>

The United States Africa Command is one of the eleven unified combatant commands of the United States Department of Defense, headquartered in Germany. It is responsible for U.S. military operations, including fighting regional conflicts and maintaining military relations with 53 African nations. Its area of responsibility covers all of Africa except Egypt, which is within the area of responsibility of the United States Central Command. The organization was established on October 1, 2007. U.S. Africa Command, with partners, counters transnational threats and malign actors, fortifies security forces and responds to crises in order to advance U.S. national interests and promote regional security, stability, and prosperity.

In 2021, U.S. Africa Command, with partners, strengthened relationships in Africa through sustained and effective engagement to advance a shared vision for **regional security, stability and prosperity in Africa**. Furthermore, in the same year, U.S. Army Gen. Stephen Townsend, commander, U.S. Africa Command, conducted multiple trips to meet with leaders in 20 countries to **advance strategic partnerships**. In November, Townsend met with leaders in Mozambique, South Africa and Botswana during a three-country trip to the region. At each location, he engaged with partner-nation enlisted leaders and U.S. Embassy personnel to advance the Africa Enlisted Development Strategy and to find new ways to help develop and refine enlisted academic centers. Their activities to counter violent extremist organizations in Africa include facilitating training events that directly support and prepare our partners in

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<sup>35</sup> *Official Document System - UN*, [documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n11/268/39/pdf/n1126839.pdf?token=zGj0Lw0mvUIQ4zxHsm&fe=true](https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n11/268/39/pdf/n1126839.pdf?token=zGj0Lw0mvUIQ4zxHsm&fe=true).

<sup>36</sup> "What is AFRICOM? How the U.S. Military is Militarizing and Destabilizing Africa." *School of Social Sciences | UCI Social Sciences*, [www.socsci.uci.edu/newsevents/news/2023/2023-07-20-al-bulushi-teen-vogue.php](http://www.socsci.uci.edu/newsevents/news/2023/2023-07-20-al-bulushi-teen-vogue.php).

the fight against VEOs and working with interagency partners to curtail the root causes of instability that allow VEOs to carry out their deadly agendas.<sup>37</sup>

In 2021, African Lion brought together more than 7,000 participants from nine nations and NATO to strengthen collective efforts toward enhancing security and stability throughout the region.

### The Accra Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2003<sup>38</sup>

The Accra Comprehensive Peace Agreement or Accra Peace Agreement was the final peace agreement in the Second Liberian Civil War. It was signed on 18 August 2003 in Accra, Ghana. The following document ensures **peace between the Government of Liberia, the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD), the Movement of Democracy in Liberia (MODEL), and the Political Parties**<sup>39</sup>. Moreover, it includes provisions on a ceasefire, the deployment of an international stabilization force, post-conflict military and security reform, establishment of a commission on human rights and the establishment of a transitional government until January 2006 when the next elected President of Liberia shall be inaugurated. The agreement calls for the suspension of the constitution to allow these exceptional measures until the elections are held a new President elected.

All in all, this peace agreement is very effective, since the two parties who caused the Liberian Civil War, agree under certain conditions so that peace and harmony in their relationship is ensured.

### The 2002 Pretoria Agreement<sup>40</sup>

The Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) began meeting on a weekly basis on 1 October 2003. According to the Secretary General, the JMC “has been a **valuable mechanism for** monitoring the ceasefire, maintaining dialogue among the armed groups, and facilitating contacts between UNMIL and the ground commanders of these groups.” The JMC collected information on armed groups’ personnel and

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<sup>37</sup> "U.S. Africa Command in 2021: Driving Shared Goals Through Engagement." *United States Africa Command*, [www.africom.mil/article/34251/us-africa-command-in-2021-driving-shared-goals-through-engagement](http://www.africom.mil/article/34251/us-africa-command-in-2021-driving-shared-goals-through-engagement).

<sup>38</sup> *United States Institute of Peace*, [www.usip.org/sites/default/files/file/resources/collections/peace\\_agreements/liberia\\_08182003.pdf](http://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/file/resources/collections/peace_agreements/liberia_08182003.pdf).

<sup>39</sup> "Peace Agreement Between the Government of Liberia, the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy, the Movement of Democracy in Liberia and the Political Parties." *UN Peacemaker*, [peacemaker.un.org/liberia-peaceagreementlurdmodel2003](http://peacemaker.un.org/liberia-peaceagreementlurdmodel2003).

<sup>40</sup> "peace agreement." *PA-X: Peace Agreements Database - Site*, [www.peaceagreements.org/viewmasterdocument/394](http://www.peaceagreements.org/viewmasterdocument/394).



locations, and the government provided information on the structure and location of the 12,000 troops.<sup>41</sup>

### **Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights<sup>42</sup>**

The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (also known as the Banjul Charter), came into effect on the 21<sup>st</sup> October 1986 and is an international human rights instrument that is intended to promote and protect human rights and basic freedoms in the African continent. In detail, certain articles focus on the preservation of Peace, Security, and Non-Interference. Firstly, Article 2 of the Charter emphasizes the right to self-determination, which includes the right to freely determine political status and pursue economic, social, and cultural development. It underscores the importance of sovereign equality and non-interference. Secondly, article 23 provides for the right to national and international peace and security. It calls for the elimination of all forms of foreign exploitation. Military intervention can potentially link to the elimination of foreign exploitation by protecting sovereignty, enforcing international law, supporting self-determination, disrupting exploitative networks, and promoting stability and development.

## **POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS**

### **Equal access to qualitative education**

African governments ought to guarantee equitable access to high-quality education for all their population. Without question, education serves as a helpful tool for personal, social growth, but also within the community. It would not only transmit information and skills to the populace, but it would also help mitigate the existing ignorance, ancient hatred, and injustices, which are significant causes to civil wars. Additionally, education will equip folks for work in the future, since it increases labor mobility worldwide. Those with education are more likely to be financially and socially stable. Finally, the availability to learn and become educated regarding a topic decreases the chances of protest or any violent behavior, hence military intervention will not be necessary, because less scenes of chaos are caused. Moreover, as people and specifically young people are aware of the chaos and the consequences of wars, there might even refrain from causing such actions, taking the damage on their population into consideration. This is important not only to young people, for example, in their school curriculums, but also to adults, either through thought campaigns or public speeches to raise awareness. All in all, since with the help of education many benefits come along, such as: community growth, labor mobility, financial stable status and less hatred, it

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<sup>41</sup> "Accra Peace Agreement." *Peace Accords Matrix*, 11 Oct. 2019, [peaceaccords.nd.edu/accord/accra-peace-agreement](http://peaceaccords.nd.edu/accord/accra-peace-agreement).

<sup>42</sup> "African charter on human and peoples rights." *African Union*, [au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/36390-treaty-0011\\_-\\_african\\_charter\\_on\\_human\\_and\\_peoples\\_rights\\_e.pdf](http://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/36390-treaty-0011_-_african_charter_on_human_and_peoples_rights_e.pdf).

can be considered to be the key to solving the issue of these civil wars, hence the reduction of military interventions.

### **Monetary gain**

Money plays a key role. When LEDCs need the support the most, for either initiatives or basic national needs, money can help resolve all problems. It can be used as funds for Non-Governmental Organizations to support their business and fulfill their aims in favor of the country. The money can be raised through campaigns, fundraisers, etc.

### **Defensive military operations**

Defensive military operations put the safety of civilians first and work to calm conflict areas so that relief can be delivered more easily. These operations, which frequently take the shape of UN or regional peacekeeping deployments, prioritize protecting civilians above all else, carefully adhere to international humanitarian law, and guard humanitarian corridors. Military forces participate in local communities, collaborate closely with humanitarian organizations, and support longer-term efforts to resolve conflicts and promote peace. By protecting civilians and facilitating the provision of vital assistance, defensive military operations serve to lessen the consequences of urban African civil conflicts and foster peace and security throughout the area.<sup>43</sup>

### **Support for capacity building and conflict resolution**

Investing in African governments' capacities to independently manage and resolve internal conflicts is a necessary component of supporting capacity building and conflict resolution. This entails promoting the rule of law, strengthening governance frameworks, and enhancing security sector reform. The need for outside military intervention may eventually decline if local actors are given the tools they need to address the underlying causes of conflict and effectively manage crises. Building institutional capacity contributes to sustainable peace and security in urban Africa by strengthening nations' capacity to sustain stability and building resilience against future crises.

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<sup>43</sup> <https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/pwks15.pdf>

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