
In this monograph, Jonathan Fisher and Nina Wilén have collaborated to offer a rich and compelling contribution to the field of African security studies, peacekeeping, and research on international organisations. *African Peacekeeping* is an innovative and equally consistent continuation of both authors’ previous work, whose joint monograph benefits greatly from their commonalities but also their individual foci and fieldwork experiences (i.e. Fisher 2019, 2020; Cheeseman and Fisher 2019; Wilén 2022, 2021, 2012).

At the outset, Fisher and Wilén highlight several important premises and approaches of their book. The first of these is that the peace operations they study and discuss did not only take place in Africa but were organised and implemented by African nations. This distinction, initially seemingly small, unfolds as the book progresses, primarily to identify historical influences on African peace operations, the political significance of peace operations for African nations – whether as “peacekept” or peacekeeper – and distinctive characteristics of African peacekeeping.

Another feature of *African Peacekeeping* is its non-evaluative nature. The authors themselves clearly emphasise that research on peacekeeping has long focused on measuring effectiveness, identifying positive or negative trends in various components of peacekeeping, and suggesting possible improvements. Fisher and Wilén therefore explicitly chose an alternative path, which “focuses less on the question of whether or not African peacekeeping ‘works’ and more on what it does and has done – on how it has shaped and continues to shape, constellations and configurations of power in Africa, at domestic, regional and international levels” (p. 6).

This endeavour also corresponds to the theoretical orientation of the book, which is dedicated to practice theories (for an introductory text, see Bode 2020). Practice theories offer the advantage of examining peacekeeping as a performance or set of performances constantly in transition (p. 4). In doing so, the book usefully builds on existing foundational scholarship on practice theories (Adler and Pouliot 2011; Bueger and Gadinger 2018) and makes