



Peacebuilding After Peace Accords : The Challenges of Violence, Truth, and Youth

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Peace accords are often plagued by problems, including economic hardship, burgeoning crime, postwar trauma, and persistent fear and suspicion. Too often, negotiated settlements merely open another difficult chapter in the peace process, or worse, lead to new phases of conflict. The University of Notre Dames Research Initiative on the Resolution of Ethnic Conflict (RIREC) explored three significant challenges of the postwar landscape: the effects of violence in internal conflicts after peace agreements have been signed the contributions of truth-telling mechanisms and the multidimensional roles played by youth as activists, soldiers, criminals, and community-builders. The project led to the 2006 publication of three edited volumes by the University of Notre Dame Press: John Darbys *Violence and Reconstruction* Tristan Anne Borer's *Telling the Truths: Truth Telling and Peace Building in Post-Conflict Societies* and Siobhan McEvoy-Levys *Troublemakers or Peacemakers Youth and Post-Accord Peace Building*. In *Peacebuilding After Peace Accords*, the three editors revisit the topics presented in their books. They examine the dilemmas each of the three challenges presents for postwar reconstruction and the difficulties in building a sustainable peace in societies recently destabilized by deadly violence. The authors argue that researchers and practitioners should pay greater attention to these challenges, especially how they relate to each other and to different post-accord problems. A foreword by Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu sets the context for this volume, and an afterword by Eileen Babbitt reflects on its findings.

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