

## New BICC Publications

BICC *Focus* 8:  
BICC / Fatal Transactions. 2008.  
Conflict diamonds and peace process in Côte d'Ivoire.  
June  
Diamants de conflit et processus de paix en Côte  
d'Ivoire. Juin  
[http://www.bicc.de/publications/focus/8\\_ivory\\_coast/  
content.php](http://www.bicc.de/publications/focus/8_ivory_coast/content.php)  
[http://www.bicc.de/publications/focus/8\\_ivory\\_coast/  
content\\_f.php](http://www.bicc.de/publications/focus/8_ivory_coast/content_f.php)

BICC *Focus* 7:  
Peter J. Croll, Andreas Lebzien and Wolf-Christian Paes.  
2008.  
'Yellow Imperialism' or 'successful wealth creation  
formula'?—How the trade in natural resources is  
changing Chinese-African relations. June.  
<http://www.bicc.de/publications/focus/focus.php>

BICC Annual Report 2007/2008  
BICC Jahresbericht 2007/2008  
[http://www.bicc.de/publications/jahresbericht/2008/  
content\\_e.php](http://www.bicc.de/publications/jahresbericht/2008/content_e.php)  
[http://www.bicc.de/publications/jahresbericht/2008/  
content.php](http://www.bicc.de/publications/jahresbericht/2008/content.php)

BICC *brief* 36  
Jerry Sommer und Andrea Warnecke, eds., 2008.  
"The Security–Migration Nexus: Challenges and  
Opportunities of the African Migration to EU Countries."  
[http://www.bicc.de/publications/briefs/brief36/  
content.php](http://www.bicc.de/publications/briefs/brief36/content.php)

## BICC Notes

On the occasion of the "Third Biennial Meeting of States (BMS) to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons In All Its Aspects" in New York (14–18 July), the German Federal Foreign Office and BICC invited to a panel discussion on "Implications of the International Tracing Instrument at the Regional, National and Community Levels" on 17 July, UNICEF House. Panelists were Michael Hasenau, Deputy Head, Conventional Arms Control, Federal Foreign Office, Berlin, Dr. Michael Ashkenazi, Senior Researcher and Head of SALW Control Program, BICC, Wolf Christian Paes, Senior Researcher, BICC, Dr. Riak Gok Majok, Director, Community Security and Arms Control Bureau, Government of Southern Sudan, Baffour Ainoa, Director, West Africa Action Network on Small Arms (WAANSA), and Peter J. Croll, Director, BICC, as moderator.

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Fatal Transactions Germany organized the panel discussion "Governing the Gift of Nature: The Links between Governance, Conflict and Natural Resources" at the 12th EADI (European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes) General Conference. The EADI Conference, which was held from 24–28 June in Geneva, Switzerland, focused on "Global Governance for Sustainable Development: The need for Policy Coherence and new Partnerships." The BICC panel discussion took place on 27 June and offered space to discuss several issues around 'natural resources and governance'. Speakers were: John Lungu (Copperbelt University Zambia), Jolien Schure (BICC), Morten Boas (Fafo), Anneke Galama (Fatal Transactions). The panel was chaired by Wolf-Christian Paes (BICC).

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Wolf-Christian Paes at [paes@bicc.de](mailto:paes@bicc.de)

From 25–26 June, Andrea Warnecke participated in a policy dialogue seminar on "Engaging African Diaspora in Europe as Strategic Agents for Development in Africa" held at Brussels. The Seminar was organized by the African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) in cooperation with the European Commission and the UNDP and explored the added value and options for strategic partnerships between the diaspora and other stakeholders in the field of migration and development. As one of the first events of its kind, the Seminar brought together 50 leading African diaspora organizations from 10 EU countries to discuss best practices, new avenues for a more systematic cooperation as well as dialogue with policymakers involved in migration and development-related issues in Europe and in Africa.

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Peter J. Croll, Director of BICC, and Peter Marwa, representative of Eastern Africa Standby Brigade Coordination Mechanism (EASBRICOM), who acted on behalf of EASBRICOM Director Simon Mulongo, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 13 June. This document is the foundation for future cooperation in the areas of small arms control, security sector reform, DD&R, and on challenges for security and development in post-conflict situations.

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April–June 2008

## Conflict and Violence: The Limitations of Northern Academic Perspectives

By Kevin Clements

Academics need to exercise humility as they contemplate what they can offer parties in conflict. In fact, the very idea of 'offering' theory/research to conflicting parties in violent war zones suggests a certain mindset, which if applied and implemented, would probably result in almost certain failure. (...) This is especially so once the escalatory cycle has moved beyond separation and division to direct violence. When the mortars start falling and small and bigger weapons start popping, theory tends to be set on one side and much more limbic survival instincts activated. (...)

Conflict theories, therefore, are likely to be of most utility either before conflict occurs, which is why so much current attention is directed to conflict prevention (even though most policymakers are never quite sure how to give practical expression to it) or after violence has ceased and attention is directed toward post-conflict reconstruction and efforts to ensure that the conflict does not recur.

Paul Collier and Anke Hoeffler were the first to begin making these links and testing them in practice.<sup>1</sup> In relation to conflict prevention, integrated theories which sought to combine development and peacebuilding or development and security initiatives went a long way towards bringing the development and conflict prevention communities together. These perspectives aimed at generating conflict sensitive development strategies and/or developmentally sensitive

peacebuilding or security strategies captured the imagination of most Western donor agencies. (...)

Like most conflict theories with pretensions to practical utility, the development and peacebuilding focus, however, is most effective before violence or after violence has ended. The sad reality is that once parties are embroiled in violence it becomes much more difficult to apply any theory at all as most individual calculations about when to cease violent behavior rest on assessments of relative power, intention, coercive capacity and ability to do harm. (...)

It is vital for parties to conflict to have some sense of whether or not the well-intentioned third party interveners that appear in moments of crisis are interested in tackling just the presenting problems or are also interested in helping locals solve the underlying problems. If it is just the former then expectations are likely to be dashed when unequal economic, political or social relationships reassert themselves. If it is the latter then there are other kinds of questions about how long the interveners are willing to be part of deeper change processes. Unfortunately most Western donors fund short-term rather than long-term and feel more comfortable with symptomatic relief rather than long-term structural transformation. (...)

The challenge facing the peace and development research community is how to develop holistic, analytical perspectives that enable detailed understandings of the links between sustainable development, equitable distribution of resources, protection for the environment, higher levels of participation in political decision-making, respect for rights and values and some long-term prospects of structural stability. (...)

The development-peacebuilding nexus is a definite advance on the mutual incomprehension which used to characterize the development and security communities but it is becoming clear that even this promising synthesis needs to be complemented by other perspectives as well. In particular, it needs to be accompanied by a much more radical understanding of how

<sup>1</sup> "On Economic Causes of Civil War." *Oxford Economic Papers* 50 1998, pp. 563–573, see also J. Galtung, 1996 *Peace by Peaceful Means: Peace and Conflict Development and Civilisation* Oslo International Peace Research Association (PRIO), also Frances Stewart and J Fitzgerald, eds., 2001 *War and Underdevelopment: The Economic and Social Consequences of Conflict*. Oxford, Oxford University Press.

local communities and individuals can empower themselves to solve their own problems. It also needs to be situated within a much more radical understanding of the macro- and microdynamics of the global political economy. Modern industrial capitalism is already beginning to prove itself unsustainable over the short- to medium term. It is vital that more attention be given to its alternatives. We also need much better understanding of the ways in which global communications, networks, and connections are transforming the very nature of 'modern' 'post modern' and 'post-post modern' politics. While there are many pressing and essential problems which demand humanitarian response it is absolutely vital that the peace research and development community devote much more attention to what lies beyond the now and start thinking collaboratively and proactively about what futures we wish to realize. (...)

The sorts of theory most likely to be useful are those, which enable shifts in perspective as well as good problem-solving processes. It is vital to think holistically in deep collaboration with local actors. It is they who must set the agenda. It is they who have to generate political will, momentum and new systemic strategies that we can join. To do this properly, locals need to expand their capacities for self analysis and accurate risk and threat assessments. But the basic message remains, (from both theory and practice), we need to focus much more attention away from short-term crisis management and preventive diplomacy to long-term, structural prevention—aimed at systemically addressing the root causes of violent conflict.

Prof. Kevin Clements, Director, Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, The University of Queensland, St Lucia, Brisbane Qld.

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## Staff Spotlight



Jolien Schure

Jolien Schure (the Netherlands) joined BICC in March 2007 as Researcher for the BICC program on natural resources, governance and violent conflict. She was involved in a project, which studied resource governance in 90 countries worldwide. One of the outcomes of the study was a BICC database, called the "Resource Conflict Monitor". She also coordinates the German focal point of the Fatal Transactions campaign, which raises awareness of 'resource exploitation and conflict'. In April this year, Jolien went on a 4-week field study in Côte d'Ivoire to investigate how resource governance can benefit the current peace process.

From 2002–2006, Jolien worked for the Netherlands institute for Southern Africa (NiZA) in the Economic Justice department. She is one of the founders of a capacity-building network with twenty civil society organizations in Southern Africa. Her responsibilities were to coordinate joint activities (of European and African organizations) such as training on action research and advocacy about illegal trade of minerals from the DR Congo. Jolien holds a Masters Degree in development studies. She specialized on Sub-Saharan Africa and spent six months in Cameroon for a field study and thesis on the 'Chad-Cameroon oil pipeline project and its impact on the livelihoods of an indigenous people'.

In her free time, Jolien enjoys photography, yoga, hiking and discovering Germany.

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[www.fataltransactions.de](http://www.fataltransactions.de)

## Resources, Conflicts and the Role of the Media

Within the Deutsche Welle Global Media Forum "Media in Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention" (2–4 June 2008), BICC organized a workshop on "Resources, conflicts and the role of the media" on 3 June.

Natural resources, such as oil, gas, timber and minerals, have played an important role in armed conflict in about a dozen wars and armed conflicts over the past years. Natural resource deposits alone do not, however, necessarily result in a 'resource curse'. Whether or not there is such a resource curse seems to depend, in particular, on to what degree the wealth created by the revenues from the exploitation of natural resources is distributed justly and democratically.

The fight against the illegal exploitation of natural resources and the trade of conflict goods is therefore of great importance when it comes to preventing conflicts and creating sustainable development. A decisive factor of whether wealth from natural resources turns into a curse or not is the degree to which good governance, democratization, transparency and the rule of law are fostered and human rights are respected. BICC pursues this thesis against the background of its yearlong applied research. To raise awareness with the public about 'tainted' products and business activities should also lie at the responsibility of the media.

The BICC workshop was based on two panel discussions. Part A was about "Poor, rich continent—Resources and conflicts in Africa". Panelists were Ambassador Bethuel Kiplagat, International Resources Group Coordinating Office Nairobi, Jolien Schure, Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC), Hans Dembowski, Chief Editor Development + Cooperation, and Melkamu Adisu, Country Director German Foundation For World Population, Ethiopia. In part B, Wolf Christian Paes, BICC and Fatal Transactions, Germany, Martin Zint, journalist / AG Erdöl, Melkamu Adisu and Peter J. Croll, Director of BICC, talked about "How can campaigns affect resource justice?"

BICC plans to intensify the cooperation with Deutsche Welle and will participate in the GMF 2009.

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## Friedensgutachten 2008

On 3 and 4 June, the *Friedensgutachten 2008* (Peace Report) was presented to the Bundestag Committees of Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Economic Cooperation as well as in the *Bundespressekonferenz*, which was attended by 27 national and international journalists. Minister Wieczorek-Zeul personally was given a copy signed by the editors.

The *Friedensgutachten* was also presented during a public panel discussion with MdB Rolf Muetzenich (SPD), MdB Wolfgang Gehrke (Die Linke) sowie MEP Angelika Beer (Grüne), in the "Urania", Berlin.

The annual *Friedensgutachten* is a joined publication of the five major German peace research institutions and is funded by the German Foundation for Peace Research (DSF). This year's edition focuses on the unprecedented new arms build-up, the climate change and new risks of conflicts, the deceptive stability of authoritarian systems as well as on current affairs.

For the first time the Peace Report, on 12 June, also was presented and discussed in Brussels. Within the framework of the ISIS ESCG (International Security Information Service – European Security Contact Group) meeting in Brussels, PD Dr Andreas Heinemann-Grueder, Senior Researcher at BICC, Prof. Dr Harald Mueller, Director of the Peace Research Institute in Frankfurt am Main and Prof. Dr Goetz Neuneck, Head of the interdisciplinary working group on disarmament, arms control and risk technologies at the Hamburg Institute for Security and Peace, spoke on the "Invulnerability Mania": Missile Defense, Space Weaponization and its Implications" and the *Friedensgutachten 2008*. The meeting was chaired by Giji Gya, ISIS Europe, and was hosted by MEP Angelika Beer.

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## BICC Annual Report 2007/2008

- Analysis of worldwide armament and disarmament trends
- Insight into BICC's project work
- Business report

The *Annual Report 2007/2008* is available for free in English and German at [www.bicc.de](http://www.bicc.de) and can also be ordered in a printed version from [pr@bicc.de](mailto:pr@bicc.de)