



Book Review

Review of *Police and International Peacekeeping Missions: Securing Peace and Post-Conflict Rule of Law*

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Book: *Police and International Peacekeeping Missions: Securing Peace and Post-Conflict Rule of Law*, ed. Garth den Heyer and James F. Albrecht (Cham, Switzerland: Springer, 2021), 297 pages, ISBN 978-3-030-77899-6 (hardcover), ISBN 978-3-030-77900-9 (eBook), <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-77900-9>.

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The role of the police in peacekeeping and peace operations is critical yet understudied and underappreciated by both scholars and practitioners. Over the past 30 years, the role police can play in securing the peace in conflict torn societies has grown.¹ Starting from a military-focused mechanism for impartial monitoring of ceasefires in anticipation of a peace settlement, peacekeeping has grown in scope to embrace a wider range of conflict prevention activities. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) describes the scope of these activities as complex and multidimensional tasks aimed at supporting the establishment of sustainable peace. These activities include “demining, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants; security sector reform; electoral support; promotion of human rights and support to social and economic development.”²

Initially the province of United Nations missions, peacekeeping has grown to include a range of regional security organizations, “including the European Union (EU), Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), African Union (AU), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Southern African Development Community (SADC).”³ Currently, over 11,000 police are deployed in UN peacekeeping missions involving the restoration of law and order, operational support to host nation police, protecting



civilians and UN staff, capacity building, training, and (in limited circumstances) direct provision of law enforcement.⁴ *Police and International Peacekeeping Missions: Securing Peace and Post-Conflict Rule of Law* examines the role police play in international peacekeeping and post-conflict efforts to establish stability and reinforce the rule of law.

Securing Peace

Two academics edited *Police and International Peacekeeping Missions*. That said, Garth den Heyer, the lead editor, is the primary contributor to the volume. Den Heyer—a professor at Arizona State University, senior research fellow at the Police Foundation (now the National Policing Institute), and associate with the Scottish Institute of Police Research—served 38 years with the New Zealand Police, where he was deployed as a strategic adviser to the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands. His coeditor, James F. Albrecht—assistant professor of criminal justice and homeland security at Pace University in New York City—was a Fulbright Scholar, served in the European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) in Kosovo (former Yugoslavia), and is a 23-year veteran of the City of New York Police Department (NYPD), who retired as the Commanding Officer of NYPD Transit Bureau District 20. Their collective experience helped to shape the text.

The text is divided into seven parts with 16 chapters. Part I includes two chapters, while Part II contains five chapters. These chapters in Part I and Part II are authored by den Heyer. Part I provides an introduction to the role of police in international peacekeeping, while Part II focuses on the peacekeeping experiences of the New Zealand Police. The first chapter (chapter 3) in this segment provides an overview, while the subsequent chapters look at Afghanistan (chapter 4), Bougainville (chapter 5), Solomon Islands (chapter 6), and Timor-Lest (chapter 7). Police decision-making, pre-deployment preparation (and reconnaissance), security, and mission evolution are constants throughout this segment. Community policing and mission implementation are also discussed. These discussions recount den Heyer's direct experience through the lens of a deployed New Zealand Police officer.

Part III contains a single chapter (chapter 8) by Benoit J.S. Maure, a Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) peace officer, who recounts Canadian contributions to international peacekeeping missions. Part IV looks at European perspectives, with one chapter (chapter 9) on police reform in Ukraine's Donbas region written by Robert Peacock, a specialist in corruption, and one chapter (chapter 10) on law enforcement reform in Kosovo written by Albrecht. Part V is once again a single chapter (chapter 11) segment providing a view from the Americas written by Michael Raymond Sanchez, a professor at the University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley. Sanchez assesses police mentoring in Haiti from 2009 to 2010. This chapter is especially well referenced and provides an in-depth overview of United Nations Police (UNPOL) actions, as well as an assessment of factors complicating mission success.

Peacekeeper perspectives from the field are provided in Part V chapters. Chapter 12, by the aforementioned Sanchez, looks at the cultural complications of UNPOL missions. Chapter 13, by S. Hakan Can and Ata Yenguin, a former Turkish Police commander and UNPOL executive respectively, looks at how community conflict and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) can have negative effects on peacekeepers. The final chapter in the segment (chapter 14), by den Heyer, summarizes the experiences of New Zealand Police deployed on peacekeeping missions. The concluding section (Part VII) contains two chapters (chapters 15 and 16) by den Heyer. The first

provides a critique of post-conflict policing, while the second provides his final thoughts on international policing and peacekeeping.

Assessing the Contribution

Police and International Peacekeeping Missions provides a useful introduction to a complex and important topic. Its chapters are well written and provide those unfamiliar with the topic with valuable insight. Police have been part of UN peace operations since 1960, when police officers joined the deployment to the United Nations Operation in the Congo (UNUC).⁵ Nevertheless, police practitioners and policymakers are often unfamiliar with the role police can play in peace operations. This text helps fill that gap. The text, however, has some drawbacks. First, it is over-reliant on one author and the experience of one police service.

The New Zealand Police experience is important and provides valuable insights, but those insights would be strengthened by providing additional examples, such as the Australian experience in peace operations—especially the integration of state police forces, such as the New South Wales Police Force, into missions led by the Australian Federal Police (AFP).⁶ Similarly, the Canadian experience and the situation in Haiti would have benefited from additional discussion.⁷ In addition, a discussion of the interface between military and police operations and the complementary (and at times competing) objectives of both approaches would have strengthened the work.

These criticisms aside, the text makes a valuable contribution to the literature and provides a useful overview, making the topic accessible to students at the undergraduate and master's level. It also provides a useful primer for police executives interested in the topic or contemplating participating in a peacekeeping mission.

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Endnotes

¹ Jäir van der Lijn and Timo Smit, "Police in Peace Operations," Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, accessed 15 December 2022, <https://www.sipri.org/research/conflict-peace-and-security/peace-operations-and-conflict-management/police-peace-operations>.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid. See also, Sofia Sebastián, *The Role of Police in UN Peace Operations: Filling the Gap in the Protection of Civilians from Physical Violence*, Civilians in Conflict Policy Brief 3 (Washington, DC: The Stimson Center, September 2015), https://www.stimson.org/wp-content/files/file-attachments/CIC-Policy-Brief_3_Sept-2015-Web-REVISED_Jan2016_0.pdf.

⁵ "UN Police," United Nations Peacekeeping, accessed 15 December 2022, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/un-police>.

⁶ See, for example, Andrew Goldsmith, "'It Wasn't Like Normal Policing': Voices of Australian Police Peacekeepers in Operation Serene, Timor-Leste, 2006," in *Community Policing and Peacekeeping*, ed. Peter Grabosky (Boca Raton: Routledge, 2009), <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.1201/9781420099751-20/wasn-like-normal-policing-voices-australian-police-peacekeepers-operation-serene-timor-leste-2006-andrew-goldsmith>; Peter Grabosky, "Police as International Peacekeepers," *Policing and Society* 19, no. 2 (2009): 101–105, <https://doi.org/10.1080/10439460802187514>.

⁷ On Canada, see "The International Police Peacekeeping and Peace Operations Program," Public Safety Canada, 8 June 2021, <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/cntrng-crm/plcng/ntrntnl-plc-pckpng-en.aspx>; on Haiti, for example, see John D. Ciorciari, "Haiti and the Pitfalls of Sharing Police Powers," *International Peacekeeping* 29, no. 3 (2022): 384–412, <https://doi.org/10.1080/13533312.2022.2053286>.