'Full Stomach Peace' in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Economic Development as a Tool for Post-Conflict Peacebuilding

Marie-Claudine Villacorta, '09
Illinois Wesleyan University

Michael Weis, Faculty Advisor
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc

Villacorta, '09, Marie-Claudine and Weis, Faculty Advisor, Michael, "'Full Stomach Peace' in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Economic Development as a Tool for Post-Conflict Peacebuilding" (2009). John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference. 2.
https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2009/oralpres8/2

This is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.
©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.
'FULL STOMACH PEACE' IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AS A TOOL FOR POST-CONFLICT PEACEBUILDING

Marie-Claudine Villacorta and Micheal Weis*
International Studies Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

In an age of limited financial resources and continued power struggles, laying the foundation for post-conflict peace-building is a laborious task. This is especially evident in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), which continues to be shadowed by its history of ethnic division and genocide. Experts on the ground claim, however, that politicians have only used 'ethnic' and 'religious' differences as an excuse to retract from actual economic problems, and that economic development should be prioritized in BiH's framework for long-term peace. The paper, hence, examines whether an economic-focused blueprint to peace is appropriate to BiH. Through a historical context of the war in the Former Yugoslavia during the 1990s, a report on BiH's economic indicators and present challenges, and an analysis of the economic reforms of the government, the World Bank and the European Union, the paper concludes that economic development needs to be emphasized in peace-building efforts, but not at the expense of forgoing political reforms and reconciliation efforts.