

PEACEKEEPING AND THE GLOBAL SOUTH: A NEOCOLONIAL ENTERPRISE?

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RESEARCH QUESTION

Why do some people critique peacekeeping as a neocolonial enterprise if the largest contributors to peacekeeping forces are formerly colonized countries?

CLAIM

Peacekeeping is a neocolonial enterprise. Even though former colonies are contributing the most peacekeepers, the structure and motivations of the international system governing UN peacekeeping operations makes them neocolonial.



Photo: MONUSCO/ABEL KAVANAGH

BODY

The first half of the paper will discuss how peacekeeping practices can be seen as a legacy of colonialism. This section will discuss how both colonialism and peacekeeping are motivated by humanitarian and economic incentives, how international law is use(d) to legitimize colonialism and peacekeeping today. Next, I will trace how the UN, and it's peacekeeping operations was created at the same time as the fall of colonial empires and how these empires used the organization as a way to maintain global power.

The paper then discusses the motivations of the global South in participating in peacekeeping, such as the fact that it increases their international standing and allows them to participate in the global world order . Next, I explore how the global North encourages the global South to contribute forces because it reduces the costs of global hegemony on the part of the North. The paper concludes by reconciling the two statements in my claim and displaying how the contribution of peacekeeping forces in the global South are imperative to the perpetration of a liberal democratic world order.