



**‘Formalised Political *Un*settlement’ in
South/South-East Asia?**

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Argument

- Particularities of South/South-East Asia peace processes
- Peace process often result in ‘formalised political *unsettlement*’
- Consequences / Approaches to navigate this constellation



Inclusive Political Settlements



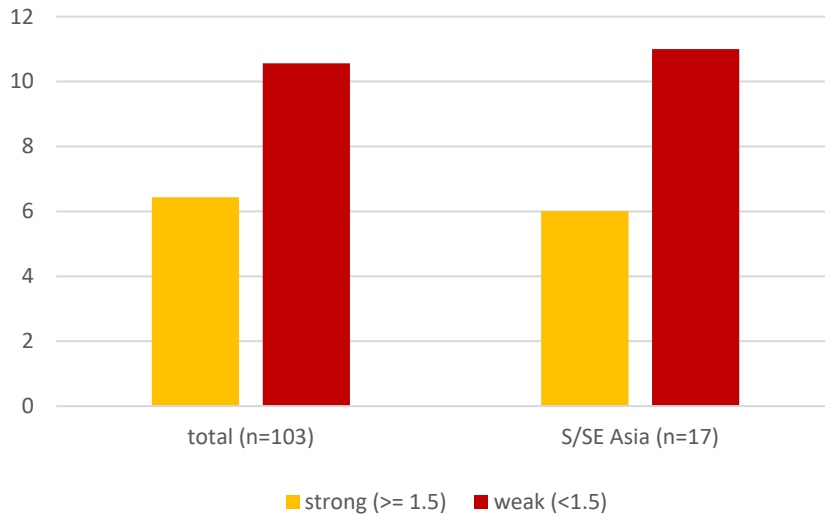
- Hypothesis: inclusive political settlements work better towards development and peace
- Potential trade-offs:
 - vertical vs horizontal inclusion
 - stability vs inclusion
- Not enforceable, hard to incentivise



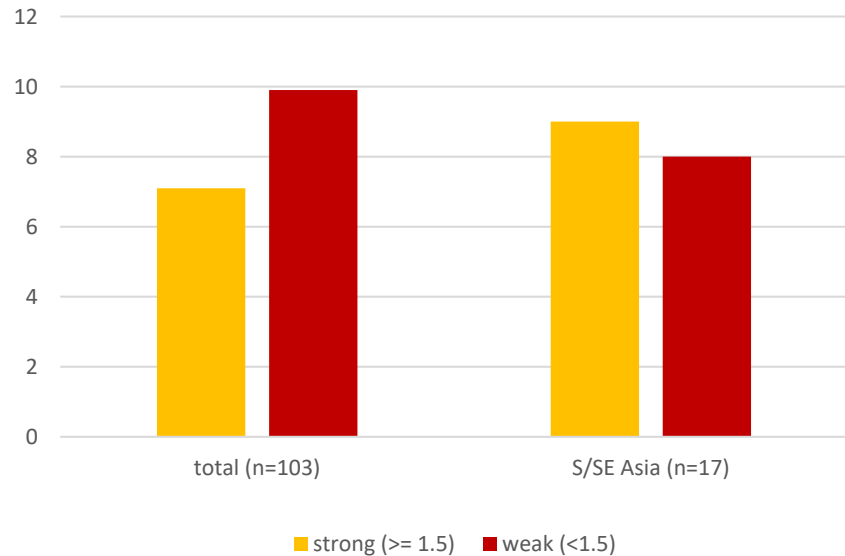
Peacebuilding in S/SE Asia



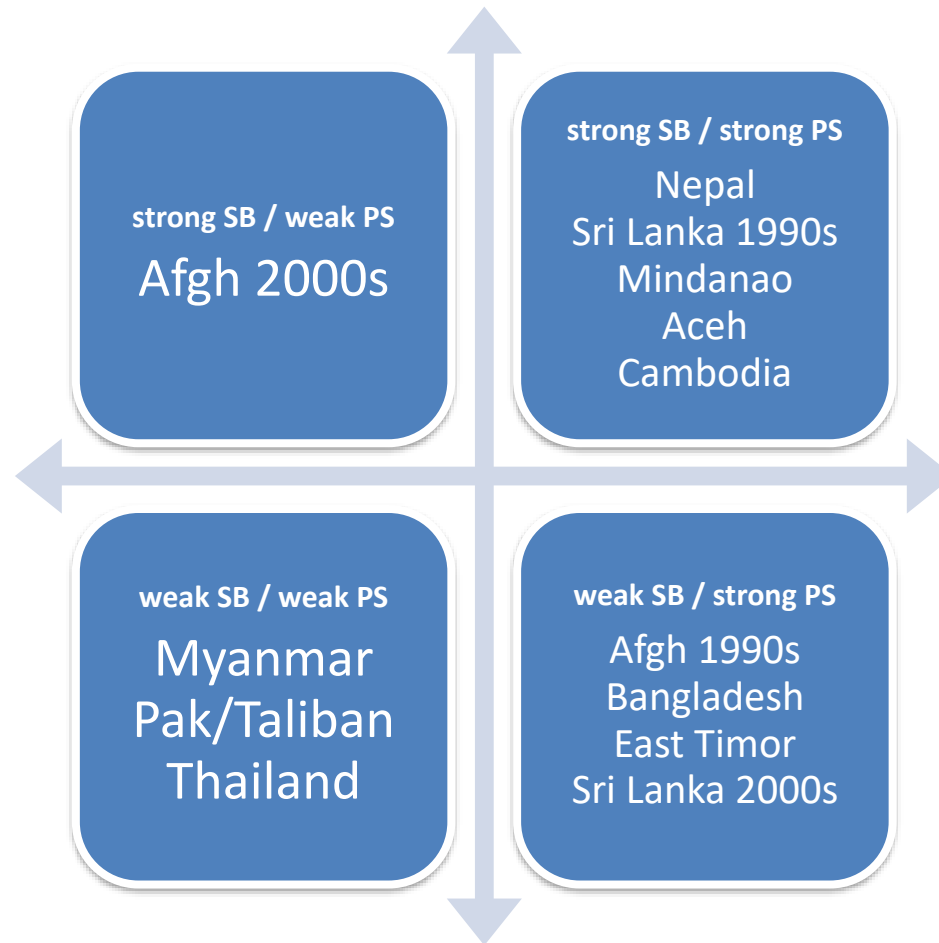
Statebuilding in Peace Processes



Power-Sharing in Peace Processes



Peacebuilding in S/SE Asia



‘Formalised Political *Unsettlement*’



- Resulting from:
 - institutionalised power-sharing in peace processes
 - ‘unsettled’ interventions
 - Transitional arrangements that stick
- Resulting in:
 - Institutional arrangements that formalise political unsettlement
 - Permanence of transition
 - ‘successful’ peace processes



‘Formalised Political *Unsettlement*’



- Four key characteristics:
 - Political and legal institutions ‘contain’ conflict
 - Long-lasting ‘temporary and exceptional state’
 - ‘glocal’ configuration with multi-polar sources of authority and legitimacy
 - Fluid institutions – enduring transformation



Navigating inclusion: spaces and pathways



- Fluid institutional arrangements, perpetual reform: e.g. Mindanao (ARMM, Bangsamoro)
- Contestation opens space: e.g. extending group accommodation to non-aligned, subnational political settlements
- Multi-polar reference points in between international and domestic visions: human rights as a process tool (international vs local legitimacy)



Consequences?



- ‘big’ solutions very challenging in S/SE Asia: strong trend towards power-sharing vs limited institutional flexibility
- ‘formalised pol unsettlement’: traction in region, but likely to be highly fragile
- Liberal / illiberal peacebuilding?
- Focus on sub-national political settlements?

