Senior Thesis Proposal: Departmental Honors

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Background: Peace studies is an area of academic study that became prominent in the second half of the twentieth century. Due to the stalemate in the Security Council, the United Nations expanded peacebuilding policies in an effort to achieve some means of change in a body where change could not be affected. Since this time the field of peace studies has expanded dramatically, including everything from conflict prevention to micro-level peacebuilding efforts. Because of this complexity, it is difficult to know when and how to address a conflict and to build peace. This paper attempts to construct a comprehensive mapping using the examples of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo in Eastern Europe, both of which were significant modern conflicts that required macro-level conflict resolution and intervention from the United Nations and various states and organizations, as well as a myriad of micro-level peacebuilding operations through various NGOs and organizations after the conflict was officially “resolved.”

Methods: The use and analysis of existing frameworks for peace and a comprehensive study of macro and micro approaches in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo, in addition to a full understanding of the history of these conflicts, will be used for this mapping. Existing frameworks for peace include, but are not limited to: Diehl and Druckman, Lederach, Zeliger, Sandole, and Jeong. Other resources will be used and include, but are not limited to: Freire, Dalsheim, Riskin, and Cousens.

Hypothesis: As the need for and effectiveness of macro-approaches to peacebuilding and conflict resolution decrease, the need for and effectiveness of micro-approaches to peacebuilding and conflict resolution will increase.

Application: Results of this analysis can be applied to similar conflicts and potentially be used as a general mapping strategy for multiple conflicts. Hopefully, results will allow for mapping to extend beyond the Eastern-European conflicts of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo. This study will add to the field an analysis of entire conflicts in context.