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The Post-Conflict Environment

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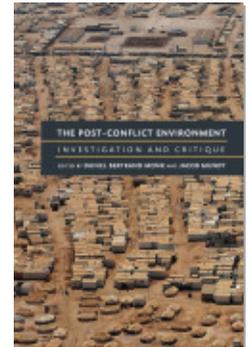
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Acknowledgments

The Post-Conflict Environment originated in a series of conversations with colleagues at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC. Geoffrey Dabelko, director of the Center's Environmental Change and Security Program, and Blair Ruble, director of the Kennan Institute and the Comparative Urban Studies Project, each championed our original idea for a workshop on post-conflict spaces. The 2009 workshop at the Wilson Center saw a nascent consensus emerge among the participants, a consensus that inverted the initial framing of our inquiries. We naturally began by detailing, comparing, and contrasting discrete empirical case studies of geographically disparate post-conflict spaces. We had hoped that these case studies would give us some theoretical and policy leverage over the dominant approaches to peacebuilding after the end of the Cold War. Instead, we began to see these approaches—statebuilding, nationbuilding, transitional justice, refugee management, reconstruction and its financing—as our actual case studies. The editors and authors of this volume would thus like to express a debt of gratitude to the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and most notably to Blair Ruble and Joe Brinley, for the support they have offered to this project, from inception to publication.

At a second workshop, held at Colgate University in the spring of 2010, we developed these reformulated case studies into a more thoroughgoing critique. There, we agreed that our project was now an interrogation of the techno-politics of neoliberal peacebuilding. Our critique suggests that this politics, particularly through the six approaches we analyze in this volume, imaginatively constitutes and materially elaborates post-conflict environments in order to have epistemic and managerial sovereignty over them. We are thus equally grateful to Colgate University for co-sponsoring the second workshop that led to this collection. Without generous support from the Di-

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Jacob Mundy

Note on Spelling: Because we want to respect the individual authors' voices, we have retained British spellings in those essays where the authors chose to use them.