

Potential to Adopt Customary Laws to Peacebuilding in Societies Across International Borders.

Masanobu HORIE

Abstract

After the Cold War, domestic conflicts have increased. To resolve such conflicts, liberal peacebuilding based on values such as human rights and democracy was considered necessary. However, this approach has failed in many places as it did not consider local customs and cultural aspects. And then, hybrid peacebuilding, which includes local customs into peacebuilding, was promoted.

However, there are problems with hybrid peacebuilding as well. One of them is that peacebuilding sometimes makes divisions clearer as the boundaries of nations states are often not the same as the boundaries of traditions and customs. Another problem is the differences in international assistance. As peacebuilding includes comprehensive assistance programs, the development gap between a side that receives international assistance and a side that does not will be widened and such gap may lead to future unrest. To prevent future unrest from happening, it seems that the relationship among people living near the borders should be considered in hybrid peacebuilding.

Therefore, this research examines what kind of impacts peacebuilding has on people living near the new border, especially on their customs near the border between Timor-Leste, which achieved independence in 2002 and West Timor, Indonesia as a case study location. The author also tries to analyze the potential to adopt local customs to hybrid peacebuilding across international borders.