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Call for Papers

The Crisis of Liberal Interventionism and the Return of War

Workshop, 4-5 July 2022, University of Copenhagen

The liberal international order is at a critical juncture: the withdrawal from Afghanistan is a tipping point of liberal interventionism; at the same time, the invasion in Ukraine marks the return of inter-state war and nuclear threats. Taken together, they trigger a fundamental transformation of liberal democracies' security and defense policies and force posture, which in turn might impact on civil-military relations.

Since the end of the Second World War, global governance institutions and liberal democracies' foreign policies have doubled down on universalism, seeking to promote and export the rule of law, human rights, democratic statehood, and individual freedoms across the globe. But in practice, the idea of a universal liberal Leviathan was faced with challenges and setbacks. Liberal interventionism engendered a normative and operational dilemma epitomized by the tension between Kant's idea of perpetual peace ("ewiger Frieden") and a victor's peace (Oliver Richmond), where peace lasts only as long as 'boots on the ground' can safeguard stability (negative peace). Liberal interventionism and military interventions were never uncontested. Military and political engagement post Cold War prefigured considerable levels of violence, as well as political instability in the 'host' country and region, whilst at the same time offering opportunities to citizens and groups who suffered prior to the intervention.

The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and the multiple violations of international humanitarian law in its course have further undermined the prohibition on the use of force that has been a cornerstone of the international order since the end of WW II. What is more, it has marked a U-turn in several liberal democracies' security and defense policies, re-prioritizing homeland defense over expeditionary warfare.

This workshop aims to unpack the dynamics of this critical juncture in the liberal internationalist order that results from the almost simultaneous withdrawal from Afghanistan and the war against Ukraine. The workshop is structured along two thematic axes. One objective is to shed light on the changing politics of multinational peace operations as instrument of stabilization and foreign policy, looking also at domestic dynamics of liberal interventionism, its contestation, and external consequences. Second, the workshop seeks to engage with more fundamental questions of peace-making.

Papers should explore how liberal interventionism has changed, analyze the changing domestic politics of security and defense, or examine changes in civil-military relations on the one side and the understandings of peace and security (physical, material, human, ontological, etc) on the other side.

By bringing together experts on liberal interventionism, peacebuilding, and security policy, the workshop will contribute to a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the transformation

of security and foreign policies in the aftermath of 'Afghanistan' and 'Ukraine' as well as on decade-long debates on global governance and peacebuilding.

Please send your abstracts of up to 500 words along with a travel cost estimation to Cornelia Baciú (cornelia.baciú@ifs.ku.dk). The deadline for sending abstracts is **09th May 2022**.

We will discuss options for a common publication of the contributions in a Special Issue of a high-ranking journal or in the form of an edited volume with a university press during and after the workshop.

The workshop is financed under the Carlsberg Foundation Grant CF22-0019. Accommodation for up to two nights will be provided to all participants. Travel costs covering approx. 600 EUR for inter-continental flights and 250 EUR for intra-European flights/train tickets can be reimbursed.