**Assignment Brief**

*Global peace-making*

Few things seem as universal or enduring as conflict. The means and circumstances might change, but war – between and within states – remains a constant feature of human social organisation. There are quite usually domestic reasons why conflicts may escalate, and deep-seated reasons different parties’ grievances may find struggle to reach agreements. Very often, other countries have a vested interest in supporting different sides in such conflicts, as is the case in the civil war in Syria. In the face of these complex circumstances, how can the ‘international community’ help to bring about a cessation of conflict. In countries such as Afghanistan, Libya and Sudan, which have experienced ongoing and enduring conflict in recent years, researchers have argued that imposing western democratic models will struggle unless they connect with long-standing models of justice and law-making in these countries and take account sufficiently of the ethnic character of these territories. Is it possible these two models might deliver long-lasting peace to troubled places?

**Contacts**

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