
The Fletcher Journal of Human Security



Where Theory Meets Practice

The Fletcher School, Tufts University

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Human Security and New Approaches to International Development

CHINA IN AFRICA: WHAT THE POLICY OF NONINTERVENTION ADDS TO
THE WESTERN DEVELOPMENT DILEMMA

Madison Condon

MAXIMIZING ACHIEVEMENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENT:
ARGUMENTS FOR A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO LAND TENURE REFORM

Rebecca Tapscott

THE ROLE OF CROWDSOURCING FOR BETTER GOVERNANCE IN
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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A LINE COOK IN HARGEISA

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Contact Information:

PRAXIS: The Fletcher Journal of Human Security

The Fletcher School

160 Packard Avenue

Medford, MA 02155, USA

Email: fletcherpraxis@tufts.edu

Web: fletcher.tufts.edu/praxis

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Preface

P*RAXIS: The Fletcher Journal of Human Security* uses an interdisciplinary lens to provide critical analysis of pressing global issues. Human security encompasses the varied yet deeply tied fields of human rights, humanitarian assistance, international development, and conflict resolution, and it encourages both practitioners and theoreticians to consider the linkages between each. *PRAXIS* is first and foremost a journal rooted in academic discourse, but it keeps one ear firmly to the ground to examine how particular laws, policies, and practices impact individuals at a local level. In this twenty-seventh edition of *PRAXIS*, we focus on new approaches to international development, providing a timely compilation of articles that review the implications of these new trends on individuals and provide prescriptions for the way forward.

In our first article, Madison Condon examines the role of China in Africa's development and discusses how its policy of nonintervention contrasts with a typical Western approach to relief and development. The consequences of China's status as a 'rogue donor,' are most clearly felt in the human rights realm, where no-strings-attached financing buoys autocratic governments engaged in corruption and human rights abuses. Yet, the West's conditional approaches to development that demand political reforms have largely been development failures. Condon argues that Africans themselves must dictate the terms of their development, and that the West must reflect on why the Chinese model is gaining traction throughout the continent.

Our second article effectively blends human rights and development to produce an argument for rights-based land tenure reform. Author Rebecca Tapscott finds that a rights-based approach to land management produces greater dividends than traditional development in terms of poverty reduction, women's empowerment, sustainable development, and household food security. Rights-based development is growing in popularity among many development agencies, but it has yet to be fully adopted as an approach to land tenure. Tapscott examines the Forest User Groups in Nepal as a case study in communal land management and concludes that development agencies must be attentive to human rights issues despite their more political nature.

Finally, in our last article, authors Maja Bott and Gregor Young examine crowdsourcing technology as a new approach to governance in international development. Through their theoretical lens, the authors find that crowdsourcing is inherently democratic and has the power to change the reality of civic participation in developing countries. The article summarizes critical success factors of crowdsourcing systems and illustrates how such systems can improve aid transparency and social accountability. The case studies of Haiti, Sudan, Nepal, and Kenya illustrate how crowdsourcing works in practice and the potential it holds as a tool for individuals seeking to engage

in their own development.

Our Views from the Field section provides the space for practitioners and academics to reflect on their experiences abroad, ultimately contributing to a better understanding of human security on the ground. In this edition, Sam Chapple-Sokol regales us with his experience as a line cook in Hargeisa, Somaliland. This small window into life in one of the most ignored parts of the world is both informative and eye opening. Our second View from the Field comes from Claire Duffett, who worked as a journalist during the beginning of the Syrian uprising. In a country where the media is repressed and where an in-depth understanding of the Syrian situation rarely crosses the borders, Duffett delivers a hard-hitting examination of the realities of present day Syria.

We thank Peter Uvin, Academic Dean of The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and the Director of the Fletcher Institute for Human Security, for his guidance and support. We are also extremely grateful to our authors who provided superb and highly relevant contributions to the 2012 edition of *PRAXIS*. Finally, we extend our deepest gratitude to our editorial and support staff, without whom this journal could not have been possible.

Beth Tuckey Hatfield

Editor-in-Chief

Casey Hogle

Editor-in-Chief