

# (Peace-)Building Economic Insecurity? Administration Reform and Local Resistance Strategies in Croatia

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## **Abstract**

This paper takes a closer look at the interplay of international and domestic actors in peacebuilding, especially at local resistance towards efforts of peacebuilders to push democratic reforms. Even though peacebuilding missions usually start with an ambitious program to establish democratic institutions in a post-conflict states, postwar countries are oscillating between the ideal types of autocracy and democracy and find themselves in a situation of fragile statehood. Just recently, some authors started to point to various forms of local resistance against externally induced democracy in the aftermath of war (Richmond 2010; Richmond 2011). However, the local strategies of resistance and the motives behind it are largely neglected. In this study, the goal is to identify domestic strategies of resistance against peacebuilding – more concretely, specific (so-called) democratic reform initiatives by peacebuilder, and to shed light on the domestic interpretations of resistance which, as we will show, sharply differ from the interpretation given by external actors. This is done by taking the process of public administration reform in Croatia as case in point. Expert interviews with domestic and external actors in Croatia are used to carve out strategies of external and domestic actors to interact with each other, and to investigate their framing of domestic resistance.

Richmond, Oliver 2011: *Becoming Liberal, Unbecoming Liberalism. The Everyday, Empathy, and Post-Liberal Peacebuilding*, in: Tadjbaksh, S (Hrsg.): *Alternatives to the Liberal Peace*, New York