

The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of yellow and red felt fabric. The yellow felt is at the top, and the red felt is at the bottom. Several black threads are visible, stitching the two pieces of felt together. The text is overlaid on this background.

**Unsettled Peace or Peace in Unsettlement?:
A Post-Liberal Approach to Conflict
Transformation**

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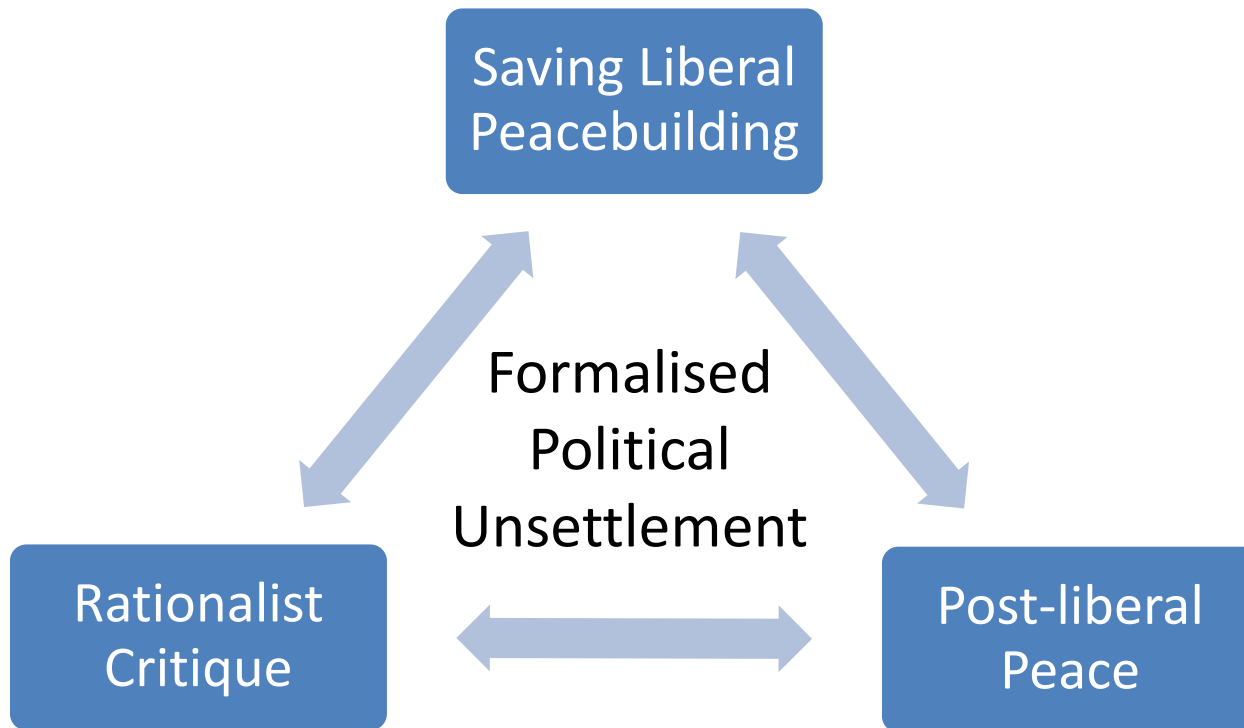
Political Settlement and Unsettlement



- ‘Stable Instability’: formalised political unsesttlement
- International involvement: focus on stability
- Creates unsesttled peace instead
- Potential for peace in unsesttlement?



Locating 'Formalised Political Unsettling'



Epistemological Limits of Liberal Peacebuilding



- Linear causality
 - Root causes / trigger factors
 - ‘greed vs grievance’
 - Fragile states tautology
- Relational solutions
 - Addressing root causes will lead to peace
 - Abstract normative claims: equality, justice



Engaging with 'Formalised Political Unsettlement



- Political Settlements are *complex* systems – no proportional relation between inputs and outputs
- Probably no 'building' of political settlements, and no 'solution' to violent conflict
- Modes of engagement (out of current practice): bargaining inclusion, disrelation, undissolved space



Negotiating Inclusion



- ‘formalised political unsettlement’ offers pathways
 - Perpetual reform, contestation, no default position wins, visions hold each other in check
- Fluid processes of accommodation, opportunity to move beyond identity-based consociationalism
- Diversity vs representation
- Liberal norms as process tools





Disrelation

- Liberal peacebuilding relies on relational solutions (the social contract)
- Disrelation vs exclusion
- Active disrelation: Communities actively avoiding participation in conflict (and solution)
- Passive disrelation: actors in settlement agree on disrelation (territorial, social, political)



Undissolved Space



- Undissolved space exists:
 - postponements in processes (e.g. Abyei)
 - overlapping practical arrangements (e.g. Moldova/Transnistria)
 - Impossible implementation (e.g. border arrangements)
- Need is not in invention, but in reframing
 - Not necessarily ‘unaddressed root cause’ that ‘risks regression’



Concluding Thoughts



- Conceptual challenge: positive vs negative peace misleading, rather unsettled peace ('stability') vs peace in unsettlement
- Practical challenge: acceptance of pragmatism, overcome causation/solution-logic
- Drawing on what is there, but understand it as an approach, not as hypocrisy or bad compromise
- Substantial political risk

