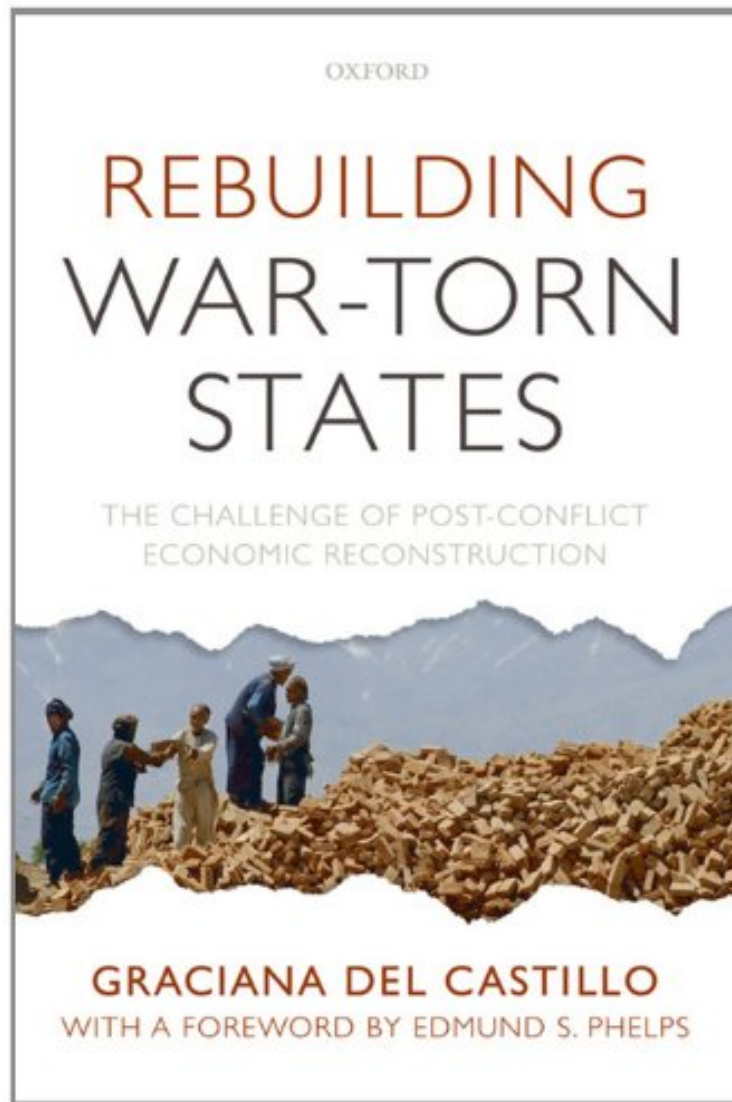


Rebuilding War-Torn States: The Challenge of Post-Conflict Economic Reconstruction

Graciana del Castillo

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Graciana del Castillo : Rebuilding War-Torn States: The Challenge of Post-Conflict Economic Reconstruction before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rebuilding War-Torn States: The Challenge of Post-Conflict Economic Reconstruction:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Economics of PeaceBy Christine ChuThis is an excellent book on how economics is key to maintaining the peace. As someone involved in peace operations but without an economics background, i was reluctant to read this book since i thought it was beyond my comprehension.everything

is explained in ways that make a lot of sense and is easily understandable. The four case studies are really fascinating and a must to whoever goes into conflict or post-conflict countries. In fact, this book is excellent for countries in the north of Africa and the middle east in transition from dictatorships to democracies and how to approach the economic transition, so that it is not conflict-creating but rather peace-supporting.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. *Peacebuilding- here's the how* By A.G., Master in International Affairs This book offers a great comprehensive overview of the common challenges that post-conflict nations face. It does so by intertwining all relevant aspects in post-conflict states -political, social, etc- and not from a purely "classical" economic perspective. Del Castillo emphasizes the fact that reconstruction means, in these cases, 'not development as usual', and does so by using a myriad of cases that clearly illustrate her ideas throughout the book. I find the manner in which the case studies are turned into a sort of "road map", into a clear set of practical guidelines and lessons learned to be very useful to any reader, academic or practitioner.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. *Rebuilding War Torn States* By Customer The book is very readable for non-economists. The topic is important, timely and interesting. The author's experience and knowledge are deep and she applies it logically to several case studies including Iraq and Afghanistan. I would highly recommend the book to anyone with an interest or a need to better understand international politics.

Post-conflict economic reconstruction is a critical part of the political economy of peacetime and one of the most important challenges in any peace-building or state-building strategy. After wars end, countries must negotiate a multi-pronged transition to peace: Violence must give way to public security; lawlessness, political exclusion, and violation of human rights must give way to the rule of law and participatory government; ethnic, religious, ideological, or class/caste confrontation must give way to national reconciliation; and ravaged and mismanaged war economies must be reconstructed and transformed into functioning market economies that enable people to earn a decent living. Yet, how can these vitally important tasks each be successfully managed? How should we go about rehabilitating basic services and physical and human infrastructure? Which policies and institutions are necessary to reactivate the economy in the short run and ensure sustainable development in the long run? What steps should countries take to bring about national reconciliation and the consolidation of peace? In all of these cases, unless the political objectives of peacetime prevail at all times, peace will be ephemeral, while policies that pursue purely economic objectives can have tragic consequences. This book argues that any strategy for post-conflict economic reconstruction must be based on five premises and examines specific post-conflict reconstruction experiences to identify not only where these premises have been disregarded, but also where policies have worked, and the specific conditions that have influenced their success and failure.

"Rebuilding War-Torn States is that rare book that brilliantly combines the insights of an experienced practitioner with the disciplined argument of a meticulous researcher. Dr. del Castillo distills lessons from the peacebuilding efforts in El Salvador, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq. She concludes with incisive and provocative strategic lessons that neither the scholars nor the decision-makers can afford to neglect."--Michael W. Doyle, Harold Brown Professor of International Affairs, Law and Political Science, Columbia University. Special Adviser to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan (2001-2003)

Del Castillo provides an important service by calling for renewed debate over a wide range of issues related to reconstruction, especially in light of the failures of the current approach. Further, the analysis correctly recognizes that economic reconstruction does not take place in isolation, but instead as part of a multi-pronged transition. This highlights how complex the task of reconstruction is when compared to development efforts in peaceful countries. Finally, the book accurately identifies many reasons why reconstruction efforts are failing."--Perspectives on Politics

"This volume offers a highly readable, economically literate discussion of the inter-linked political and economic dimensions of peacebuilding that too often do not receive sufficient attention amidst concerns over security. It draws on many important case studies, including Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as reminding us of the historically salient lessons of international attempts to support and consolidate peace in El Salvador and Timor Leste."-- David M. Malone, President of the International Development Research Centre, former President of the International Peace Academy, and author of *The International Struggle For Iraq: Decision-Making in the UN Security Council, 1980-2005*

"I believe that in summarizing the lessons learned from the Salvadorean experience, Graciana is not only very accurate in her insights and analysis, but also provides an extremely valuable tool for consolidating peace in other countries around the world."--Alfredo Cristiani, Former President of El Salvador

"A must read for policymakers, academics, practitioners and those interested in the political economy of peace."--Jacob A. Frenkel, Chairman, J.P. Morgan Chase International and Chairman G30, Former Economic Counselor and Director of Research, IMF

"In her insightful and timely book *Rebuilding War-Torn States*, Graciana del Castillo understands that reconstruction in the war-torn countries must aim toward a commercial society... Based on case studies and other relevant experiences, the author presents the basic premises, lessons, best practices and policy guidelines which she posits are necessary to design an effective strategy for post-conflict economic reconstruction."-- Edmund S. Phelps, Nobel Prize Laureate for Economics 2006

"An important contribution to debates about peace-building and postwar reconstruction.... The author is an international economist with considerable experience as a top-level UN adviser, banker and International

Monetary Fund staffer, but hers is a dissident voice, too. She brings all this experience to bear, together with extensive reading of academic sources and institutional reports.... ebuilding War-Torn States does justice to the complexity of the problems that the four states examined in detail here-- Afghanistan, El Salvador, Iraq and Kosovo--have faced, and it makes convincing arguments about how future transitions should be handled. The book is packed with critical information, statistics and perspectives, and it will be an important source for theorists and practitioners alike."--Times Higher Education"Del Castillo picks apart the reasons why orthodox approaches to rebuilding postconflict countries have not succeeded, and recommends alternatives. Without doubt, if the international donors and financial bodies had followed del Castillo's advice, they should have done a better job."--Alex de Waal, Times Literary Supplement

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About the AuthorGraciana del Castillo is an expert on countries in crises--both financial and post-conflict. She was the first senior economist in the Cabinet of the UN Secretary-General in the early 1990s, involved in ongoing post-conflict operations in Central America, Asia, and Africa. She continued work on countries at war or post-conflict at the IMF, participated in jump-starting Kosovos economy, and moderated a major donors meeting on Timor-Leste in Prague. She was a director at SPs and the Centennial Group, a senior consultant to the Inter-American Development Bank, a visiting scholar at the OECD Development Center, and a participant in USAID bids for reconstruction projects in Afghanistan and Iraq. She is a founding partner of the Macroeconomic Advisory Group. With a Ph.D. in Economics from Columbia University (1986), she has been adjunct professor there since 1990 and is now research scholar and associate director of the Center on Capitalism and Society. Her articles have appeared in top economic and political journals and newspapers worldwide.