Violent Resistance

Why do communities form militias to defend themselves against violence during civil war? Using original interviews with former combatants and civilians and archival material from extensive fieldwork in Mozambique, Corinna Jentzsch’s Violent Resistance explains the timing, location, and process through which communities form militias. Jentzsch shows that local military stalemates characterized by ongoing violence allow civilians to form militias that fight alongside the government against rebels. Militias spread only to communities in which elites are relatively unified, preventing elites from coopting militias for private gains. Crucially, militias that build on preexisting social conventions are able to resonate with the people and empower them to regain agency over their lives. Jentzsch’s innovative study brings conceptual clarity to the militia phenomenon and helps us understand how wartime civilian agency, violent resistance, and the rise of third actors beyond governments and rebels affect the dynamics of civil war, on the African continent and beyond.

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Violent Resistance

*Militia Formation and Civil War in Mozambique*

CORINNA JENTZSCH

*Leiden University*
For jboy
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### Abbreviations

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CIO</td>
<td>Central Intelligence Organization of Rhodesia</td>
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<tr>
<td>FPLM</td>
<td>Popular Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique (Forças Populares de Libertação de Moçambique)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frelimo</td>
<td>Mozambique Liberation Front (Frente de Libertação de Moçambique, Frelimo/FRELIMO)</td>
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<tr>
<td>GD</td>
<td>Dynamizing Groups (Grupos Dinamizadores)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MNR</td>
<td>Movimento Nacional de Resistência (early name for Renamo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONUMOZ</td>
<td>United Nations Operation in Mozambique (Operação das Nações Unidas em Moçambique)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCA</td>
<td>Advanced Command Post (Posto de Comando Avançado)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRM</td>
<td>Mozambique Revolutionary Party (Partido Revolucionário de Moçambique), aka Africa Livre movement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renamo</td>
<td>Mozambican National Resistance (Resistência Nacional Moçambicana)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUF</td>
<td>Revolutionary United Front</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZANLA</td>
<td>Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army</td>
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