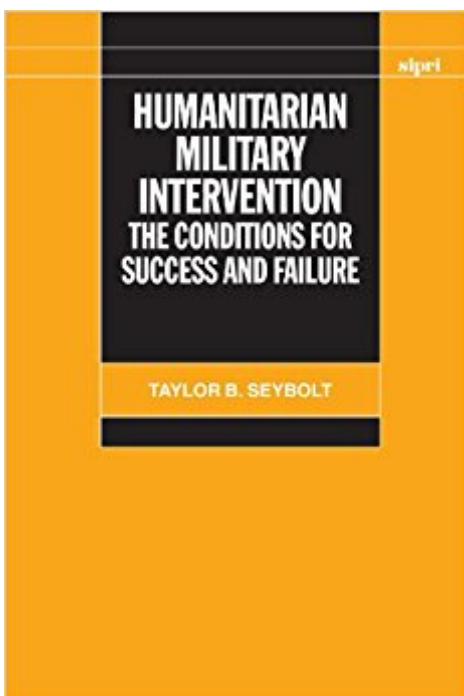


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Humanitarian Military Intervention: The Conditions For Success And Failure (SIPRI Monograph Series)



Synopsis

This study focuses on the questions of when and how military intervention in conflicts can achieve humanitarian benefits. It uses the standard that an intervention should do more good than harm to evaluate the successes and failures. The author develops a methodology to determine the number of lives saved, as a minimalist measure. The analysis of 19 military operations in the 6 case studies of Iraq, Somalia, Bosnia, Rwanda, Kosovo and East Timor reveals both successful and unsuccessful interventions in the same locations. The study posits that an intervention's short-term effectiveness depends primarily on six factors within the control of the intervenor, rather than factors inherent within the conflict. Political and humanitarian dimensions are combined to create a typology that compares the needs of populations suffering from conflict with an intervenor's military intervention strategies, motives, capabilities and response time. Hypotheses derived from the model are tested in the case studies and policy implications are offered.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

'Review from previous edition Seybolt rejects the majority of abstract, philosophical literature on the subject, to focus on real problems, faced by real practitioners both in theatre and in the halls of power. Military intervention in the name of humanity will remain a central policy challenge in the near future, and Seybolt's work succeeds in providing valuable new insights for practitioners at both ends of the spectrum. [The] Interesting case studies are well researched and a pleasure to read.'

'Matthew Taylor, consultant in NATO's Public Diplomacy Division

Taylor B. Seybolt is an Assistant Professor at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. In 2002-2008 he was a Senior Program Officer at the United States Institute of Peace. From 1999 to 2002 he was the Leader of the SIPRI Conflicts and Peace Enforcement Project.

While the crisis in Darfur continues to elicit calls by NGOs, activists, and scholars to "do something," the actual options for military action in response to mass violence remain murky and poorly explored. Taylor Seybolt has done a great service in this rich exploration and assessment of the actual strategies available to outside actors seeking to intervene in humanitarian crises. Through careful analysis of humanitarian interventions in 6 conflict zones throughout the 1990s, Mr. Seybolt helps illuminate the prospects and challenges of 4 distinct intervention strategies. In doing so, he sheds some much needed light on the options available to those seeking to intervene in defense of civilians at risk, and provides guidance on the conditions necessary to translate 'good intentions' into 'good results.' While this analysis raises many cautions for would-be interveners, it also helps to provide some welcome clarity on how to 'do something' in a manner that succeeds in saving strangers from violence, starvation, and mass atrocities. An all around excellent and compelling read!

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