



AFRICA CENTER
FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

United Nations Peacekeeping Operations in Africa



Source: Associated Press

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Impact through Insight

Key Questions

- I. What is the status of U.N. peacekeeping in Africa?
- II. What challenges do peacekeeping missions face?
- III. What aspects of U.N. peacekeeping are successful?
- IV. How can United Nations and African Union Peacekeeping work more effectively together?

I. Status: What Peacekeeping Operations Are

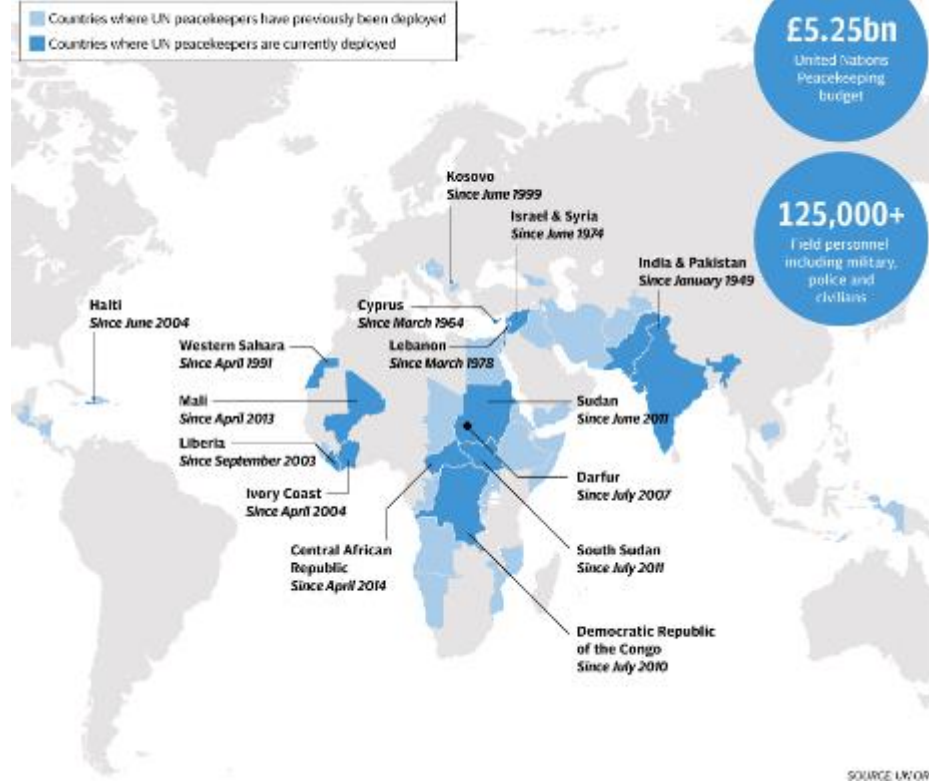
Peacekeeping can be defined as:

“the expeditionary use of uniformed police or military personnel to **prevent the resumption of armed conflict** by observing assisting or enforcing ceasefires or peace agreements.”

- Paul D. Williams (2013)

I. Status: UN PKOs in Africa

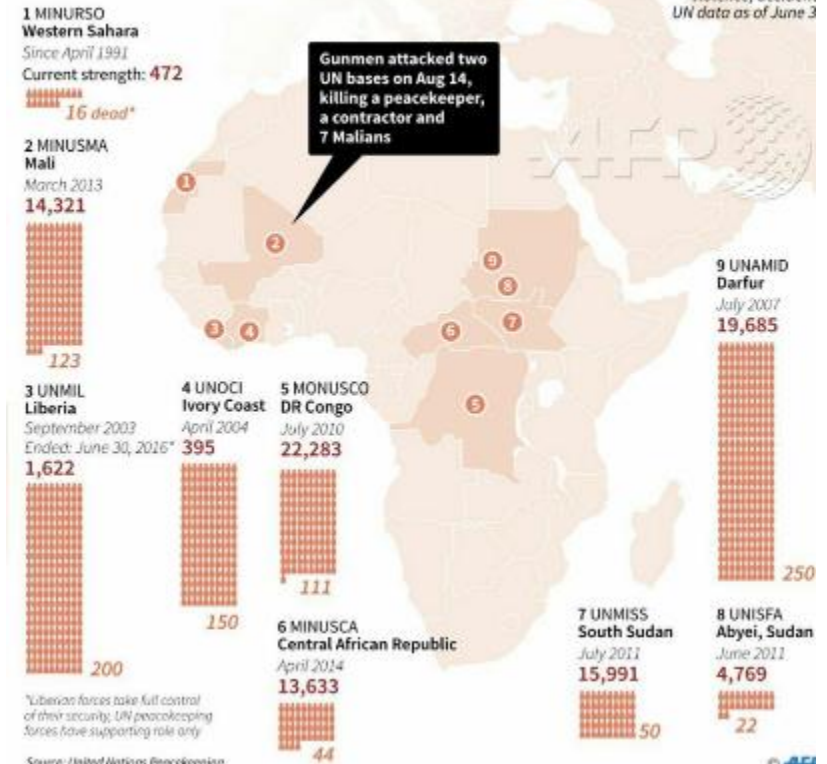
Where UN peacekeepers have been deployed



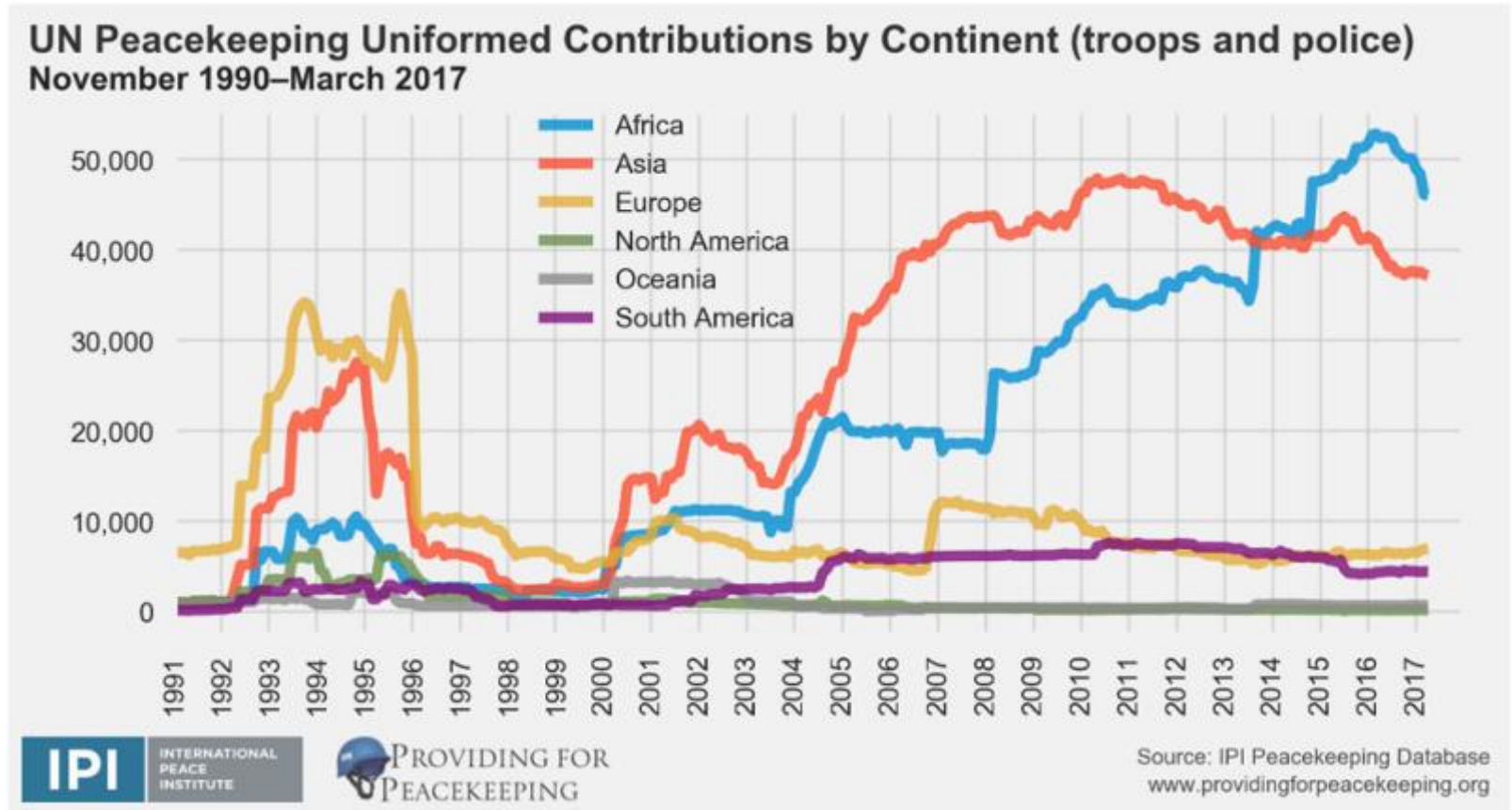
UN peacekeeping operations in Africa

Current operations

Including: soldiers, policemen, observers, volunteers, civilian personnel



I. Status: UN PKOs in Africa



II. Challenges: Readiness



II. Challenges: Legitimacy



JANUARY 2018

COUNTRY SUMMARY

Central African Republic

Attacks on Civilians

Human Rights Watch documented the killings of at least 249 civilians between May and September by various armed groups, as violence surged in many parts of the country, most



II. Challenges: Failure to Align Ends / Means

Example: Early stages of U.N Intervention in Sierra Leone -
RUF rebels seize capital (1999)



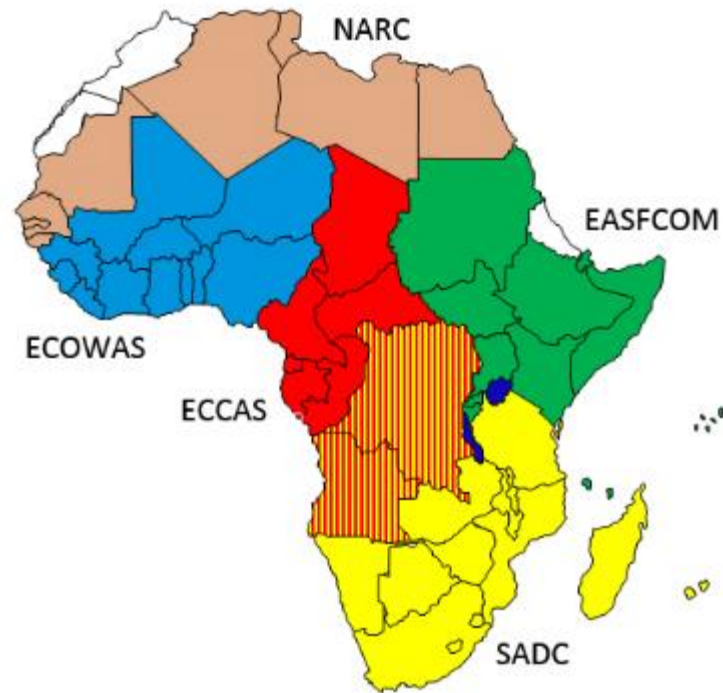
Source: Sierra Leone Telegraph

II. Challenges: External Coordination

Example: The African Standby Force



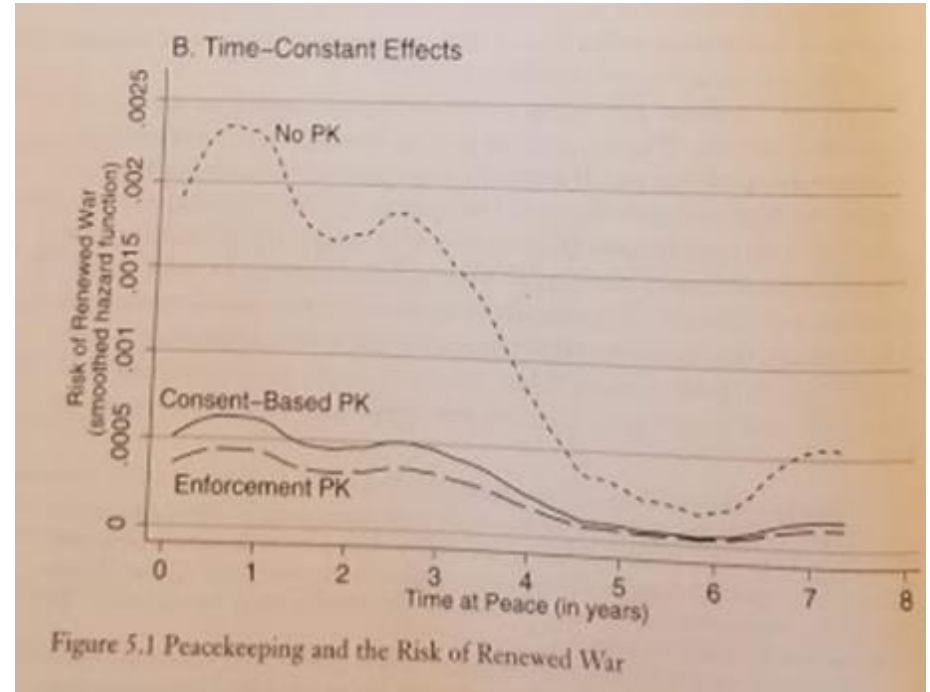
Source: African Union



III. Successful Aspects of Peacekeeping

Peacekeeping is associated with:

- Fewer civilian casualties
- Fewer battlefield deaths
- Reduced conflict spread
- Lower risk of conflict recurrence



- Virginia Page Fortna (2008)

III. Successful Aspects of Peacekeeping: Persuasion



Source: AFP/Getty Images

III. Successful Aspects of Peacekeeping: Objective Alignment

Example: Later stages of U.N Intervention in Sierra Leone
(2002-2005)



Source: UNAMASIL

III. Successful Aspects of Peacekeeping: Costs



Saving Money, Saving Lives

IV. Recommendations for Working More Effectively

- 1) More reliable funding, stronger incentives for regional cooperation
- 2) More specialized capabilities
- 3) More female peacekeepers and civilians
- 4) More training emphasis on respecting the law of armed conflict
- 5) More selective, strategic engagement

IV. Recommendations for Working More Effectively

UN believes peacekeeping efforts unlikely to succeed without four following conditions in place:

- A ceasefire or peace agreement
- Regional actors aligned behind agreement
- Security Council aligned behind agreement
- Clear and achievable mandate with resources to match



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