Abstract

In recent years, the objectives of both disaster relief and post-conflict reconstruction have changed in a radical way. Up until a few years ago, the aims of relief and reconstruction efforts were fairly simple: immediate physical relief of victims, reduction of social dislocation, restoration of a functioning social organization and reparation of physical infrastructure. International actors were central players, most prominently United Nations agencies and the Red Cross Movement. In recent years, however, the objectives and the actors have changed. This article demonstrates how a relief and reconstruction complex has arisen with new actors, especially NGOs, displacing the United Nations and the Red Cross and responding to the influences of neoliberal market economics and strategic consideration.

Keywords

International Aid, Natural Disasters, Post-Conflict Reconstruction, Red Cross, United Nations, NGOs, Neoliberalism, Geopolitics