hazel@thebetteredit.com thebetteredit.com

Specialist editorial services for peace and security

Across research outputs, policy papers, advisory notes and more, I can work to ensure your terminology and tone guidance are carefully implemented, respecting the need for neutrality and sensitivity when describing complex realities. I especially welcome texts requiring deep editing or harmonization across multiple contributors.

Core services

- Proofreading (*a last thorough check for text and layout glitches*)
- Copyediting (*meticulous technical editing for consistency and clarity*)
- Line editing (*in-depth enhancements for flow and voice*)
- Developmental/structural editing (*holistic revisions with the readership in mind*)
- Editorial project management (*coordination of contributors, workflows, schedules and suppliers*)

Additional services and skills

- Contributor liaison
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- InDesign (intermediate level)
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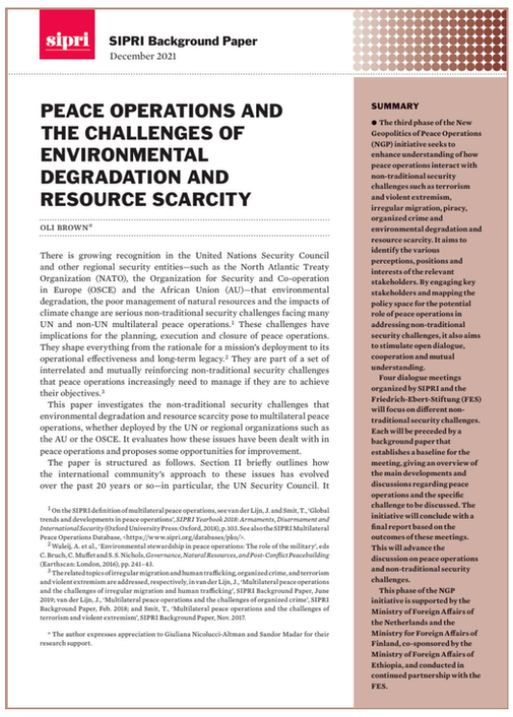
‘Thank you for the extremely detailed work you do on our reports. You not only make the text grammatically correct but you also improve the quality of the report with your thorough comments and questions for the authors. Also the check of the endnotes is very thorough and improves our work. We highly appreciate the commitment you reflect by sending queries during the editing process so that you can apply decisions to the entire text, and your effort to accommodate our challenging deadlines.’

Margarida Ferro, Office Manager,
Flemish Peace Institute

Topics

- Armed forces charities and associations
- British armed forces
- Climate change
- Disarmament
- Environment and resource management
- Evaluation
- Gender-inclusivity
- Grant-making
- Peace education
- Peacebuilding
- Supply chains


sipri
SIPRI Background Paper
December 2021

PEACE OPERATIONS AND THE CHALLENGES OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION AND RESOURCE SCARCITY

OLI BROWN*

There is growing recognition in the United Nations Security Council and other regional security entities—such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the African Union (AU)—that environmental degradation, the poor management of natural resources and the impacts of climate change are serious non-traditional security challenges facing many UN and non-UN multilateral peace operations.[1] These challenges have implications for the planning, execution and closure of peace operations. They shape everything from the rationale for a mission's deployment to its operational effectiveness and long-term legacy.[2] They are part of a set of interrelated and mutually reinforcing non-traditional security challenges that peace operations increasingly need to manage if they are to achieve their objectives.[3]

This paper investigates the non-traditional security challenges that environmental degradation and resource scarcity pose to multilateral peace operations, whether deployed by the UN or regional organizations such as the AU or the OSCE. It evaluates how these issues have been dealt with in peace operations and proposes some opportunities for improvement.

The paper is structured as follows. Section II briefly outlines how the international community's approach to these issues has evolved over the past 20 years or so—in particular, the UN Security Council. It

SUMMARY

● The third phase of the New Geopolitics of Peace Operations (NGP) initiative seeks to enhance understanding of how peace operations interact with non-traditional security challenges such as terrorism and violent extremism, irregular migration, piracy, organized crime and environmental degradation and resource scarcity. It aims to identify the various perceptions, positions and interests of the relevant stakeholders. By engaging key stakeholders and mapping the policy space for the potential role of peace operations in addressing non-traditional security challenges, it also aims to stimulate open dialogue, cooperation and mutual understanding.

Four dialogue meetings organized by SIPRI and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) will focus on different non-traditional security challenges. Each will be preceded by a background paper that establishes a baseline for the meeting, giving an overview of the main developments and discussions regarding peace operations and the specific challenge to be discussed. The initiative will conclude with a final report based on the outcomes of these meetings. This will advance the discussion on peace operations and non-traditional security challenges.

This phase of the NGP initiative is supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, co-sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, and conducted in continued partnership with the FES.

[1] On the SIPRI definition of multilateral peace operations, see van der Lijn, J. and Smit, T., 'Global trends and developments in peace operations', *SIPRI Yearbook 2018: Armaments, Disarmament and International Security* (Oxford University Press: Oxford, 2018), p. 103. See also the SIPRI Multilateral Peace Operations Database, <https://www.sipri.org/databases/pko/>.

[2] Walsh, A. et al., 'Environmental stewardship in peace operations: The role of the military', eds C. Bruch, C. Muffet and S. S. Nichols, *Governance, Natural Resources, and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding* (Earthscan: London, 2016), pp. 241–63.

[3] The related topics of irregular migration and human trafficking, organized crime, and terrorism and violent extremism are addressed, respectively, in van der Lijn, J., 'Multilateral peace operations and the challenges of irregular migration and human trafficking', SIPRI Background Paper, June 2019; van der Lijn, J., 'Multilateral peace operations and the challenges of organized crime', SIPRI Background Paper, Feb. 2018; and Smit, T., 'Multilateral peace operations and the challenges of terrorism and violent extremism', SIPRI Background Paper, Nov. 2017.

* The author expresses appreciation to Giuliana Nicolucci-Altman and Sandor Madar for their research support.

Editorial services for UK charities and nonprofits

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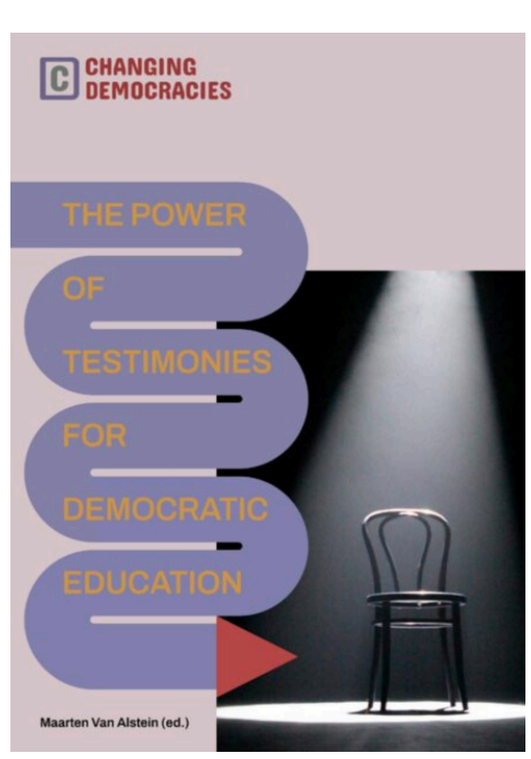
Portfolio (selected)

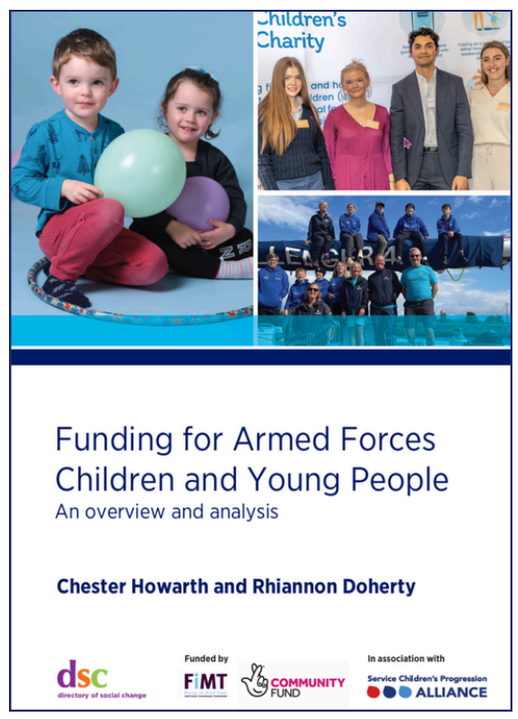
In addition to the examples below, I work on funding applications and other confidential documents.

- Maarten Van Alstein, ***Changing Democracies**: The power of testimonies for democratic* education (Flemish Peace Institute, 2025)
- Merel Selleslach and Maarten Van Alstein, ***Peace in Foreign Policy*** (Flemish Peace Institute, 2024)
- Chester Howarth and Rhiannon Doherty, ***Funding for Armed Forces Children and Young People**: An overview and analysis* (Directory of Social Change, 2023)
- ***Transfer from Track Two Peacebuilding to Track One Peace-Making**: A focus on Yemen and Syria* (Inclusive Peace, 2022)
- Diederik Cops and Kathleen Vanheuverswyn, ***Under the Radar**: Transit of military goods – from licensing to control* (Flemish Peace Institute, 2022)
- Oli Brown, ***Peace Operations and the Challenges of Environmental Degradation and Resource Scarcity*** (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, 2021)
- Stuart Cole, Anthony Robson and Rhiannon Doherty, ***Sector Insight: UK armed forces charities*** (2nd ed., Directory of Social Change, Cobseo, FiMT and Community Fund, 2020)

> ‘I’d appreciate it if you could pass on my thanks to Hazel for her work on this – it’s been of a consistently high quality and she’s been incredibly helpful throughout the entire process.’
>
> Feedback on my copyediting of an **armed forces charity project evaluation**

> ‘A full-length handbook, an in-depth report or a stubbornly difficult chapter – Hazel approaches each and every project with equal amounts of care and attention to detail that is second to none. She has been our trusted copy-editor for a number of years now, and we couldn’t hope for a better advisor on all things editorial. Not only that, but she is also an absolute pleasure to work with!’
>
> John Martin, Publisher, and Gabi Zagnojute, Editorial Manager, on my copyediting of various projects, including reports on armed forces charities, for the **Directory of Social Change**



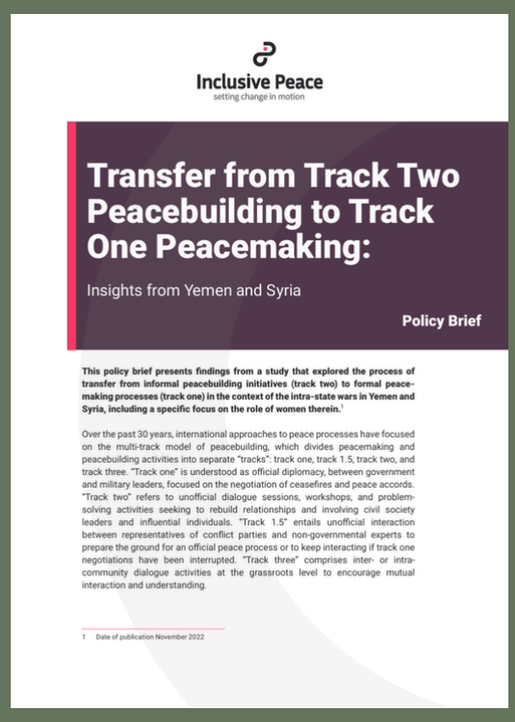


Spotlight on policy papers and analyses

Because a policy paper or analysis is intended to support effective decision-making, it must be concise, clear, authoritative and accessible. Any data and calculations must be accurate, and the evidence presented must clearly link to any recommendations provided. Appropriate neutrality must be maintained and any vulnerable groups must be presented sensitively.

I can work on tone, terminology, phrasing, consistency, editorial style and much more to ensure your policy paper or analysis provides a convincing, polished package of information. My service expands or contracts to the level of editing you require, whether a comprehensive revision or a final check.

If references are required, I can preserve authority and trust without overwhelming non-academic readers. I can also harmonize writing from multiple authors so that your policy paper or analysis reads as a cohesive, compelling whole.


Inclusive Peace
setting change in motion

Transfer from Track Two Peacebuilding to Track One Peacemaking:

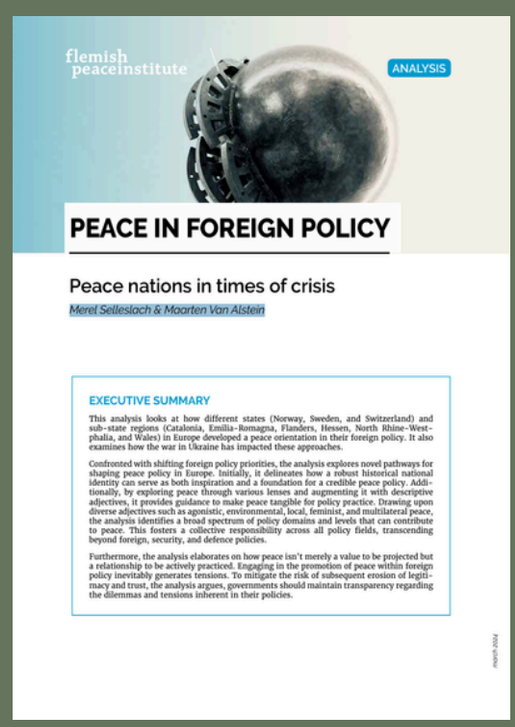
Insights from Yemen and Syria

Policy Brief

This policy brief presents findings from a study that explored the process of transfer from informal peacebuilding initiatives (track two) to formal peace-making processes (track one) in the context of the intra-state wars in Yemen and Syria, including a specific focus on the role of women therein.[1]

Over the past 30 years, international approaches to peace processes have focused on the multi-track model of peacebuilding, which divides peacemaking and peacebuilding activities into separate "tracks": track one, track 1.5, track two, and track three. "Track one" is understood as official diplomacy, between government and military leaders, focused on the negotiation of ceasefires and peace accords. "Track two" refers to unofficial dialogue sessions, workshops, and problem-solving activities seeking to rebuild relationships and involving civil society leaders and influential individuals. "Track 1.5" entails unofficial interaction between representatives of conflict parties and non-governmental experts to prepare the ground for an official peace process or to keep interacting if track one negotiations have been interrupted. "Track three" comprises inter- or intra-community dialogue activities at the grassroots level to encourage mutual interaction and understanding.

1 Date of publication November 2022


flemish peaceinstitute

ANALYSIS

PEACE IN FOREIGN POLICY

Peace nations in times of crisis

Merel Selleslach & Maarten Van Alstein

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This analysis looks at how different states (Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland) and sub-state regions (Catalonia, Emilia-Romagna, Flanders, Hessen, North Rhine-Westphalia, and Wales) in Europe developed a peace orientation in their foreign policy. It also examines how the war in Ukraine has impacted these approaches.

Confronted with shifting foreign policy priorities, the analysis explores novel pathways for shaping peace policy in Europe. Initially, it delineates how a robust historical national identity can serve as both inspiration and a foundation for a credible peace policy. Additionally, by exploring peace through various lenses and augmenting it with descriptive adjectives, it provides guidance to make peace tangible for policy practice. Drawing upon diverse adjectives such as agonistic, environmental, local, feminist, and multilateral peace, the analysis identifies a broad spectrum of policy domains and levels that can contribute to peace. This fosters a collective responsibility across all policy fields, transcending beyond foreign, security, and defence policies.

Furthermore, the analysis elaborates on how peace isn't merely a value to be projected but a relationship to be actively practiced. Engaging in the promotion of peace within foreign policy inevitably generates tensions. To mitigate the risk of subsequent erosion of legitimacy and trust, the analysis argues, governments should maintain transparency regarding the dilemmas and tensions inherent in their policies.

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Publication types

- Books
- Articles
- Policy papers and analyses
- Advisory notes
- Project evaluations
- Digital publications
- Websites
- Encyclopedias

‘I have nothing but positive things to say. The difference for me vs previous proofreaders I’ve worked with in the past few years was the engagement throughout the process – asking questions as you went to limit the number of questions we needed to consider once you returned [the edited files]. The idea of using hashtags to link themes in comments is one I’ve not seen before but also liked. I found you extremely helpful and easy to work with and we’re extremely appreciative of how you juggled things around to accommodate us at short notice after we were let down by someone else.’

Charity consultancy feedback on my proofreading of an **armed forces charity project evaluation**

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Indicative rates for 2026/27

My quotations are bespoke to each project. This way, you can be sure of a service that moulds to your priorities and the text's unique features. I am also often happy to negotiate around specific budgets.

However, indicative rates for some of my services are as follows (see page 1 for brief definitions):

- **Proofreading** a 5,000-word grant application: £250
- **Copyediting** a 12,000-word project evaluation: £600
- **Copyediting** a 50,000-word book with 30 tables and charts: £2,250
- **Line editing** a 70,000-word book with 50 tables and charts: £3,750

Please get in touch for a no-obligation quotation.

Prices are subject to VAT where applicable.

Helpful resources

- Which editorial service do you need?
- What does a developmental editor do?
- Copyediting and AI: a manifesto
- Crash guide to writing a research report: editorial checklist
- UK charity glossary for writers and editors
- Are copyeditors responsible for fact-checking?
- How to speed up Microsoft Word with Track Changes
- How to verify and cite quotations: an essential guide
- How to edit interview and survey responses
- How to write a glossary
- Using Trello for editorial projects (free template)
- How to hire a freelance editorial project manager
- How to find your ideal editorial project manager
- How many corrections per page are acceptable on proofs?
- Why giving better-quality feedback to freelancers means better project quality
- Why copyeditors and proofreaders are tacit knowledge superstars
- What is builder-writing? Or, can copyeditors write copy?

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