

Ethnoregional-Neopatrimonialism and the Challenge to Post Conflict Peacebuilding in Sierra Leone

Emmanuel Vincent Nelson Kallon

PhD Candidate

Graduate School of Global Studies, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

The study analyzes how the construction of ethnoregional-neopatrimonial political system has undermined the social fabric and political system of Sierra Leone, and how this pattern over time and space, has fundamentally posed a substantial threat to the liberal peacebuilding processes in the country.

Sierra Leone is a postconflict country where intervention of liberal peacebuilding was instituted after the war. The focus of the postconflict liberal peacebuilding in the last couple years, have been focused on governance reform, with which mainly, political and economic liberalization constituted or have been at the epicenter, assumed for the recreation and restoration of peace and security. In the perspective of Roland Paris and et al, institutional building is the most apt approach in the establishment of political and economic liberalization, in post war countries to enhanced peace. Ginty on his part, argues for hybridization process, while Oliver Richmond, draws on the concept of local ownership, as the basis upon which government that would be emerged will lead to a stable peace.

However, I argue that, the deeply rooted constructed ethnic salience which have incrementally become rooted in the mainstream political psyche of the of the country, has resulted into the immutable formation of neopatrimonial political system that is deeply informed from below, a practice and process, expatiated through a system called ethnoregional-patrimonialism. In conclusion, the study intends to showcase a deviation from the conventional neopatrimonial political construct or readings, that is informed from the top-down approach, and to showcase how the bottom-up neopatrimonial construct, informed along ethnic salience, fundamentally scuttles the viability of liberal peacebuilding ontology in Sierra Leone.

Keywords: ethnoregional-neopatrimonial , Post conflict peacebuilding, Governance