

SUMMARY

This thesis deals with the topic of Early Warning Systems (EWS), a key part of conflict prevention. It applies a model of content analysis of international media outputs on the case of the Mali insurgency in January 2012. As an EWS tool, it analyzes international media represented by major global press agencies. The main goal of the thesis is to answer the following research question: *Are international media a suitable tool for EWS by showing that their analysis could have predicted the outbreak of the conflict in Mali in January 2012?* The answer should also show whether international media can detect growing tensions leading to a conflict as well as test the plausibility of the EWS model. The application of the model should, observing the period from August 2011 to the beginning of the insurgency on January 17, 2012, prove whether the conflict could have been anticipated. In order to contextualize the model, structural factors of instability were identified in the discussion of the dynamics of the conflict that has been repeating itself for dozens of years. A discourse analysis of international media during the observed period was also presented on the background of the securitization theory of the Copenhagen school of security studies. The discourse analysis and the quantitative EWS model have both shown that international media have not been able to predict the conflict in Mali, thus answering the research question negatively. This predictive failure of EWS could serve as a critical contribution to the discussion over effectiveness of the EWS, which is still in its beginnings.

Key words: Early Warning Systems, Mali, conflict prediction, content analysis