

Post-conflict orders in western Côte d'Ivoire

Power, Security and Trust

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This dissertation project aims at analysing the reconfiguration of socio-political orders in a post-conflict society paying special attention to the military-civil nexus. Long-term field research was conducted in Man, the major rebel stronghold in western Côte d'Ivoire. First findings have revealed that violent non-state actors have successfully produced security and public order in negotiation with the population.



Figure: Roadblock of the Forces Nouvelles in Man.

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„The rebels have given us a hard time, but they are not as bad as one might think.“ (young man, 2008)

Background

In the academic discussion of statehood, new political orders have been observed "beside the state" (Bellagamba and Klute 2008). This study looks at the reconfiguration of socio-political orders under rebel domination *in statu nascendi*. New power-sharing orders have emerged in the city of Man, before and after the partial redeployment of the state administration.

Specific Objectives/Research Questions

For a more comprehensive understanding of the reconfiguration of socio-political orders, the study links power, security and trust to explore hybrid orders.

Who do people trust in times of crisis? How have daily routines and social relationships been affected by conflict? In what ways do these orders differ from the pre-war orders under state control? When do people address and trust institutions created by violent actors?

Methodology

The project applies a triangulation of qualitative methods which allows the evaluation of data from cross-cutting perspectives: identification and description of the actors who engage in the production of security and social orders; discourse analysis based on interviews and practice analysis with observation and participation.

Expected/First Results

Trust does not just fade in a crisis, but shift to other trustees and therefore plays an important role in the reconfiguration of post-conflict orders. For ex.: Some people address and trust rebel institutions for security issues and to resolve disputes.

Relevance

This project provides knowledge about strategies of populations in and after violent conflicts which may be used by institutions offering support in post-conflict contexts.