

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly, or, the Politics of Reconstruction in Afghanistan.

Alessandro Monsutti

The lecture scrutinizes the activities of international and nongovernmental organizations in post-Taliban Afghanistan. It will focus on the impact of the massive reconstruction effort on Afghan society, an example being the National Solidarity Programme (NSP) which is the main project of rural rehabilitation under way in the country. Launched in 2003, its objective is to bring development funds directly to rural people and to establish democratically elected local councils that will identify needs and then plan and manage the reconstruction. The NSP's political significance may seem to have faded in the context of the presidential elections of 2009, but still the program illustrates how sponsored reconstruction has become an integral part of Afghanistan's social and political landscape.

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