Anti-Corruption Provisions Are Key
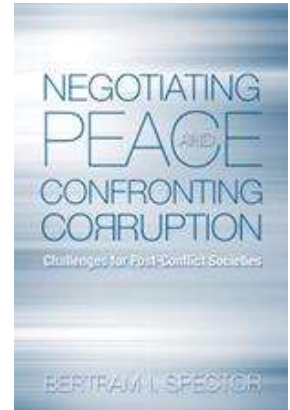**for Making Peace Agreements Sustainable**

Negotiating Peace and Confronting Corruption: Challenges for Post-Conflict Societies
By Bertram I. Spector
United States Institute of Peace Press, 2011
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In a new study, "Negotiating Peace and Confronting Corruption" from the United States Institute of Peace, author Bertram I. Spector argues that peace and economic recovery in countries emerging from violent conflict are more likely and more durable when good governance reforms and corruption controls are included in negotiations ending the conflict, or soon after in development assistance programs.

To view a video of the author talking about this book, click here.

Spector examines the negotiated peace process in six cases—El Salvador, Guatemala, Sierra Leone, Burundi, Papua New Guinea and Liberia—specifically looking at how and in what form integrity provisions were negotiated into the agreements. In each case, he identifies what worked and what did not, where the peace agreements and implementations left gaps, and where new solutions are still needed. Spector analyzes the six cases against a control group of seven countries recently emerged from conflict where anticorruption and good governance provisions were not explicitly elaborated in peace treaties. Comparing the two groups on indicators of official development assistance, corruption control, political stability, and economic growth, he finds that post-conflict countries where reestablishing integrity was high on the agenda fared better than those in the control group.

But negotiating a good forward-looking agreement cannot by itself guarantee peace with corruption kept in check; how the agreement is implemented is just as crucial. To effectively implement an agreement, the parties to it—as well as interested bilateral donors and international organizations—must support integrity provisions and safeguards through technical and financial assistance, thereby building local capacity and ownership.

Spector also contends that postagreement negotiations are essential to extend, revise, and refine the original peace treaty during implementation in response to the postconflict country's fluid political and economic environments. Post-agreement negotiations bring former combatants together in a continuing forum to solve the country's problems and learn more about the other side's interests and needs. Most importantly, they reconstitute a critical element of any well-functioning democratic government: the participation of interested parties in developing decisions and future policy through peaceful dialogue and compromise.

"The prospect for a long-term stable resolution of violent conflict often emerges from a complex multistage process. Peace agreements are achieved principally through negotiations, but it takes intricate postagreement efforts to ensure that the commitments the parties made in negotiation are realized," states Spector. "How an agreement is implemented—with what speed, with what resources, and with what political will by all parties—will directly affect the success of conflict resolution." Based on this multi-staged analysis, Spector offers practical suggestions and guidance for both negotiators and the implementers of their agreements.

About the Author--Bertram I. Spector, executive director at the Center for Negotiation Analysis and senior technical director at Management Systems International, has extensive experience conducting negotiation research and directing international development assistance programs in support of good governance, anticorruption, and civil society. Working with USAID, the World Bank, and other international organizations, he has advised governmental decision makers in the development and implementation of anticorruption strategies in Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, Africa, Asia, and Latin America. He is editor-in-chief of *International Negotiation: A Journal of Theory and Practice.*

Book review (as it appeared in the February 2012 issue of "Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries"):
..."Negotiating Peace and Confronting Corruption" is a commendable study. Spector (President, Center for Negotiation Analysis) summarizes political stability and anticorruption effectiveness in six post-conflict countries (El Salvador, Guatemala, Sierra Leone, Burundi, Papua-New Guinea, and Liberia). Each case study follows a similar pattern: the negotiated agreement, negotiation analysis, implementation, and conclusion. ...These chapters compare political stability and perceptions of corruption in the countries studied with a control group of seven states previously racked with conflict (Nicaragua, Cambodia, Mozambique, Tajikistan, Angola, Croatia, and Mexico). Spector finds that corruption levels appear lower and both economic growth and political stability higher in almost all countries whose peace processes included explicit efforts to improve fiscal integrity. ...Spector's book includes useful...recommendations for analysts, practitioners and negotiators. Appendices provide suggested readings, relevant selections from the six countries' peace agreements, and experiences from development assistance projects that support anticorruption provisions. Summing Up: Highly recommended for undergraduates, all levels and above. -- C. E. Welch, University of Buffalo, SUNY.