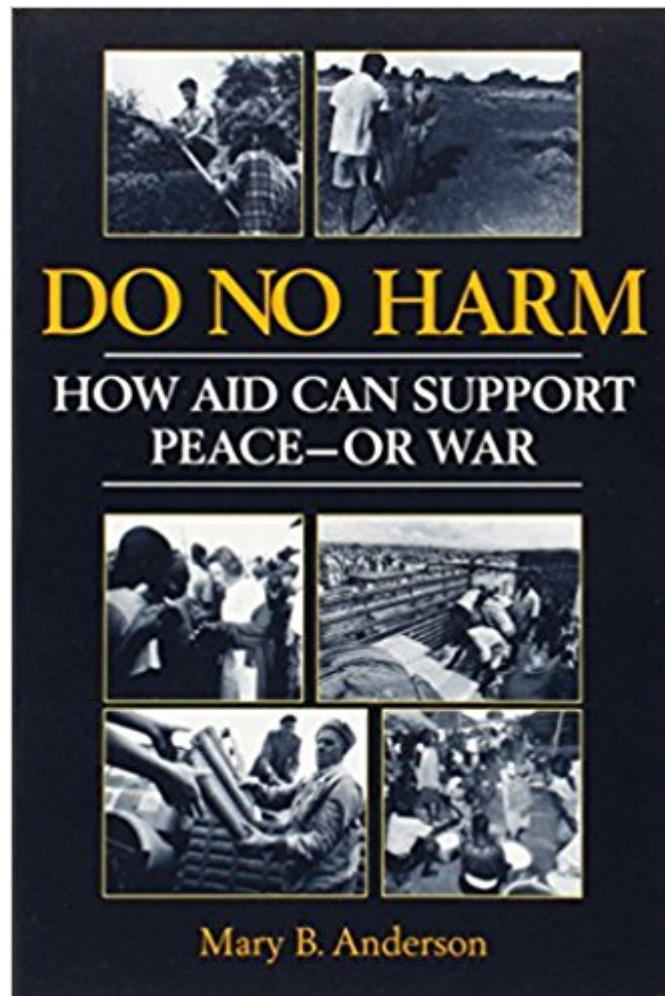




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Do No Harm: How Aid Can Support Peace - Or War



Synopsis

Echoing the words of the Hippocratic Oath, the author challenges aid agency staff to take responsibility for the ways that their assistance affects conflicts. Mary B. Anderson cites the experiences of many aid providers in war-torn societies to show that international assistance - even when it is effective in saving lives, alleviating suffering and furthering sustainable development - too often reinforces divisions among contending groups. But more importantly, she offers hopeful evidence of creative programmes that point the way to new approaches to aid. Calling for a redesign of assistance programmes so that they do not harm while doing their intended good, she argues further that many opportunities exist for aid workers to in fact support the processes by which societies disengage from war.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In her insightful and practical book ... Anderson offers the development community an opportunity to, at the least, do no harm.... Do No Harm makes an important contribution to an ongoing discussion about how outsiders can play a productive role in preventing and resolving violent conflict. --Ana Grier Cutter, *Ethics and International Affairs* Provide[s] the reader with short but profound examples of how aid has been given in a range of conflict situations.... [Do No Harm] is a well written and a very usable book. --Journal of Peace Research A book that makes for intriguing reading for all those interested in international affairs and humanitarian efforts from the perspective of those who are actually engaged in it. --Doris H. Gray, *International Journal on World Peace*

Mary B. Anderson is coauthor of *Opting Out of War: Strategies to Prevent Violent Conflict* and *Rising from the Ashes: Development Strategies in Times of Disaster*.

The cornerstone book on Do No Harm as it pertains to aid.

Well-intentioned aid is not as useful as hard-headed aid

A must read for all development workers. Great practical tools that can be implemented and examples of when aid can go wrong.

I think this the book you need to help you do no harm while you're doing development in conflict prone zone.

This book is a must read for anyone working in or with the field of humanitarian aid. It's a very practical, hands on guide that explores some of the real challenges aid workers in conflict zones have had to face and the creative solutions they developed. It's not a complex, academic analysis piece in any way and it serves more like a starting point for an in-depth study than THE definitive work on the subject, but it is one heck of a good starting point.

I read this book in conjunction with my grad school studies, having already spent more than 10 years in the relief and development sector. I found the author's approach to be sophomoric at times and hardly practical at others. While the overall message of Do No Harm is good, it was not a very insightful or compelling read because it is based on interviews with anonymous individuals and does not have any first hand experience. Maybe if the author had actually worked in the field for 5-10 years she would have had more insight into some of the serious challenges.

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