

Strategic Foreign Assistance: Civil Society in International Security

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The emergence of significant numbers of violent non-state actors has created a new reality in national and international security. To respond to this new reality, the authors recommend that governments and peoples come together to encourage economic, political, legal, and social development within weak societies in which terrorists take refuge and to assist deadlocked governments to overcome the explosive legacies of religious and ethnic conflict. In *Strategic Foreign Assistance* the authors show that, to do this, the United States must develop a strategic international cooperation and assistance policy that fosters strong civil societies.

The book details the key role that civil society organizations (CSOs) could play in mitigating the conditions that promote terrorists and terrorism. The authors reveal how CSOs can help nations overcome internal conflicts by attacking the roots of violence and empowering people directly affected by the conflict to develop culturally appropriate strategies to pacify violent regions. They explain the value of informal society-based, non-state initiatives in engaging a country's citizens in the efforts for peace. And they show how CSOs can help accomplish strategic objectives for promoting social development and changing state policies in such critical areas as economic and educational policy reform, empowerment of women, property rights for the poor, and other vital areas.

Strategic Foreign Assistance: Civil Society can be obtained from the Hoover Institution Press or at a discount from Amazon.com.