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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

First of all, I briefly formulate the review in a few points below (followed by my text of recommendations):

A. Content analysis (indicate X in your answer):	Yes	Partly	No
1. Is the title of the article consistent with its content focus?	x		
2. Does the abstract express the main ideas of the article?		x	
3. Does the article display the character of a scientific text?		x	
4. Does the article have a sophisticated methodological structure?			x
5. Is the content logical and consistent in terms of theoretical approach and comprehensibility?			x
6. Do you propose any text editing (abridgement, supplementation, etc.)?	x		
7. Does the used scholarly literature address the issue solved?	x		
8. Is the article original and scientifically beneficial?		x	

B. Formal analysis (indicate X in your answer):	Yes	Partly	No
9. Does the article contain appropriate linguistic and stylistic level?		x	
10. Is the citation and paraphrasing correctly marked in the article?	x		
11. Does the article show logical consistency and distinctly delimited individual parts?			x

C. Recommendations and comments:

The author opens Pandora´s box of the Syrian conflict and international meditation tendencies. The aim (I guess from the abstract) is to compare LAS and two UN missions. Such a goal is understandable and needed.

However, since I started reading, I have had several questions. I am perplexed by the structure and logic of the presented text. The main problem is also the lack of a research question. I could not find it.

I have no idea why the author did the unwieldy structure.

Introduction --> background --> overview --> once again overview... etc.

I advise you to do the following:

I. Introduction (background of the Syrian conflict and first attempts of mediation)

and the reason to do such research with proper RESEARCH QUESTION

II. Theoretical framework - used operational dataset /concepts etc.

(it is also good to use more authors of concepts than "only" Zartman.)

III. Application and analyses of LAS / UN mission

IV. Conclusion --> some table of comparison and lessons learned.

For my review, I can use three words:

"Specify, target, narrow"

Then I believe it will be different article with better use.