

## **COMBINED INTERVENTION STRATEGY AND COURSE OF THE CONFLICT: THE CASE OF NORWAY-LED MULTILATERAL INTERVENTION IN SRI LANKA**

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### **Abstract**

*The understanding held by the empirical literature on the subject of intervention strategy and conflict outcome that combined intervention consisting of military, economic and diplomatic forms tends to be relatively an effective strategy in shortening the expected duration of a conflict provided that it was framed at managing conflict and executed under specific sequence. Accordingly, combined intervention along with the sequence of strategies under which diplomacy (mediation) preceded two other forms of economic and military has a high probability to decrease the expected duration of a conflict. Further, it suggests that diplomacy and mediation are a critical component in determining the effect of outside interventions and they are effective tools of conflict management. And also, it suggests that the performance of economic intervention is conditioned by their combination with diplomacy and the sequence under which they are carried out. The fifth peace process in Sri Lanka is an excellent case which exhibits the pattern and characteristics identical to the specification of the evaluation of the past studies (Regan and Aydin, 2004). Past studies on the Fifth peace process of Sri Lanka demonstrate that there existed a combined or multilateral intervention as it may be called otherwise in Sri Lankan context composed of diplomatic, economic and military forms of strategies with the sequence in which Norway's mediatory roles and functioning, preceded two other supplementary components of military and economic interventions by the US, EU and Japan respectively in fairly reasonable time period (by five years) ((Samaranayake, 2006: Uyangoda, 2005b)). However, the past studies suggest a mix of far-reaching effects resulted from the intervention throughout the three year period of time beginning from 2002 to 2005 ranging from protracted cessation of hostilities and the resultant peace process to escalation of violence (Athas, 2006: Venkataramanan, 2006: Uyangoda, 2005a: Noyahr, 2006: Suryanarayan, 2006: Saravanamuthu, 2006). This dichotomous nature of outcome of the combined intervention that runs contrast to the empirical findings demands for systematic analysis and account for the potential effects of the combined intervention on the course of conflict within the Sri Lankan context.*

### **METHODOLOGY**

*An analytical framework based on the interpretative model adopted by Regan and Aydin (2004) to present the findings of their study was replicated for uncovering and accounting for the potential effects of Norway-led multilateral intervention in Sri*

*Lanka. Accordingly, diplomatic interventions are an effective conflict management strategy that dramatically changes the course of the civil war, and the right sequence of intervention efforts is vitally important for war termination and settlement. In doing so, data derived mainly from archival materials employing process tracing techniques were used.*

## **RESULTS**

*The results show that Norway facilitated peace process had brought about significant positive changes (some of them constitute as historical compromise and turning points). Nonetheless, most of the positive effects turned to intractable and controversial issues in the very next year (2003) when there was an active economic and coercive (military) interventions.*

## **CONCLUSION**

*It can therefore be inferred that the overall outcome of combined strategy is not being determined by the particular sequence of strategies (as an intervention variable) alone but the manner in which it is being executed and administered on the ground too.*

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