

# Review of: "The Failure of Diplomatic Mediations in the Syrian Conflict – A Comparative Analysis"

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The article „The Failure of Diplomatic Mediations in the Syrian Conflict – A Comparative Analysis” is well motivated and makes an important contribution. However, an engagement with extant work on mediation - aside from the Syrian case - is missing. An engagement with extant work is crucial though for understanding the importance of the concepts of “mission and mandate, impartiality and inclusivity, entry and consent, strategy, and leverage” to its full extent. A discussion with the broader literature could also help the interpretation of the analysis and could go beyond the Zartman et al. (2016) study, that is heavily cited.

What does become apparent throughout is that the author(s) have worked extensively with the case they are analysing. Convincingly and systematically, they analyse the different concepts for the mediation efforts they have selected.

The discussion of mediation as a conflict management *and* foreign policy tool is very helpful and well executed.

It does not become entirely clear to me how the study by Zartman et al. (2016) differs from the one conducted here.

When referring to studies please provide author name(s) and publication year (in the introduction, the author(s) refer to Zartman et al., without providing the publication year.

The article is well written, well structured, and easy to follow.