



Asia's Trouble Spots: The leadership question in conflict resolution.

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“Although much is published in this space, much of the existing literature fails to adequately answer the question as to why ethnic conflicts have remained unresolved for decades. Many factors are often cited as the root causes of the conflicts: low state capacity, poor governance, ethno-nationalism, religious intolerance, poverty and marginalization of minority groups and colonial heritage. We argue that conflicts have remained

unresolved for so long for a lack of political commitment and farsighted leadership in the countries concerned.

Furthermore, leadership in the developed world and the international community has also directly or indirectly allowed the conflicts to continue for global geopolitical reasons. Western leaders have often failed to mediate to resolve conflicts.”

“This book helpfully focuses on a number of Asian conflicts, some well-known, others less so, and how they were (or were not) resolved. This is important for several reasons: Asia is *the* rising continent of the 21st century, and many of its countries are beset by internal tensions and outright conflicts sometimes fuelled in part by neighbouring states. The pattern is not likely soon to abate. Therefore, studying both the Asian failures and the successes identified in the volume makes a very useful contribution to the literature, and to practitioners of diplomacy and mediation, relative to a major continent in which the issues are relatively pervasive.”

David M. Malone, United Nations Under-Secretary-General, Rector of the United Nations University, Tokyo and former President of IDRC.