

Institutionalizing Peace in Iraqi Kurdistan Post-civil War, 1998 to Present

Authors : Hawre Hasan Hama, Choman Mahmood H. Rashid

Abstract : The four-year armed conflict between the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) ended in September 1998 under the terms of the Washington Agreement. Since then, there has been a quarter-century of durable peace between the two combatant parties, though they have often been at odds politically. Based on interviews with Kurdish political leaders from both parties, this paper argues that sharing or dividing power across all four dimensions of state power — political, military, territorial, and economic — has played a vital role ensuring the durability of the peace settlement. The paper traces the KDP-PUK power sharing system through three stages: the transition stage (1998-2006), the “golden” period (2006-2013), the “weakening” period (2013 to present).

Keywords : peace settlement, enduring peace, power-sharing and power dividing, Iraqi Kurdistan.

Conference Title : ICPCS 2023 : International Conference on Peace and Conflict Studies

Conference Location : Rome, Italy

Conference Dates : November 20-21, 2023