

From Volume #11

Post-Conflict

Reconstruction

Glossary

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01. Actually Existing Neoliberalism

The effects that **neoliberal**¹⁸ policies produce, such as intensified inequality, increased social insecurity, and destructive competition, which are at odds with **neoliberal**¹⁸ ideology; foregrounds the manner in which **neoliberal**¹⁸ ideology systematically misrepresents itself; marks many of the dynamics of the **World Bank city**²⁹.

Reference: Neil Brenner and Nik Theodore, 'Cities and the Geographies of 'Actually Existing Neoliberalism',' **Antipode** 34:3 (July 2002).

02. Accumulation By Dispossession

The compulsory removal of free or public services, causing people to become more dependent on private businesses for their everyday needs; usually an effect of **privatization**²³ schemes enacted as components of post-conflict **structural adjustment**²⁷.

Reference: David Harvey, **A Brief History of Neoliberalism** (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005).

03. Afterwar

The period following the formal conclusion of war during which political violence is refracted into **structural violence**²⁸ and **everyday violence**⁰⁹, a process often exacerbated by the practices of **post-conflict reconstruction**²⁷. See **redestruction**²⁵.

04. Briberization

The **privatization**²³ of public assets by corrupt government officials, who solicit bribes in order to sell assets to designated buyers; encouraged by the short-term perspective of the **relief and reconstruction complex**²⁶. Compare with **Privatization**²³.

Reference: Joseph Stiglitz, **Globalization and its Discontents** (New York: Penguin, 2002).

05. Conditionality

Requirement that must be accepted by loan applicants as a condition for receiving loans; in post-conflict lending, **IFIs**¹³ typically include conditionalities that require borrower nations to enact neoliberal **structural adjustments**²⁷ to their economies; borrower nations generally accept conditionalities because it is the only way they are eligible to receive loans.

06. Decentralization

Process by which **IFIs**¹³ take control of governance from weak post-conflict governments through the granting of aid and the management of the **relief and reconstruction complex**²⁶; based on **neoliberal**¹⁸ principles of minimal government and market-driven social welfare.

07. Disaster Capitalism

A form of capitalism that utilizes disasters as profit-making opportunities; typically pursued by the **relief and reconstruction complex**²⁶ for putatively humanitarian ends.

Reference: Naomi Klein, 'The Rise of Disaster Capitalism,' **The Nation** (2 May 2005).

08. Drive-By Nation Building

The intersection of **post-conflict reconstruction**²⁰ with **disaster capitalism**⁰⁷; conceives of reconstruction in terms of interests of donors as opposed to local communities, which are encouraged to quickly take responsibility for their own development; can produce **Quickfixvilles**²⁴. Compare with **nation building**¹⁶.

Reference: Ben Moxham: 'The World Bank's Land of Kiosk: Community Driven Development in East Timor,' http://www.cadtm.org/article.php3?id_article=543.

09. Everyday Violence

The expression of **structural violence**²⁸ in daily life as interpersonal violence, domestic violence and crime; mainly inflicted by the socially vulnerable on their families, neighbors and themselves; can be exacerbated by **structural adjustment**²⁷ and **poverty reduction**²² programs.

10. False progress

The use of data to suggest that positive development is taking place when this data actually discloses lack of progress; often invoked by the **relief and reconstruction complex**²⁶ to justify **disaster capitalism**⁰⁷.

11. Fiscal Austerity

The goal of policies designed to cut governmental budgets and reduce government spending; encouraged by **IFIs**¹³ in **post-conflict reconstruction**²²; usually leads to governmental disavowals of responsibility for social welfare, cuts in public services and **accumulation by dispossession**⁰².

12. Good Governance

Important **conditionality**⁰⁵ of post-conflict loans from IFIs; based on the formulation of governance as support for free market development and the protection of individual rights; a cover term for neoliberal **structural adjustment**²⁷.

13. International Financial Institutions (IFIs)

The principal global institutions governing and managing international trade and development, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization and regional banks; since the 1970s responsible for expanding and entrenching **neoliberalism**¹⁸ in the developing world by including **structural adjustments**²⁷ as **conditionalities**⁰⁵ for loans and grants.

Reference: Joseph Stiglitz, **Globalization and its Discontents** (New York: Penguin, 2002).

14. Kosovarize

Process by which international staff of United Nations Mission in Kosovo have been replaced by local staff from Kosovo; understood to enhance **participation**¹⁹ in governance by local communities; a mark of the end of internationally-sponsored **nation building**¹⁹.

15. Militant Humanitarianism

Assistance and relief based not on needs, as in traditional humanitarianism, but on putative rights; can legitimate war or political violence and produce the need for **post-conflict reconstruction**²⁰.

16. Nation Building

A goal of post-conflict reconstruction, typically defined in terms of neoliberal economic transformations and the political needs of donor countries; often under-resourced as a result of superficial understanding of reconstruction. Compare with **drive-by nation building**⁰⁸.

17. Neocolonialism

A relationship in which the control of a seemingly sovereign nation is held outside the nation by another national or transnational actor, such as an IFI; often the result of **decentralization**⁰⁶ implemented in **post-conflict reconstruction**²⁰ through enforced **structural adjustments**²⁷ in economies of borrower nations.

18. Neoliberalism

Ideology holding that open, competitive and unregulated markets are the optimal instrument of economic and social development; typically manifested through programs to integrate domestic markets into global markets, enhance free flow of capital, privatize public services and utilities, deregulate market activities, and orient government towards the protection of the 'free market'; drives dominant forms of **post-conflict reconstruction**²⁰; typically leads to the infliction of **structural violence**²⁸ on populations of post-conflict nations.

19. Participation

Involvement of local communities in internationally-financed reconstruction projects; regarded by IFIs¹³ as a means to 'empower' communities; because participation is often equivalent to choosing among a menu of free market-friendly infrastructure projects, it is frequently depoliticized and bureaucratized, if not a misnomer for the process it designates.

20. Post-Conflict Reconstruction

The utilization of the vulnerability and weakness of a post-conflict state to implement the **structural adjustment**²⁷ of its economy; the focus of a proliferating array of new financial products showcased by the World Bank and other IFIs¹³; a vehicle for enmeshing the interests of IFIs¹³ with powerful national and international actors, particularly the United States.

Reference: Shalmali Guttal, 'Reconstruction: An Emerging Paradigm,' <http://www.focusweb.org/reconstruction-an-emerging-paradigm-8.html>

21. Poverty

A cause of violence, according to **neoliberalism**¹⁸; in actuality a form of violence often produced by **neoliberalism**¹⁸ itself through socially-constructed inequities and unequal distribution of entitlements and resources. See **structural violence**²⁸.

22. Poverty Reduction

Cover term for **structural adjustment**²⁷, frequently used by IFIs¹³ to describe the aims of their programs.

23. Privatization

Process by which public assets are sold to corporations and individuals; a key instrument of **structural adjustment**²⁷ and one of main policies of **neoliberalism**¹⁸; often provides one-time windfall profits to governments but at the cost of prompting **accumulation by dispossession**⁰³. Compare with **briberization**⁰⁴.

24. Quickfixville

Term for United Nations-led reconstruction of East Timor from 1999 to 2002; result of narrow focusing of **post-conflict reconstruction**²⁰ on security and governance issues and concomitant neglect of sustainable social development. See **drive-by nation-building**⁰⁸.

25. Redestruction

The perpetuation of war-time destruction during post-war reconstruction through **neoliberal**¹⁸ development schemes; represents the transformation of the physical violence of war into the **structural violence**²⁸ of **neoliberal**¹⁸ political economy.

Reference: Andrew Herscher, 'World Bank Cities,' **Volume**, this issue.

26. Relief and Reconstruction Complex

Intertwining of disaster relief and **post-conflict reconstruction**²⁰; led by national, transnational and international actors including IFIs¹³, United States political and military institutions, corporate contractors and humanitarian and development NGOs; activities legitimized by appeals to **neoliberalism**¹⁸, security and humanitarianism. See **disaster capitalism**⁰⁷.

Reference: Walden Bello, 'The Rise of the Relief and Reconstruction Complex,' **Journal of International Affairs** 59:2 (Spring/Summer 2006).

27. Structural Adjustment

The process by which international financial institutions enforce **neoliberal**¹⁸ transformations of state economies such as **privatization**²³ and market liberalization through loan **conditionalities**⁰⁵; often results in **structural violence**²⁸.

28. Structural Violence

Systemic and collective human suffering produced through economic and political structures; often exacerbated in **post-conflict reconstruction**²⁰ through **structural adjustments**²⁷ of national economies.

29. World Bank City

A mutated version of the world city that has emerged in post-conflict contexts; produced by the enmeshment of an urban economy in globalizing forces by the post-conflict policies and protocols of IFIs¹³ like the World Bank. Reference: Andrew Herscher, 'World Bank Cities,' **Volume**, this issue.