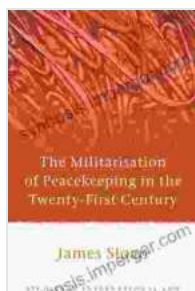


The Militarisation of Peacekeeping in the Twenty-First Century: Exploring the Shifting Landscape



The Militarisation of Peacekeeping in the Twenty-First Century (Studies in International Law Book 35)

by Paul N Pearson

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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Peacekeeping operations have become increasingly prevalent in the twenty-first century, with the United Nations deploying missions to various conflict-ridden regions around the globe. However, the nature of peacekeeping has undergone significant transformation, leading to concerns about its militarisation. This article will delve into the militarisation of peacekeeping, exploring its causes, consequences, and implications for the future of conflict resolution.

Causes of the Militarisation of Peacekeeping

- **Escalating Violence in Conflict Zones:** The twenty-first century has witnessed an increase in the intensity and brutality of armed conflicts. This has forced peacekeeping missions to adopt more robust measures to protect civilians and personnel.
- **Changing Nature of Conflicts:** Conflicts have become more complex and multidimensional, often involving non-state actors such as armed groups and terrorist organisations. This has made it more challenging for peacekeepers to operate effectively.
- **Lack of Political Solutions:** The failure to find lasting political solutions to conflicts has led to protracted peacekeeping missions, which have gradually become more militarised to maintain stability.

Consequences of the Militarisation of Peacekeeping

The militarisation of peacekeeping has both positive and negative consequences:

Positive Consequences

- **Enhanced Protection:** More heavily armed and equipped peacekeepers can provide better protection for civilians and personnel in dangerous environments.
- **Increased Effectiveness:** Militarisation allows peacekeepers to operate more assertively, deterring violence and suppressing armed groups.

Negative Consequences

- **Erosion of Impartiality:** The use of military force can undermine the impartiality of peacekeepers, making them perceived as one side in the conflict.
- **Increased Civilian Casualties:** Military operations, even when conducted with the intent of protecting civilians, can result in unintended casualties.
- **Damage to Peace Processes:** The use of force can escalate violence and damage ongoing peace negotiations.

Addressing the Challenges of Militarisation

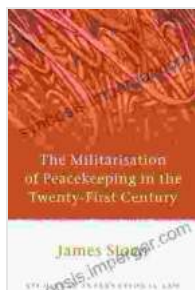
To address the challenges posed by the militarisation of peacekeeping, several steps can be taken:

- **Reinvigorating Political Efforts:** The international community must prioritise finding political solutions to conflicts, reducing the need for prolonged peacekeeping missions.
- **Redefining the Role of Peacekeepers:** Peacekeepers should be equipped for protection and conflict deterrence, but their primary focus

should remain on political mediation and civilian protection.

- **Improving Training and Accountability:** Peacekeepers should undergo rigorous training to ensure they understand their mandate and minimise civilian harm. Accountability for any violations of the mandate must be swift.

The militarisation of peacekeeping in the twenty-first century is a complex and evolving issue. While it has provided some benefits, it has also raised concerns about the impartiality and effectiveness of peacekeeping missions. By acknowledging the challenges and taking steps to address them, the international community can work towards a more sustainable and effective approach to conflict resolution.



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