

Diplomacy - row summary

The row covers diplomatic recognition and other diplomatic efforts made to legally recognise or influence a state or political entity, their acts, or accounts, in order to afford a state or group access to the rights, duties, and obligations of international law, as well as the ability to hold them accountable to international law. This could include support provided to a group or state to achieve formal recognition, efforts made to advocate for the recognition of a state or group, efforts made to encourage specific states to recognise a state or group or undertake or not undertake specific actions. It can include naming and shaming of conflict or atrocity perpetrators, or the official barring of legal proceedings against certain individuals or groups (official amnesties).

This intervention captures any other form of diplomacy that is not focused on a specific peace process. This could include diplomatic messaging or engagements in response to specific risks.

Included studies in this cell cover campaigns for governments with respect to human rights; diplomatic negotiations to end sanctions in Iran, and US requests to governments to extend control over ungoverned areas under threat of military intervention if they do not do so;

They also include field experiments (that is providing respondents with different information to determine how this affects their attitudes): one testing in-group versus out-group endorsements for peace settlements in Sudan, another how the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) recognition of Palestine as a non-member observer state affected Palestinian views on partition; and a third on how positive featuring Chinese aid and negative ones on the United States affect Indian attitudes to China.

The largest body of evidence is for violence and atrocities outcomes with 40 effect sizes from 11 studies. They cover a range of interventions including advocacy, sanctions, compensation, blacklisting, and economic programs. Overall, these programmes have no effect on violence and atrocities. But there is considerable variable in effects, so some approaches do work in some contexts – and others don't.

Diplomatic negotiations for sanctions relief in Iran improved the economic position of the country - as measured by stock market returns - especially for the elite. But a campaign to release named political prisoners increased the likelihood of their release. Overall, there is a moderate effect of campaigns on human rights.

The United States put diplomatic pressure on countries to extend their control over ungoverned areas, which are often training grounds for terrorists, with the threat of military intervention if they did not do so. A study of 47 countries in Africa found that generally there was little expansion of government into these areas. There was no significant improvements in public goods provision, such as water and sanitation, and a decline in infrastructure projects. However, there were improvements in some indicators such as voter turnout and under-five mortality.

Name and shame campaigns can improve human rights, although a general campaign by the EC had no effect. In contrast, a US campaign for named political prisoners significantly increased the chances of the named prisoners being released (physical security outcome).

Three studies consider public opinion. People's support for a peace settlement (measured as social norms) drops sharply if it is endorsed by an 'out-group' leader, whereas 'in-group' leader endorsements have no effect. Giving recognition to Palestine by the United Nations increased public acceptance of

partition, but decreased willingness to make deals on territory (measures of the outcome peaceful dispute resolution). Finally, exposure to positive information about China's aid diplomatic efforts results in a moderate increase in feelings of trust toward China amongst Indian citizens, whereas negative information about the United States reduces trust toward all foreign countries, including China.

Effect of diplomacy

Outcome sub-domain	Effect size	No. of studies	No. of effect sizes
Government performance	-0.060	1	4
Access to justice	0.109	1	6
Economic security	0.039	1	4
Physical security	0.139	24	
Food, nutrition and health	0.186	1	4
Feelings of trust	0.093	2	10
Social norms regarding violence	-0.206	1	2
Diplomatic relations and peaceful dispute resolution	0.081	2	5
Nature and scale of violence and atrocities	-0.001	11	40