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Society's Recovery (A theoretical study of Inputs and Problematics)

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Abstract

To manage their development and reconstruction efforts within a multi-use action plan that is flexible and comprehensive enough to meet the needs of political administration sectors and their various levels; that is, to be able to accommodate a changing mix of emerging problems, countries coming out of conflicts need a comprehensive vision. In addition to the issues brought on by the wars, recovery is seen from this perspective as a comprehensive strategy for recovery following the conclusion of conflicts, which necessitates defining its nature, inputs, and issues.

Keywords

Conflict Settlement, Post-Conflict Societies, Peace, Civil Peace

Introduction

Experience has shown that the end of conflicts does not necessarily mean that peace has settled once and for all, especially in light of the escalation of internal conflicts after the end of the cold war, which enriched the experiences and studies on the issue of conflicts during and after them. Therefore, conflict specialists have made some important changes during recent decades in how they understand and analyze the subject of conflict and the requirements of the aftermath. As the last stage, interspersed with a group of events, failures or crises and differences of vision, the accumulation and development of which may lead to dangerous repercussions that may lead to more deadly conflicts.

Thus, the context surrounding conflicts should be influenced and changed. This approach calls for dealing with the various social and political sources of conflict, and working to transform the negative factors that stand behind the conflict into positive change in the social, political and economic fields. Then, it aims to shift thinking from resolving a specific conflict to a process through which conflict can be avoided in the future, i.e. "getting to the root of the problems, and taking measures to avoid conflicts in the future. This requires working according to mechanisms and strategies for recovery with the aim of identifying and addressing the immediate and medium-term requirements in order to revive societies emerging from conflicts, and at the same time, laying the foundations for developing a long-term strategy for sustainable recovery, the scope of which focuses on the conflict, the security situation, the position of the host government, its capabilities, and the available resources, while the pillars of sustainable action are the governed political levels on the one hand, and economic sustainability on the other.

The importance of the research: The importance of the study lies in the actual need to develop visions and mechanisms to achieve the requirements of sustainable recovery for post-conflict societies, as these requirements provide the pillars of stability and sustainable peace. And these require discussing modern concepts, one of which is recovery through the way of dealing with the post-conflict phase.

Research Problem: the research problem stems from the fact that the procedures after the end of the conflict phase are multi-faceted that aim to initiate political, economic, and social development. Therefore, the concept of recovery has constituted a major point of contention in humanitarian circles due to the divergence of opinions about it, which left the door open to various interpretations of its nature. Thus, this concept has faced several questions, the most prominent of which are the following:

1. What Is the concept of recovery?
2. What are the implications and problems of recovery?

Research Hypothesis: The research argues that recovery is a comprehensive strategy for post-conflict societies, because countries emerging from conflict need a comprehensive vision for the management of their development as well as reconstruction activities, within a multi-use action plan that is flexible and inclusive enough to fit the needs of different sectors and levels of political governance; that is, to be able to absorb a changing mix of emerging problems, let alone those caused by conflicts.

Research Structure: The research consists of an introduction and two sections, as well as a conclusion.

The first section examines the meaning of recovery

The second part discusses the approaches and problems of recovery

First - Meaning of Recovery

The procedures after the end of the conflict phase are considered a multi-faceted

process, aiming to initiate political, economic and social development in order to create the conditions for a transition to a lasting peace that prevents slipping into the abyss of conflicts again. Those procedures have gained great importance during recent decades, and it can be argued that the reasons behind this are the following:

- Growing international crises with structural dimensions related to the existence and continuity of states.
- The rise of terrorism as one of the most important global challenges.
- Assuming that procedures in the post-conflict phase may require long periods, as well as concerted efforts on the one hand, and the association of their dimensions with each other on the other hand.

The concept of recovery constituted a major point of contention in humanitarian circles, due to the divergence of opinions about it, which left the door open to various interpretations of its nature. Thus, this concept faced several challenges, including:

1. The lack of a unified, comprehensive vision at the research and academic level to deal with the post-conflict phase, as the recovery of conflict-ridden societies is supposed to represent a link between studies concerned with development, peace-building, and conflict management with other human sciences, such as political science, economics, and sociology. Psychology and historiography, but this rarely happens, as a trend often prevails, that each discipline approaches the subject in research from its point of view, then the program level does not achieve sufficient linkage between relief and development activities alike, not to mention the boundaries between relief and recovery and development, which is constantly changing, so that one context for the post-conflict phase may include several geographical areas and populations in different stages of crisis and development, and accordingly no criteria have been developed to differentiate between the stages due to the difficulty of setting them.

2. The countries hosting conflicts or donors adopt a piecemeal approach at the level of financing, in a way that does not achieve integration between the various interventions, and the interventions may be conflicting at times, as the priorities of the aid programs of the countries themselves or institutions and foreign countries often follow an approach different from the priorities of the affected regions.

3. Reconstruction operations may also face instability of international support for the efforts, as it is variable from one stage to another, and depends on various variables, including the shift of donor interest and funding from one side to another in the event of other crises in the countries of the world.

In general, according to the United Nations Development Programme, recovery is "an approach that meets the needs of recovery in the shape of a humanitarian response to emergencies. In other words, it can be defined as restoring basic services, which enable those affected to rely more sustainably on

themselves, rather than continuously relying on Relief organizations in meeting their basic needs, and this means that recovery falls between the prevailing approach that centers around the availability of basic humanitarian assistance – such as food, shelter, water and sanitation services on the one hand, and the reconstruction of the affected areas on the other. On a related level, recovery represents a long-term reconstruction plan (quick start). Therefore, recovery is considered an operational tool for organizing programs and projects related to the development and presenting them within a coherent planning framework and a comprehensive national framework for conflict-affected areas. The formulation of a comprehensive post-conflict recovery strategy raises widespread controversy, because it requires alignment with ideologies and social groups, as well as different times and cultures, depending on the nature of the conflict and the extent of the damage done. Therefore, the recovery requirements should take into account the specificity of each country affected by the conflict.

Accordingly, recovery's requirements are described as a variety of knowledge, which helps to identify the most important tasks that should be implemented in each stage of post-conflict reconstruction, and this requires defining resource needs, their amount, and the location of recovery activities, as well as defining goals and objectives, as well as priorities. And tasks and implementation policies, whose action plan differs from any action plan under normal and stable conditions, as it requires that the country's resources be managed consistently and effectively, especially the most affected areas or the most conflict-causing problems, by investing the available resources (human, financial, etc.) necessary to achieve the goals.

In turn, the United Nations has paid attention to this concept, based on the concern of its former Secretary-General (Boutros Ghali) through his report, which was marked by an agenda for peace, as he stressed the need to bring about changes in the practice of peacebuilding, to begin with, preventive diplomacy, and then continue with peacemaking and preservation, to reach To the stage of recovery as a comprehensive process, and this premise was reflected in the uses of recovery in several fields, which made it a scientific, humanitarian or experimental framework, presenting its thesis and an abundance of use. On the economic level, recovery is seen as a set of activities that seek to revive economic development. And social in a post-conflict environment, while recovery is viewed from the perspective of the strategic security framework, is the process by which a peaceful environment is created that prevents the resumption of conflict. Aspects of imbalances that prevailed in the levels of political, economic, and social life before and during conflicts, the degree of their effectiveness depends on the ability of that society to express violent conflict situations and settle them through peaceful channels instead of resorting to violence.

Recovery is policies for rebuilding affected communities, including rebuilding the political, security, social, and economic aspects and addressing the root causes of conflict. It can be defined as developing long-term programs with a

series of priorities, aiming to improve the economic well-being of conflict-affected communities through institutional governance. And through it enhance social cohesion.

Second- The Inputs and Problems of Recovery:

There are main entrances to effective recovery, but at the same time they are problematic to achieve the requirements of recovery, which in turn may pave the way for peace on the one hand and the return of violence on the other hand, and those entrances or problems are as follows:

1. Time of Recovery: The historical evolution of recovery in the face of successive crises and their multiplicity, especially the tragedies of the Second World War, was the first experience of recovery for countries in the Marshall Plan, which aimed at the reconstruction of Europe emerging from war, as well as the efforts of the reconstruction of Japan. However, the expansion of international possibilities made the possibility of intervention during conflict possible, and from this point of view, international roles were pursued immediately after the conflict, as in the case of Iraq, Afghanistan and Gaza, and therein lies the problem between the entrances of strengthening recovery or reducing its role, because assisting the regions that still witness manifestations of the conflict would often present the opposite message, which the conflicting parties might push to its control instead of ending it, as long as this involves other situations of violence, and in this way, It will be a means of obtaining benefits and assistance.

2. Priorities for recovery activities: The absence of security throughout history is the main objective that States are striving to secure; based on the vision of their constituents that insecurity is the gateway to crises. Therefore, States have devoted their capacities and capabilities to ensuring security. With the deterioration and development of international crises, including the emergence of the phenomenon of terrorism, the concept of security has grown in scope and nature, which is no longer isolated" from the security of individuals and groups, with which they share other external actors in the framework of mechanisms for achieving collective security. Subsequently, the economic dimension received the main attention in the 1950s, especially after the Second World War, the most prominent plan of which was the Marshall Plan, which was launched for the reconstruction of the European States. This was accompanied by the pivotal role that international organizations, through the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, are playing through measures that would reduce the budget deficit, reduce public spending, liberalize markets, privatize and reduce the role of the State in the economy, among others.

The latter view is that the priority is to achieve the recovery of societies through building the capacity of civil society, human rights organizations and other institutions that disseminate the values and principles of peace. The Government of the Republic of Burundi is committed to establishing a political system to ensure that all parties can participate in the process of building the

capacities of civil society, human rights organizations and other institutions that disseminate peace.

3. Resilience of conflict societies: The environment of conflict varies from one community to another, and the speed of response to recovery actions varies, based on several criteria, including the severity of societal division over conflict issues, as well as the nature of the damage to the societal relationship and, most importantly, the fairness of conflict resolution. The most prominent of these factors are:

A. Justice and balance of peaceful settlements for conflict resolution: The more balanced the settlement of disputes achieves relative justice in responding to the needs of the disputants, while the conclusion of settlements under regional or international pressures, which do not take into account the needs of the parties to the conflict or in the way one of the parties feels lost, may lead to an "imperfect peace" or partial peace, which impedes the initiation of recovery processes in the future, because it may become an entry point for new armed conflicts. Therefore, one of the requirements for recovery is to reduce tension among members of society as belonging to one of the parties to the conflict, thereby freeing them from marginalization and poverty, which would rebuild trust between individuals, groups and the political system.

B. Cultural diversity and the existence of minorities: There is hardly a country without a diversity of its societal components, which, depending on their size and numerical proportions, are divided between majority and minority or, in other cases, minorities. This demographic distribution of the population often suffers from several problems, due to the lack of legal and institutional frameworks, which ensure the integration and balance of the systems of rights and duties. The issue of managing cultural diversity has occupied many fields of study, as it has gone beyond the theoretical dimension of security and recovery, due to the many causes of armed conflicts within one State and often in other states.

C. Weak national institutions and factors of instability, on the one hand, cancelling partisan life and civil society, on the other hand, replace the tribal approach as the antithesis of the institutional approach. Hence, the challenge may be to achieve a balance between civil society and the existence of tribal traditions. Tribal societies, with weak social institutions, play pivotal roles in political life, and in policing operations as a means of protecting themselves and regulating society. This means that the stakes are on the role of the balance that the post-conflict tribes will play the degree of their involvement in the ongoing conflicts in the country, and the effectiveness of recovery or their problems are linked to the multiplicity of armed groups and ideological differences among them.

4. Behavioral and structural change: in the sense of social behaviour that is dominated by a kind of tolerance, trust, or sharp division, the relationship between the citizen and the state, and the presence of political parties, which contribute to changing the relations between party leaders on the one hand, and between them and the citizens on the other, through Creating a common ground

for national dialogue, and this, in turn, is reflected in the issue of developing knowledge and strengthening leadership or not. The absence of political knowledge and how to manage governance by new actors and without experience may lead to dire results, which requires a flexible mechanism to benefit from the experiences of the political class and bureaucracy who have no Suspicions of their crimes or corruption are recorded on them or they contribute to perpetuating the conflict, and thus their reintegration into the state and its institutions, while structural change is concerned with the issue of the survival of the structures of the old political system or not, as well as the structures of local authority and its roles, and the extent of adherence to rules and behavior stipulated in the settlement agreements.

5. The interests of the external parties involved in the recovery: There is no doubt that the recovery measures, which are applied in countries in crisis, may depend in one way or another on aid from countries or institutions and organizations, and despite its importance as an input to enhance the requirements of recovery, but in return, It may generate external influences on the internal decisions of the countries emerging from the conflict, and this is what causes conflicts in the implementation of the series of priorities, because the achievement of some goals may intersect with the donor countries and in a way that represents more importance to them than the interests of the local communities that must be recovered, so the unbalanced relationship is often What is based on hegemony rather than partnership, which affects the process of rebuilding the state and the requirements for recovery in general. As a result, intellectual approaches have emerged that support the idea of rebuilding the state by achieving the requirements of recovery by relying on the outside, explaining the reason for this, as the parties to the conflict lack sufficient qualifications to play this major role, as international actors are more capable than them, not to mention the lack of national reconciliation and weakness. The economic aspect and the supporters of this approach believe that the United Nations is the pioneer in this field, and in contrast to this approach, others see relying on the national actor to achieve the requirements of recovery, because the external actors have failed in many experiments such as Afghanistan and Iraq, not to mention the employment of the liberal model in The process of building recovery, after the international developments and the changes that carried them provided a deep rise for the liberal model, in contrast, the collapse and fall of other ideological models, which provided the Western countries with the opportunity to rehabilitate and recover these countries, based on the model of the victorious pattern, which may contradict an important principle One of the principles of recovery is by giving great importance to local priorities and needs. This agreement may also contradict the principle of local ownership, which is not necessarily in line with these propositions. No doubt betting on this model as an alternative pattern may hinder or raise some problems in the recovery process. Democracy It may necessarily be an important and successful pattern, but its development and consolidation require taking into account the specificity of societies and the appropriateness of the social body gradually because the pattern of imported

democracies could not build successful states or embody them through the level of awareness of democracy and understanding of its foundations, such as Iraq at present, which is faltering between the process of transformation towards democracy and the dangers of regression for nearly a decade.

We conclude from the foregoing, that recovery and its requirements represent the development of long-term programs based on a series of priorities that are the needs of post-conflict societies, and the goal of recovery is to improve the lives of members of society, through a complex process that begins with urgent recovery measures, up to sustainable measures at different levels. All, but the speed of response to these requirements depends on several factors, including those related to the timing of recovery and addressing problems sequentially, not to mention the flexibility of society and the unity of ethnic divisions, and the degree of benefiting from external factors, as well as the connection of the recovery process to several procedures that precede it, which interfere with the concepts of recovery and effect on its effectiveness, such as the type of conflict resolution or some of the concepts close to or related to it, such as building and keeping or imposing peace.

Conclusion

Recovery and its requirements represent the development of long-term programs based on a series of priorities aimed at improving the lives of members of society, through a complex process that begins with urgent recovery measures, leading to sustainable measures, but the speed of response to those requirements depends on several factors, including those related to the timing of recovery. Addressing problems sequentially, not to mention the extent of society's flexibility, the unity of ethnic divisions, and the degree of benefit from external actors. The recovery process is not only determined by restoring the existence of the state, but rather it is a complex and comprehensive process, to achieve political and security goals that extend to strengthening social construction and deepening coexistence. To enhance social cohesion, therefore, they are immediate goals and others are sustainable because they are flexible goals that require re-managing the wheel of life and its continuity, as well as strengthening societies to face crises, through procedures that are characterized by adaptation and modification according to developments and changes on the ground.

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