

Abstract

Over the past decades, peace missions of the United Nations on the African continent succeed and failed. This thesis attempts to ascertain how success or failure can be explained. For assessment, the success criteria are derived from the academic literature and subsequently implemented into the hypotheses. Relevant indicators concerning peacekeeping success are used in African cases. The effectiveness of UN missions is fully investigated on UNOCI in Côte d'Ivoire, MONUC in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and UNMIL in Liberia. Then the results were compared in tested hypotheses. The findings show that host country's consent and willingness to cooperate, alongside the active engagement of major power, a clear, appropriate and achievable mandate, and the consistency of the UN's commitment to conflict resolution proved to be the most important factors for the peacekeeping effectiveness. The diplomacy and attention, given to underlying causes of conflicts, also contributed to the successful outcomes. The ethnic component and participating regional organisations, in contrast, overcomplicated the peace efforts but did not have a direct impact on missions' effectiveness. The effect of the missions' duration was found to be irrelevant, while ties to success with criteria of national ownership and enforcement capabilities seemed hard to determine.

Keywords:

peacekeeping; peace operations; United Nations; Security Council; UNOCI; MONUC; UNMIL