

State-building after War: Lessons from Haiti

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Extending Hard Lessons Learned”

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Three (Controversial?) Claims

- 'Fragile states' something of a misleading term, by aggregating different gaps.
- Politics, not economics, lies at the center of peace consolidation and state-building
- No easy or technical answers to building state capacity or state legitimacy

Haiti: Don't forget the failure of the 1990s

- Intervention to restore a popular and elected president
- State capacity-building at center of mission
- Deep resistance from elites to state reform
- Absence of political agreement crucial to failure
- Inclusionary leadership important

Haiti's Transitional Government, 2004-2006

- Lack of legitimacy of transitional governments bred by external intervention
- Capacity-building delayed: UN focused first on security
 - Two exceptions: Police and Public Finance
- Legitimacy-building focused on elections
- Donors less coherent than in the 1990s

Capacity-building under Preval, 2006-2009

- Capacity: Some positives from Preval government: civil service, unified plans, collaborative stance
- Capacity: Disinterest and resistance of elites to state reform
 - Justice sector
 - Decentralization

State Legitimacy under Preval, 2006-2009

- Elections helped, but created new challenges
- Continued political division
- Much riding on elected president and PM
- International community divided and non-strategic

Lessons of the Haiti Case

- International presence important for weak states.
- Security requires non-traditional missions
- Need for unified international leverage exercised strategically on elected governments
- Resources for employment and economic movement necessary for international credibility and state legitimacy
- Inspired national leadership very helpful