

PREFACE

Somewhere, there is an armed conflict. Who are “we”, who are “they” and what is actually happening in the operational area? If these questions can be answered, one has taken great steps towards being able to predict the unfolding of the events ahead in a conflict. The following book is presenting tools to help address these questions for primarily military organisations, but also for any actor collective or individual dealing with international conflicts. The approach is sociological and the examples are thought to serve as inspiration for others to work foremost with the perspective but perhaps also with the methods. The purpose of this book is to give researchers in the field of war studies and neighbouring disciplines inspiration and guidelines on how to apply field theory on subjects dealing with conflicts and problems associated with conflicts.

Leadership in conflicts are very much based both on experience and predictions, predictions based on these aforementioned experiences. These experiences are important in that they have shaped the range of perspectives which the actor (collective or individual) has, not all experiences are equally important when it comes to making an imprint. This is natural and often leads the actors correctly, if not they sometimes have room to adapt, sometimes not. This is the logic of practice through the ages of military leadership. On the other hand, one of the oldest institutions in Western Civilisation is the institution of universities. Since the Enlightenment the universities have been in the service of bringing

knowledge into all areas of activities within states and society. Still, sociological perspectives on warfare have often been limited to studying the conflict from an outside perspective without primarily being interested in delivering actual tools for the operators engaged in the conflict.

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