

# The New Geopolitics of Educational Aid: From Cold Wars to Holy Wars?

Mario Novelli  
University of Amsterdam  
[m.novelli@uva.nl](mailto:m.novelli@uva.nl)

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# Outline

- ▶ Introduction: from the neoliberalization to militarisation in education and development
- ▶ Post Cold War interventionism & education
- ▶ Are we all soldiers now? Education as Counterinsurgency
- ▶ Between empire & utopia: development as schizophrenia

# From neoliberalization to militarisation in education and development

- ▶ Neoliberalism as policy (1980s onwards)
  - Pro-market reforms
  - Fiscal austerity
  - Narrow view of education
- ▶ Late 1990s more wider understanding of education (democracy, human rights, citizenship). From HC to Socialisation?
- ▶ EFA as bridge
- ▶ Linked to shifts in 'development policy' – new wars and 9/11 – security agenda

# Post Cold War interventionism & education

- ▶ Post Cold War 'humanitarian intervention' (Balkans, Kosovo, Sudan, Iraq, Afghanistan)
- ▶ From non-intervention to human security
- ▶ Aid and NGOs Working in rather than around conflicts
- ▶ Aid to conflict & 'fragile' states increases sharply – 38.4% of total ODA to conflict & fragile states
- ▶ Education part of expansion
  - Mission creep
  - EFA and conflict
  - Debate on how big – but education delivery firmly part of humanitarian development now.

# Are we all soldiers now? Education as Counterinsurgency

- ▶ "As I speak, just as surely as our diplomats and military, American NGOs are out there serving and sacrificing on the front lines of freedom . . . . I am serious about making sure we have the best relationship with the NGOs who are such a force multiplier for us, such an important part of our combat team. [We are] all committed to the same, singular purpose to help every man and woman in the world who is in need, who is hungry, who is without hope, to help every one of them fill a belly, get a roof over their heads, educate their children, have hope.
- ▶ *US Secretary of State Colin Powell, Remarks to the National Foreign Policy Conference for Leaders of Nongovernmental Organizations, at <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2001/5762.htm>*

# Education as Counterinsurgency

- ▶ June 2008, USAID 3-D approach, defence , diplomacy development
- ▶ US gov. Annual 'Patterns of Global Terrorism has section on Education
- ▶ G. Brown, Sept 2009 in speech on Afghanistan links education to 'hearts & minds' strategy
- ▶ Iraq & Afghanistan: Provisional Reconstruction Teams (army constructing schools)
- ▶ How do aid agencies separate themselves? Or not?

# EFA and Security: Questions

- ▶ From most needy to most insecure?
- ▶ From basic education to lifelong learning for tolerance?
- ▶ From Education to other 'development' sectors?
- ▶ From sustained intervention to short term 'fire fighting'?

# Between empire & utopia: development as schizophrenia

- ▶ Development has always been pulled by different objectives: between idealism & realism
- ▶ The pendulum today has swung towards the security and its links to development
- ▶ Time for education academics & practitioners to think through this process