



## Nonstate Actors in Intrastate Conflicts (National and Ethnic Conflict in the 21st Century)

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**Nonstate Actors in Intrastate Conflicts (National and Ethnic Conflict in the 21st Century)** From University of Pennsylvania Press

Intrastate conflicts, such as civil wars and ethnic confrontations, are the predominant form of organized violence in the world today. But internal strife can destabilize entire regions, drawing in people living beyond state borders—particularly those who share ideology, ethnicity, or kinship with one of the groups involved. These nonstate actors may not be enlisted in formal armies or political parties, but they can play a significant role in a conflict. For example, when foreign volunteers forge alliances with domestic groups, they tend to attract other foreign interventions and may incite the state to centralize its power. Diasporan populations, depending on their connection to their homeland, might engage politically through financial support or overt aggression, either exacerbating or mitigating the conflict.

*Nonstate Actors in Intrastate Conflicts* takes an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the ways external individuals and groups become entangled with volatile states and how they influence the outcome of hostilities within a country's borders. Editors Dan Miodownik and Oren Barak bring together top scholars to examine case studies in Afghanistan, Lebanon, Israel/Palestine, and Turkey in order to explore the manifold roles of external nonstate actors. By shedding light on these overlooked participants—whose causes and consequences can turn the tide of war—*Nonstate Actors in Intrastate Conflicts* provides a critical new perspective on the development and neutralization of civil war and ethnic violence.

**Contributors:** Oren Barak, Chanan Cohen, Robert A. Fitchette, Orit Gazit, Gallia Lindenstrauss, Nava Löwenheim, David Malet, Dan Miodownik, Maayan Mor, Avraham Sela, Gabriel (Gabi) Sheffer, Omer Yair.

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### **Review**

"An invaluable volume that unveils the nuances of contemporary conflicts and fills major gaps in the literature. It is a must read for every student of conflicts in the Middle East and elsewhere."—Ami Pedahzur, University of Texas at Austin

"In this fascinating book, Dan Miodownik and Oren Barak remind us that the phenomenon of "Foreign Fighters" who deploy to remote battlefields on their own is not new. However, at the same time they indicate that this phenomenon is becoming increasingly prevalent in a globalized world."—Ami Pedahzur, University of Texas at Austin

"Miodownik, Barak, and the contributors to this outstanding volume remind us that, like other phenomena that involve human beings, we need to exercise caution, to be humble, and to remember the importance of context whenever we try to offer general explanations for conflict-related phenomena."—Ami Pedahzur, University of Texas at Austin

"*Nonstate Actors in Intrastate Conflicts* takes a multidisciplinary approach and demonstrates that the questions raised are not only for political science but also for sociology, psychology, history, and anthropology."—Gloria Totoricaguena, Cenarrusa Foundation for Basque Culture

"The trenchant and elegant essays of *Nonstate Actors in Intrastate Conflicts* break new conceptual and empirical ground in the literature on civil wars. Focusing on foreign volunteers and diasporas in the Middle East, the authors offer important insights into how these actors can fuel or dampen internal conflict. For anyone interested in the region's patterns of political violence or, more generally, in transnational conflict processes, this volume constitutes essential reading."—Lars-Erik Cederman, Center for Comparative and International Studies in Zurich

### **About the Author**

Dan Miodownik is Senior Lecturer in Political Science and International Relations at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Oren Barak is Associate Professor in Political Science and International Relations at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and coauthor of *Israel's Security Networks: A Theoretical and Comparative Perspective* (with Gabriel Sheffer).

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