Title  The ANC and the ‘myth’ of liberation solidarity in post-apartheid South Africa

In the official narratives concerning Southern Africa’s former national liberation movements, the concept of a collective, regional solidarity in the struggle against white minority rule features prominently. Since gaining political power in 1994, the African National Congress (ANC) has consistently repeated the mantra that the unwavering assistance and solidarity from its kindred movements was vital to its success. However, lingering beneath this façade, the reality is entirely different; instead a picture emerges of inter-party disputes, a litany of broken promises and soured relations. Yet, a collective amnesia prevails, which has been replaced by a self-serving portrayal of history designed to suit their current political demands centred on the continued retention of power. Focusing on the ANC, this paper seeks to delve into the ‘myths’ by examining the historic origins of liberation solidarity; revealing the problems in the official narrative; and demonstrating the continued importance of the solidarity myth today.
Title  Aggressive Peace

Multilateral interventions for regime change are not new, but their mutation has been congruent with an aggressive attempt discernible from the 1990s to introduce liberal values into peacekeeping and related operations. The talk focuses on two aspects of international operations fostered through or by the UN: the militarization of peace missions and peacebuilding through neoliberal political economy. While recognizing non-coercive, needs-based elements of interventions for peace, the argument is that regime change wars have harmonized with the UN’s facilitation of aggressive peace missions and coercive peacebuilding predominantly in the interests of western states. In the 1990s the perceived failures of, and demands on, the UN, led first to a refusal of states to get involved in peace operations and then to a general policy of permissiveness for western states to pursue regime change, accompanied by reconstruction and development opportunities to promote ideas of political economy.

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