Record Nr. UNINA9910784281403321 Healing the wounds: essays on the reconstruction of societies after war Titolo // edited by Marie-Claire Foblets and Trutz von Trotha Pubbl/distr/stampa Oxford;; Portland, Oregon:,: Hart Publishing,, 2004 **ISBN** 1-84113-469-4 1-4725-6313-1 1-280-80103-4 9786610801039 1-84731-216-0 Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (300 p.) Onati international series in law and society Collana Disciplina 327.17 Low-intensity conflicts (Military science) Soggetti Peace-building Reconciliation (Law) Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Description based upon print version of record. Note generali Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references. Nota di contenuto 1. In Search of Peace. History, Basic Narrative, the Future of War, and the Rise of the Local. An Introduction with a Short Overview of the Contributions / Trutz von Trotha -- Part I On the Theory of the Reconstruction of Peace after War and Violent Conflict; 2. Comments on the Construction of Political Order: Social Contract Theories and Anthropological Observation / Gordon R Woodman: 3. Concepts of Violence and Peace in African Languages / Wilhelm, JG Mohlig and Rudiger Koppe; 4. The 'Peacemakers' Dilemma': The Role of NGOs in Processes of Peace-Building in Decentralised Conflicts / Dieter Neubert -- Part II Power, Structures, Processes, and History in the Reconstruction of Peace I: African Experiences; 5. Peace and Aid: The 'Programme Mali-Nord' and the Search for Peace in Northern Mali / Henner Papendieck and Barbara Rocksloh-Papendieck; 6. Roads to Peace: From Small War to Parasovereign Peace in the North of Mali / Georg Klute and Trutz von Trotha; 7. Legislation and Decentralisation in Uganda: From Resistance

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Sommario/riassunto

"In recent decades the world has experienced the rise of so-called 'low intensity conflicts'. Unlike conventional wars these very bloody armed conflicts are no longer the affair of state governments and their armies. In their place appear police-like armed units, security services and secret services, groups and organizations of religious, political and social fanatics ready to resort to violence, 'militias', bands of mercenaries, or just gangs of thugs, led by the condottiere of the 21st century, consisting of militant charismatics, militia 'generals', 'drug barons' and 'warlords' of various kinds. They conduct wars in which the soldiers no longer wear uniforms and there is no meeting of armies in open battle. The armed organizations fight in urban agglomerations and in difficult, inaccessible regions. The combatants fight for religion and quasi-religious ideologies, for the 'rights of the people' or 'national liberation', for power, gain, and booty, and above all for recognition. For the practice of peace, this kind of war has far-reaching consequences. In this book the authors examine various paths to peace and reconciliation in low intensity conflicts. They look at processes of peace making from South Africa and the North of Mali to Indonesia and South East Asia. Common to most studies is that they stress the particular local contexts of peace making tied to the highly localized nature of most low intensity conflicts. The logic of peace has become a logic of local and regional power. The articles shed new light not only on ways and chances of interventions by the international community but also on the role of nongovernmental organisations in violent conflicts."--Bloomsbury Publishing.