

A Puzzle Too Complex? James Baker's Mediation Mission in Western Sahara

Introduction

This escalative conflict has been identified as one of the oldest territorial conflicts in the recent global history. In this case, “A Puzzle Too Complex?” In the scholarly piece entitled “Western Sahara: Options for a Settlement – The Role of a James Baker’s Mediation Mission in Western Sahara,” the emphasis is made on the mediation activities of James Baker, ex U.S. Secretary of State.

Baker's Mediation Strategy

A system of peace proposals turned out to be the key mediator activity in the conflict regulation initiated by James Baker, the attempt to establish the fair political process. Baker made the following plans out of which plans where the 1997 Houston Accords where as follows; The above plans focused on the organization of the Sahrawi people for referendum.

Challenges and Outcome

The major task of this process of mediation was rooted in the fact that all the parties that participated in the conflict were rigid in their stands. In their negotiations, Morocco and the Polisario Front were not willing to yield on the matter of sovereignty. Moreover, other international actors' participation, such as the Algerian mediation, French and American impact, also became a factor. Baker was forced to resign in 2004 and this clearly showed how hard it was for the two parties to agree.

Conclusion

This paper focuses on examining the challenges of the mediation mission of James Baker in Western Sahara, as a prism into the challenges of conflict resolution where the conflict remains unresolved. Nevertheless they continue fighting, and this illuminates the fact that political and national interests provide a myriad of barriers to the actualization of peace deals.

Recommendation

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