State building in post-conflict zones: lessons from Palestine and Kosovo

Author(s):

Ibrahim S.I. Rabaia, (Faculty of Economics and Administration, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)
Yeoh Kok Kheng, (Department of Administrative Studies and Politics, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)
Makmor Bin Tumin, (Department of Administrative Studies and Politics, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)

Abstract:

Purpose

This paper aims to explore the state-building attempts in post conflict zones. The neololiberal economic system has dominated the key international organizations such that the latter have designed their approaches for state building based on it. The framework of these approaches focuses on minimal state interventions in the economy and free markets by being as a "one size fits all". However, several prominent financial institutions such as the United Nations, World Bank and International Monetary Fund that have implemented some of these approaches in various regions resulted in limited success.

Design/methodology/approach

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This paper is comparing two cases of state building before statehood and sovereignty, and this comparison comes in socioeconomic practices of international players and local governments.

Findings

This model has been carried out in Palestine and Kosovo but failed in meeting the expected demands of independence and prosperity. Instead, it resulted in more failures in the markets and caused a decline in the macro and micro economic indicators.

Originality/value

The key reasons for such failures, specifically in Palestine and Kosovo, are believed to be related to the top-down approach of policy-making, the lack of independence and sovereignty and the absence of popular and local participation in policies and plans. In such context, this approach has to be further revised to create a more inclusive participatory and representative model.

Keywords: Neoliberalism, Palestine, Development, Conflict, Kosovo, State building

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