

The Hearts and Minds in Conflict and Peace

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PROPOSITIONS ACCOMPANYING THE THESIS

The Hearts and Minds in Conflict and Peace: The Economics of Counterinsurgency and the Psychology of Reconstruction

By Pui Hang Wong

1. It is necessary to rethink the impact of the hearts and minds strategy in Iraq. In the opinion of many Iraqis, the occupation forces simply gave them a tent after burning down their home. (Chapter 2)
2. Strategies that create less economic rent are more likely to succeed. (Chapter 3)
3. Mental health is not only a public health issue that affects ex-combatants' quality of life. It is also a regional security issue that can spoil peace. (Chapter 4)
4. One cannot easily buy trust. (Chapter 5)
5. "Minds, however, are conquered not by arms, but by love and nobility." — Baruch Spinoza (1677) *Ethics*.
6. "If it works, it is obsolete." — Bernard Fall (1998) *The Theory and Practice of Insurgency and Counterinsurgency*.
7. While country-level evidence on the link between poverty and peace is clear, micro-level evidence on the relationship between individual economic security, especially employment, and long-term stability is surprisingly weak.
8. Peacebuilding will not succeed through socio-economic progress alone. The development gap may be a symptom of a deeper political problem that requires an institutional solution.