

Author Samuel Lavoie

Thesis Diplomacy and Diplomatic Institutions of Unrecognized *De Facto* States Somaliland, Transnistria and Artsakh (2020)

Abstract

As a topic, international recognition has been increasingly studied over the past twenty years, particularly since Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence from Serbia in 2008. This thesis attempts to advance our understanding of the underlying causes of the inability to gain political recognition by examining several factors that have been omitted from the academic literature. Specifically, it examines several key aspects of the diplomatic institutions, personnel, and approaches of three unrecognized de facto states that meet most of the criteria for statehood under international law, but have so far received no recognition recognized states. These entities are Somaliland, Transnistria, and Artsakh.

This paper also draws on partially recognized states and finds that geopolitical and ideological factors generally prevail over diplomatic ones as the main drivers of political recognition. This is especially true when an entity is located in an area of fierce rivalry for influence, such as the PMR and the Republic of Artsakh. However, while remaining a secondary factor, diplomacy becomes more important for international recognition when the interests of global and regional powers are less at stake.

Keywords

Unrecognized *De Facto* States, International Recognition, Diplomatic Institutions, Republic of Somaliland, Transnistria (Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic; PMR), Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh Republic; NKR), Partially Recognized States.