

Nonstate Actors in Intrastate Conflicts

Dan Miodownik and Oren Barak, Editors

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"The trenchant and elegant essays of *Nonstate Actors in Intrastate Conflicts* break new conceptual and empirical ground in the literature on civil wars. Focusing on foreign volunteers and diasporas in the Middle East, the authors offer important insights into how these actors can fuel or dampen internal conflict. For anyone interested in the region's patterns of political violence or, more generally, in transnational conflict processes, this volume constitutes essential reading."—Lars-Erik Cederman, Center for Comparative and International Studies in Zurich

"*Nonstate Actors in Intrastate Conflicts* takes a multidisciplinary approach and demonstrates that the questions raised are not only for political science but also for sociology, psychology, history, and anthropology."—Gloria Totoricaguena, Cenarrusa Foundation for Basque Culture

"An invaluable volume that unveils the nuances of contemporary conflicts and fills major gaps in the literature. It is a must read for every student of conflicts in the Middle East and elsewhere."—Ami Pedahzur, University of Texas at Austin

Intrastate conflicts, such as civil wars and ethnic confrontations, are the predominant form of organized violence in the world today. But internal strife can destabilize entire regions, drawing in people living beyond state borders—particularly those who share ideology, ethnicity, or kinship with one of the groups involved. These nonstate actors may not be enlisted in formal armies or political parties, but they can play a significant role in a conflict. For example, when foreign volunteers forge alliances with domestic groups, they tend to attract other foreign interventions and may incite the state to centralize its power. Diasporan populations, depending on their connection to their homeland, might engage politically through financial support or overt aggression, either exacerbating or mitigating the conflict.

Nonstate Actors in Intrastate Conflicts takes an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the ways external individuals and groups become entangled with volatile states and how they influence the outcome of hostilities within a country's borders. Editors Dan Miodownik and Oren Barak bring together top scholars to examine case

studies in Afghanistan, Lebanon, Israel/Palestine, and Turkey in order to explore the manifold roles of external nonstate actors. By shedding light on these overlooked participants—whose causes and consequences can turn the tide of war—*Nonstate Actors in Intrastate Conflicts* provides a critical new perspective on the development and neutralization of civil war and ethnic violence.

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