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# STATEHOOD IN A STATELESS SOCIETY

Political Order and Societal Memory in Northern Côte d'Ivoire

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Since September 2002, when a rebellion split Côte d'Ivoire into two halves, the country is often seen as a failing state. The North and West are considered as a stateless area – an area where the state is not able to establish any legitimate monopoly of force while non-state actors compete in an unregulated security market, offering their services to everybody who can afford them. However, statehood is still present in many day-to-day interactions, and despite the absence of the state as an institution, its modes of regulation are maintained in many spheres of everyday life. This paper asks why many actors still maintain procedures and regulations that are obviously based on the former experience of the state as an institution, making it a part of their societal memory. It also looks at how actors re-produce in their daily interactions a normative image of the state.

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