



CONFLICT
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The **World Peace Foundation**, an operating foundation affiliated solely with the Fletcher School at Tufts University, aims to provide intellectual leadership on issues of peace, justice and security. We believe that innovative research and teaching are critical to the challenges of making peace around the world, and should go hand-in-hand with advocacy and practical engagement with the toughest issues. To respond to organized violence today, we not only need new instruments and tools—we need a new vision of peace. Our challenge is to reinvent peace.

The **Conflict Research Programme** at the London School of Economics (LSE) aims to understand why contemporary violence is so difficult to end and to analyze the underlying political economy of violence with a view to informing policy. The research sites include Iraq, Syria, Somalia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

THE POLITICS AND PROFIT OF A CRISIS: A POLITICAL MARKETPLACE ANALYSIS OF THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN NORTHEAST NIGERIA

By Jared Miller

Abstract

A manmade humanitarian crisis is a tragedy, but for some, it is also a lucrative opportunity. As the crisis deepens prompting massive security and humanitarian spending, along with the increasing cost of rebuilding, for certain individuals, the ensuing crisis economy becomes more lucrative than the peacetime economy. While some benefit, millions suffer. The crisis in northeast Nigeria epitomizes this dynamic. In 2015, President Buhari declared a ‘technical victory’ over Boko Haram, yet six years later, the insurgency raged on and the humanitarian crisis reached new heights leaving as many as 5.1 million facing critical food insecurity. Using the political marketplace framework, this paper analyses the politics behind the crisis and how competitive, rent-seeking politics caused and have perpetuated the manmade crisis in the northeast. I argue that efforts to end the crisis have been undermined by those who benefit from a continued crisis economy funded by security, humanitarian, and development rents. This paper describes the evolution and competition of these interests, along with the interplay between the humanitarian response and political marketplace dynamics.

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