

Copyright is owned by the Author of the thesis. Permission is given for a copy to be downloaded by an individual for the purpose of research and private study only. The thesis may not be reproduced elsewhere without the permission of the Author.

# **The State of the World: Colonialism, Statism and Humanitarian Intervention**

A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Arts

in

Strategic Studies

at Massey University,

New Zealand

Sim Vee Ming, Jeffrey

2011

## **Abstract**

Peacekeeping and peacebuilding have been a major issue in International Relations scholarship, especially since the end of the Cold War. Once the Cold War was over, the United Nations found itself drawn into conflicts with different characteristics and for different reasons. This dissertation examines the contours of second generation peacekeeping operations from a standpoint informed by postcolonial theory and other critical theoretical perspectives. It examines the emergence of widened peacemaking and peace enforcement activities in Somalia and Haiti, and also examines alternative approaches to conflict transformation by examining networked social movement responses. In particular, it explores and expounds the postcolonial view that peacekeeping interventions silence and disempower Southern (or Third World) populations, operating as a form of crisis management. It explores the hypothesis that the duty to protest is another form of colonialism, coinciding with structural destabilisation to produce unequal power.

## **Acknowledgements**

It is a pleasure to thank all those who made this thesis possible, such as my family who gave me the moral support I required; and my supervisor, Dr Beth Greener, whose support and guidance enabled me to develop a better understanding of the subject. I also would like to make a special reference to Dr John Moremon, program coordinator. Without his assistance and support, I could not have completed this thesis in good time.

## **Table of Contents**

Introduction	5
Chapter 1: Peacekeeping Theory and the Hegemony of Statist Assumptions	12
Chapter 2: Problems in State Peacekeeping and Peacemaking	24
Chapter 3: Simulating Peacekeeping: the 2004 Intervention in Haiti	43
Chapter 4: Lost in the Desert - the UN/US Failure in Somalia, 1992-5	73
Chapter 5: Networked Conflict Transformation	98
Conclusion	119
Bibliography	123