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IN LOVE AND AT WAR

Marriage in Non-state Armed Groups

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In Love and at War

Marriage in Non-state Armed Groups

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Abstract: What does it mean to be in love while at war? This Element demonstrates that whether rebel groups commit themselves to marriage, bar it entirely, or reinterpret the ceremonies and practices associated with marriage, their decision has important implications for both the rebel organization and individual members. This Element contributes to the literature on gender and politics by demonstrating that rebel marriages are an underappreciated driver of gendered conflict and post-conflict dynamics. It introduces frameworks for understanding how rebel groups approach the issue of marriage, suggesting that variation between and within rebel groups over time is related to not only the rebels' political project but also the anticipated effect of marriage on cohesion and retention, as well as the rebels' logistical concerns. Furthermore, the Element unpacks how wartime rebel marriages can complicate or improve women's prospects for post-conflict reintegration by shaping whether rebel wives are depoliticized, distrusted, or reclaimed.

Keywords: gender, marriage, post-conflict reintegration, female rebels, non-state armed groups

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