

Non-governmental organizations... The other face of the global system.



Introduction

Democracy, equality, liberation, efficiency, women's empowerment, sustainable development... These are glittering and appealing liberal slogans raised by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in every country around the world, particularly in third-world countries. Amid the tragedies and wars that our planet experiences, these slogans may offer a glimmer of hope to populations enduring these conflicts.

Non-governmental organizations hold a distinct position and significant importance in our contemporary world. Conflict zones have become fertile grounds for their entrance and emergence. Their numbers and diversity have grown across all sectors due to their effective methods of accessing these environments, aided by their adaptability within societies.

Moreover, the shifts in the global landscape and the new direction the world order has taken have elevated their significance. The shift from state security to individual security has played a substantial role in their presence, especially in the aftermath of the Cold War. They had an active role in international crises and conflicts.

From this standpoint, these organizations have become a gateway to external intervention. Today's wars largely rely on intellectual invasion, considering that these organizations have become a significant force within international systems.

Furthermore, globalization has played a significant role in the growth of NGOs, particularly concerning the movement of capital and individual security. Global developments demand access beyond governments, prompting the need for a new system where actors other than governments play their roles. Non-governmental organizations emerged at a time when nation-states were losing their former authority, creating space for a new model of governance in which NGOs wield significant influence across various domains. President George H.W. Bush declared that "the United States would lead a new global order, uniting nations based on shared principles to achieve global aspirations for human welfare, anchored in peace, freedom, and the rule of law."¹ International politics are now shaped through new blocs, and independent states outside these alliances find it challenging to exert influence alone.

Despite the substantial role played by NGOs, they remain subjects of controversy, especially regarding their presence in conflict zones and their funding sources, which raise doubts about their intentions.

This study aims to explore the relationship between NGOs, globalization, and states by examining their background, history, and pivotal points of contention. Additionally, it sheds light on the role these organizations play in the evolving global landscape.

¹ Noam Chomsky, "The Old and New World Order," Renaissance Egypt, Cairo, 2007 edition, p. 18.

Importance of the Study

The significance of this study arises from the increasing numbers and widespread presence of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which have gained substantial prominence within the current global system, despite having existed for an extended period. The escalating global interest in these organizations within international politics adds to their importance, particularly in the present century.

In the era of information, interaction with governments alone is no longer sufficient. Public opinion has gained increasing importance, rendering non-governmental entities more capable of influencing events and becoming active agents.

Definition of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

The term "non-governmental organizations" (NGOs) gained prominence in the early 20th century, a time marked by significant events and developments that necessitated various changes.

Non-governmental organizations are organizational entities composed of individuals who collaborate in pursuing specific objectives. These entities are not affiliated with the governments of the countries in which they are established. They are commonly referred to by the acronym "NGO," which stands for "Nongovernmental Organization" in English. The objectives for which NGOs are formed can vary widely. While some may operate for profit, the majority are non-profit organizations. In most cases, these organizations play a crucial role in influencing government policies and programs. They do so by engaging in monitoring processes, participating in negotiation meetings for agreements, treaties, and settlements, and advocating for resource allocation by governments.²

There are numerous definitions that pertain to these organizations, with the World Bank defining them as: "Private, partially or entirely independent of governments, primarily characterized by having humanitarian or cooperative goals rather than commercial

² [Nongovernmental organization.](#)

ones. They generally seek to alleviate suffering, promote the interests of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic social services, or engage in community development."³

The United Nations defines organizations as "non-governmental, non-profit entities that can be large or small, secular or religious, and may work for the benefit of their members or anyone in need. Some focus on local issues, while others operate at national, regional, or international levels."

However, "Gramsci" offers a different perspective. He considers civil society – including non-governmental organizations – as a means of exercising dominance, through which power is established.⁴

According to "Joseph Nye," non-governmental organizations are "non-national organizations that do not belong to any government and express global awareness and public opinion. They exert pressure on governments to change their policies."

Therefore, despite the multitude of definitions, they all point to the emergence of a new entity, crafting new policies through novel methods.

The history of non-governmental organizations

The history of non-governmental organizations dates back to the 19th century. In 1832, the British Anti-Slavery Society was founded, marking the emergence of this type of organizations at that time.

Initially, the proliferation of organizations served as a way to heal the wounds of war and alleviate the suffering of its victims. After World War I, due to the extensive casualties, there was a need to establish an international organization called the "League of Nations" to address international problems and crises. However, the League of

³ [International non-governmental organizations concerned with human rights: between declared goals and the scourge of politicization](#). Dr. Mohamed Shawki Abdel-Aal.

⁴ Dr. Yousri Moustafa, Non-Governmental Organizations, Cairo Center for Studies, 2nd edition, 2007, p. 42.

Nations failed in its mission, and faced with its increasing failures to achieve international peace and security, which led to heightened tensions among nations, World War II erupted. This war resulted in significant material and human losses, leading to the creation of new international non-governmental organizations, such as "Oxfam," which was established in 1942.⁵ Non-governmental actors began advocating for various issues, including women's suffrage, the application of international law, disarmament, ending the slave trade, and other civil issues related to individual safety.

In 1943, non-governmental organizations in the United States established a union for these entities called the American Council of Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Service. These associations were highly active in the early years after World War II, working vigorously to provide aid (distribution of medicines, foodstuffs, clothes...etc.) to European populations, particularly refugees and displaced persons. In the same period, the Oxford Committee to Famine Relief (Oxfam) was established in the United Kingdom in 1942 to assist the Greek people who suffered from famine during the Nazi occupation.⁶

The significant growth of these organizations began in the early 20th century, especially after World War I. At the beginning of the century, there were 167 organizations counted, which increased to 5,600 in 1945.⁷ With technological advancements, these organizations expanded their roles and became capable of reaching any location they desired.

Currently, there are estimated to be around 10 million non-governmental organizations worldwide. Russia alone has about 277,000 organizations, and it is estimated that India has 2 million non-governmental organizations, China has around 400,000 officially registered organizations, and there were approximately 1.5 million organizations in the United States as of 2017.

⁵ Musab Shenin, *The Role of International Non-Governmental Organizations in Supporting the Democratic Transition Process in Tunisia*, 2017, p. 20.

⁶ Ali Ahmed Abdulhameed Al-Rahamneh, "The Political and Security Role of Non-Governmental Organizations in the Arab Region (2011-2017)," Middle East University, May 2018, p. 11.

⁷ Samir Youssef Al-Jilani Al-Zurouq, "The Role of Non-Governmental International Organizations in Activating and Implementing International Humanitarian Law," Middle East University, Jordan, p. 22, year 2020.

The United Nations encouraged collaboration with these organizations due to their essential knowledge about conflict-ridden regions. This led to the addition of a new provision to the UN Charter regarding non-governmental organizations. As a result of pressure from certain countries, particularly the United States, the draft of the UN Charter was amended to include a new Article 71, granting the Economic and Social Council the authority to consult with non-governmental organizations.⁸

After the United Nations recognized these organizations, the number working with the Economic and Social Council increased. By 1945, there were 41 organizations holding consultative status with the council. This number grew to 2,010 organizations by 2001.⁹

Globalization and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

Globalization during the 20th century led to the emergence of the significance of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Among its key aspects were market liberalization and the integration of the economies of different countries into the capitalist economy. This capitalist economy is focused on market supremacy, the imposition of financial and investment freedom without restrictions. The forces of globalization employed these organizations to play an alternative role to that of the state. The traditional molds and boundaries became obstacles to this movement. It's commonly understood that national governments are responsible for security, citizens' well-being, and safeguarding their rights. However, within globalization's context, these responsibilities have fallen within the sphere of interest of NGOs. They are now responsible for individual security, well-being, and advocating for rights. All of this leads to the penetration of national borders, which appear feeble in the face of technological advancement. Organizations now influence and penetrate states, often challenging their sovereignty. Additionally, the movement of capital becomes flexible within this NGO landscape. They play a significant role in enhancing freedoms and altering prevailing concepts within cultural and political societies.

⁸ (Article 71), p. 624 from the book "Globalization of World Politics."

⁹ "International Non-Governmental Organizations and their Role in Implementing International Humanitarian Law," 2013, Master's thesis.

Regarding the significant role of NGOs, a quasi-official Chinese journal published in 2002 stated, "The role that non-governmental organizations undertake in the 21st century will be important, just as the role of national states was important in the 20th century."¹⁰

As technology infiltrated all aspects of life, the world began to shrink, and virtual boundaries between nations were eradicated. NGOs emerged to practically eliminate these boundaries. Thus, the phrase "borderless" often accompanies many organizations. This vast yet small world now requires flexible laws to facilitate the movement of capital and open doors to investments. Consequently, imposed boundaries are seen as hindrances.

This is confirmed by "John Boli" in his book "Globalization of World Politics": "If we look at power from a military perspective, it is expected that governments are dominant. However, if we look at power from an economic perspective, it is expected that transnational corporations are dominant. And if power includes control over information, skills in communication, and possessing the center, then non-governmental organizations and international organizations can mobilize support for the values they advocate and exert influence on governments. Corporations drive economic changes, while non-governmental organizations are typically a source of new ideas for political action. Transnational corporations and non-governmental organizations have been the major sources of political and economic changes in global politics."¹¹

The Relationship between Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and States

The relationship between NGOs and states is characterized by conflict, where each sees the other as an obstacle in its path. Cooperative relationships are very rare and typically emerge in cases of mutual interest. States closely monitor the activities of their citizens in their external relations. The traditional perspective has often been one of hostility,

¹⁰ Michael Edwards, "Civil Society: Theory and Practice," Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, First Edition, Beirut, p. 21.

¹¹ Globalizing World Politics - John Baylis, p. 639.

suspicion, and doubt, particularly in third-world countries. Governments often view this sector as an adversary that takes away their funding and power. Conversely, the NGO sector sees states as restrictive or obstructive, imposing regulatory constraints that hinder their work. A prime example of this is the Arab Human Rights Organization, which no Arab state allowed to host its first meeting; it was forced to hold its initial gathering in Cyprus in 1983.

In post-war and conflict-ridden regions, the relationship between governments and NGOs is often unstable. This leads to tension between governments, organizations, and donor entities, as their numbers and activities increase in these areas. Governments perceive them as threats to their interests. On the other hand, NGOs also tend to avoid dealing with governments during transitional periods due to a lack of transparency in fund allocation. For instance, Angola allocates a significant portion of the funds it receives to military activities.¹²

In Western countries, a certain space is provided for NGOs to operate and engage in their activities, including criticizing the government and its programs. However, this space is subject to change; at times, it contracts, and at others, it expands. Their work is often confined to areas that are beyond the scope of the state's jurisdiction. Nonetheless, Western governments tend to handle external organizations with caution.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that receive support from their founding states usually convey ideological messages to the populations of the countries they interact with. They often don't hesitate to defend the perspectives of their governments. In this regard, the Senate stated in December 2006 that it agrees to use international NGOs to achieve American policy objectives, justifying this as it is sometimes difficult for the government to directly implement American policy.¹³

¹² Amina Zghaib, "International Organizations' Strategies in Reconstruction," p. 128, previous source.

¹³ Musab Shanin, "The Role of Non-Governmental International Organizations in Supporting the Democratic Transition Process in Tunisia," 2017, p. 93.

The Role of Organizations in Conflict Zones: Some Models and Examples will be highlighted

Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo: Bosnia and Herzegovina serve as clear examples of NGO intervention after experiencing the ravages of war. Despite the high presence of organizations, they didn't provide any significant benefit to the society there. "Martina Fischer" recalls in her study on the role of organizations: "Uncoordinated or unorganized funding of NGOs actually led to a phenomenon known in the region as 'project phobia'. NGOs created a new labor market, but it was an artificial market that relied entirely on external international funding and continuous international presence."¹⁴

The region of Kosovo underwent a similar experience with NGOs playing a negative role in the region's reality. "Amina Zaghieb" highlights that the region became saturated with international NGOs, and their uneven distribution led to numerous cases of duplication. This created unhealthy competition with local partners, both between local NGOs and between international NGOs and their local counterparts.¹⁵ Their concentration in urban areas intensified the competition, and the focus areas were similar according to "Amina Zaghieb."

Rwanda and Haiti: The tragedy of Rwanda demonstrated that the work of international NGOs, no matter how well-intentioned, can have negative consequences.¹⁶ Their support for refugees in camps inadvertently contributed to the development of armed groups, as these groups hid among the refugees. Despite this, the NGOs were reluctant to abandon them to avoid losing funding. Their primary objective seemed to be financial gain rather than assisting refugees. A similar situation occurred in Haiti, but in the field of education. In Haiti, most of the education and relief systems were under the control of these institutions. However, years of their active presence did not lead to any improvement in the living standards of Haitians. Additionally, most

¹⁴ Martina Fischer, "Civil Society and Conflict Resolution," 2006, p. 22.

¹⁵ Amina Zghaib, "International Organizations' Strategies in Post-War Reconstruction," University of Haj Khedr Batna, 2011, p. 166.

¹⁶ <https://www.dandc.eu/en/article/international-ngos-play-various-roles-global-politics-their-scope-influence-varies-do-their>

employees of these institutions were foreigners receiving high salaries, contrasting with the conditions of the Haitian population, who remain among the poorest in the world.¹⁷

Afghanistan: Afghanistan has endured civil wars and foreign interventions, from the Soviet Union to more recent American involvement. These interventions had a negative impact on Afghan society, creating a culture drowning in money without effort. The federal government paid funds to pro-government Afghans to establish NGOs. These organizations conducted workshops and seminars to teach citizens some liberal values. Instead of utilizing local resources and benefiting from civil society, the visually prospering civil society remained financially dependent on American funds. Local councils were marginalized, and the American-funded civil society became answerable to its funders rather than the Afghan people. The money flowing into these organizations became a commercial matter, while democratic issues remained a mere facade. Seminars, conferences, and workshops on human rights turned into jobs for some unemployed individuals in Afghanistan.¹⁸

Iraq: Like all totalitarian regimes, organizations in Iraq suffered within the confines of society due to conditions that prohibited freedom of organization. Before the American intervention, Iraq did not know what civil society was due to the authority of the national state, which prevented foreign investments. The state had strict customs rules and regulations on this matter. This situation led the Iraqi people to yearn for entry into the realm of civil society, thinking that it could fill the void created by the collapse of state values. The entry of the United States into Iraq opened the door for various forms of organizations under the banner of civil society organizations (NGOs). The tremendous chaos following the state's collapse and the lack of a new entity or state created an open field for exploitation and looting. Those who assisted in this plunder were the Iraqi people, who were focused on survival day by day, leading to a state of deadly chaos in Iraq.

On the other hand, NGOs became attractive, especially to the youth who were not drawn to organizations similar to the state's system, such as political parties. However,

¹⁷ ["Non-Governmental Organizations: Role and Suspicion."](#)

¹⁸ [Dr. Khaled Ramadan Abdel Latif: "How Did American Money Corrupt Afghanistan?"](#) 2021.

numerous obstacles and reasons hindered the development of civil society, pushing the door open for non-governmental organizations.

"Since the majority of non-governmental organizations in Iraq lack practical, legal, administrative, and financial standards, conflicts and power struggles among their members often escalate to the point of defamation, slander, and accusations, not to mention quarrels and allegations."¹⁹

Syria: It can be said that there was no real presence of organizations in Syria, except those operating under the umbrella of the Baath Party, such as certain associations and unions, primarily based in major cities. Registering local organizations was extremely challenging, subject to harsh routines and complications. Local organizations were not allowed to establish any relationship with international non-governmental organizations.

However, this situation drastically changed after 2011 when a new reality emerged. This reality attracted non-governmental organizations, and cities in neighboring Turkey along the Syrian border witnessed various activities of these organizations. Their offices and licensing places were established there, and from there, they expanded their reach towards northern Syria.

Since Syria is effectively divided into three spheres of influence, this has affected the spread of organizations across these areas in varying degrees. This is confirmed by a survey conducted by the "Citizens for Syria" center. The survey estimates that about 44% of organizations operate in areas controlled by the opposition, which makes up the largest percentage. Around 23% operate outside the borders of Syrian state, while those working in government-controlled areas constitute only 14%, the lowest percentage among its peers. The remaining percentage operates in areas controlled by the Democratic Autonomous Administration in Kurdish regions.²⁰

¹⁹ [The Decline of the Role of Non-Governmental Organizations in Iraq: Management, Coordination, and Support.](#)

²⁰ [Civil Society Organizations in Syria: Reality and Challenges.](#) Dr. Zaidoun Al-Zoubi, 2017.

In areas controlled by opposition forces, Turkey exerts control over the organizations present in those regions, only allowing them to operate if they are registered with Turkey. A recent study conducted by the organization "Impact" revealed the presence and influence exerted by Turkish forces in northern and eastern Aleppo. The report indicated that out of 514 civil society organizations included in the survey, 61 organizations were listed within the "Euphrates Shield" region of Turkey's operations. The vast majority of these organizations (53) were headquartered in Turkey. Civil society organizations are only allowed to conduct activities in the region if they are officially registered in Turkey or possess a work permit obtained specifically for this purpose from governors in "Hatay," "Kilis," or "Gaziantep."²¹ However, these organizations faced corruption issues. The US government had suspended part of the funding allocated to non-governmental organizations operating in Syria when it became evident that these organizations systematically paid exorbitant and unjustified amounts to Turkish companies for essential supplies meant for Syrian refugees.²²

In the same context, Turkey had hindered the work of numerous organizations, as Turkish officials feared that foreign assistance might eventually reach areas under regime control or areas controlled by Kurds across the border.²³

The Dark Side of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

There is a lot of controversy surrounding the role of organizations, and we will focus on the key points that generate debate, notably their intelligence role and their funding. These two aspects form the core of the dark side that needs to be examined, along with other equally important matters.

A. The Intelligence Role

The issue of organizations has become a major concern for governments and states because they possess the capability to obtain their goals through the strategy of attraction rather than violence and coercion. Furthermore, they are considered vital sources of information and data on various topics, including the economy, human

²¹ [Report: Civil Society... Under Turkey's Control in Northwestern Syria.](#)

²² [Non-Governmental Organizations: From Humanitarian Work to Suspicious Funding.](#)

²³ [Turkey intensifies its repressive campaigns against humanitarian relief organizations.](#)

rights, religion, population demographics, minorities, and more, which are crucial in shaping global policies and strategies.

Hence, engaging with or distancing from these organizations is influenced by the benefits and drawbacks they create. Due to these concerns, states have taken opposing stances toward the activities of these organizations. In Russia, these organizations are described as "undesirable." In 2012, Putin enacted a law characterizing these organizations as foreign agents.²⁴ A statement from the Kremlin indicated that Putin "signed a federal law regulating the activities of non-governmental organizations that play the role of foreign agents." The Russian Ministry of Justice also demanded the ban of nearly nine thousand organizations, which had received funds from abroad without disclosing their income and expenses.

In China, the rules governing the operations of non-governmental organizations have been tightened, including the requirement to disclose specific information such as funding and membership. Failure to comply results in a ban.²⁵

In Israel, the Israeli government approved a law project imposing new regulatory measures on non-profit organizations that receive funds from foreign governments.²⁶ Ayelet Shaked, the Minister of Justice, stated that the Israeli public "has the right to know when foreign governments are involved in the internal affairs of another country."²⁷

The Other Aspect that Amplifies these Concerns and Apprehensions is what Several Researchers have Pointed Out, that the American Vision Focuses on Reducing Military Forces Abroad and Compensating for that through Increasing Civilian American Power. Just as Special Forces exist within the Military Institution for Rapid Intervention, the New Diplomacy Suggests Forming Rapid Response Diplomatic Teams Comprising Trained Experts in Special Deployments to Conflict or Unstable Areas. This Cooperation would be between the Department of State and the U.S.

²⁴ [Russian President signs a controversial federal law](#). 2012

²⁵ [China seeks to tighten its grip on civil society organizations](#). 2016

²⁶ [Non-governmental organizations... from suspicious funding to cultural invasion](#).

²⁷ [The Israeli government targets foreign governments' funding](#) of civil organizations.

Agency for International Development (USAID) with the Aim of Striking a Balance between Military and Civilian Power. In this Context, Devin Douglas-Bowers writes in Foreign Policy: "They have been and are still being used as instruments of foreign policy, specifically with the United States, instead of relying solely on military power."²⁸

B. Funding

Money is the primary and crucial lifeline for any organization to sustain its operations, manage its affairs, and implement its projects. Therefore, a source of funding must be available, whether through self-funding or reliance on grants. Often, we see these organizations relying on donor countries for their funding, which raises many questions about their roles. A significant example is that the "National Endowment for Democracy" receives around \$100 million annually from the Congress. Similarly, "Freedom House" also receives a major portion of its funding from the U.S. government, particularly from the Department of State²⁹. These organizations operate in various societies and support local organizations. Naturally, they become supporters of the policies of their donor countries, creating a conflict between the donor countries (the funding source) and the objectives that these countries aim to promote under the humanitarian guise of non-governmental organizations. The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the past serves as a clear illustration of this dynamic.

Some researchers provide statistics on funding that indicate the United States holds the top position globally as the largest donor to these organizations.³⁰ The activities of most of these organizations are concentrated in countries that are of interest to the foreign policies of major powers. An example of this is the influence that donors exert over their decisions. Therefore, it's observed that most organizations do not disclose their funding sources. In a study conducted on funding sources, it was found that 61% of organizations did not disclose their funding sources.³¹ Furthermore, the funds provided

²⁸ [NGOs: Missionaries of Empire](#). By Devon Douglas-Bowers | Mar 10, 2012 | Essays, Middle East, US

²⁹ [U.S. Groups Helped Nurture Arab Uprisings](#). By Ron Nixon | April 14, 2011

³⁰ The previous reference: The Political and Security Roles of Non-Governmental Organizations, p. 15.

³¹ Dr. Nermin Abdelkader Embaby, The Role of International, Regional, and Local Human Rights Organizations in Facilitating the Free Flow of Information in the Context of Knowledge Society Building Trends, Cairo University, p. 33.

by donors to these organizations, when spent on development, have a clear impact on sectors like education, healthcare, and services. Hence, these funds do not effectively serve the society. An example of this is the funds granted to Palestinian organizations. Some studies indicate a 600% increase in financial support to the West Bank and Gaza Strip compared to previous years, reaching \$25.3 billion between 1999 and 2008.

In 2018 alone, the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) provided support to 48 non-governmental organizations in Iraq, with an amount totaling around \$2,570,000.³²

C - Attracting Young Talent

Non-governmental organizations have become a sponge, absorbing highly educated individuals with language skills and specialized expertise. The young elite no longer talk about "livelihood, freedom, social justice" or chant "the people want." Instead, terms like "sustainable development" and "women's empowerment" have spread as slogans. This indicates a shift in the intellectual framework of the younger generations, with many of them aspiring to secure support from these organizations.

The attraction of numerous talents due to the injection of funds and high salaries has a negative impact on local organizations and existing administrations. In Sudan, the education sector suffered from a shortage of teaching staff, especially in the English language, because they joined NGOs seeking higher salaries.³³

D - Melting Values and Cultures of Societies into a Specific Cultural Mixture Divergent from the Values of that Society

This is an attempt to influence cultures existing socially and religiously. In the case of the Rohingya, there is a special non-governmental research and report regarding NGOs operating in their shelters. The report reveals that some of these NGOs are accused of financial corruption and cultural and religious transformation. Most of these

³² [MIDDLE EAST AND NORTHERN AFRICA «IRAQ 2018](#)

³³ [The Negative Effects of Some Non – Governmental Organizations \(NGOs\) on EFL Teaching and Learning in Sudan](#)

organizations propagate their own culture and religion during their service, spreading their cultural and religious concepts³⁴. For instance, the sight of a cross in Kobani tells us about the changes being brought about.³⁵

Results

1. Non-governmental organizations have undergone significant developments since the mid-nineteenth century and continue to be strong entities in societies, especially in conflict and war zones. They now hold weight in international politics, occupy influential positions, and impact global public opinion. Reports released by these organizations work to rally international support for various causes.

2. Despite the broad slogans carried by non-governmental organizations, they are not devoid of negativity, which can have an impact on society. They might appear shiny like their slogans, but can be hollow on the inside. While they may exclude the role of states, they often fail to provide alternatives. In some cases, they might contribute to societal fragmentation, as evidenced by ongoing conflicts and lack of post-war development, despite the multitude of organizations present.

3. Under the banner of "prioritizing individual security over state security," isolated individuals can be easily exploited and plundered. An individual with no moral constraints becomes susceptible to manipulation. Building a society composed of disconnected individuals lacking shared values facilitates their exploitation.

4. The issue of NGOs entering conflict zones is complex and thorny, even when governed by laws. There are numerous ways for them to achieve their objectives. They can be considered tools of the global system, a reality that cannot be ignored. Knowing how to navigate and capitalize on their presence to serve the region is important.

³⁴[Some of the non-governmental organizations operating in Rohingya shelters are accused of financial corruption, cultural and religious manipulation.](#)

³⁵[The spread of Christianity in a Syrian town occurred while it was under the siege of the Islamic State.](#)

5. At first glance, NGOs can carry out some relief projects when local governments are not ready to meet people's needs. However, these projects often come with temporary benefits and positives. Over time, negative aspects may emerge that cannot be ignored.

6. Inundating NGOs with funding has transformed them from voluntary work to paid work. Their penetration into various segments of society, along with the resulting tensions, has contributed to deepening divisions between these segments, as they are tied to donor countries and must adhere to their conditions.

7. Regardless of the positives and negatives, there is a segment that benefits from these organizations due to the services they provide. Community awareness is crucial here as it can help control these organizations, given that they operate within the community.

8. Just like all countries possess armies and defense equipment, the presence of NGOs has become a priority for states to engage with. Soft power tools like these are used to counter the other side. Therefore, understanding the funding sources of NGOs is of great importance to discern donor agendas.

9. These organizations do not solve problems; they are transnational entities whose priority is not the community's needs. They function as a way to organize capitalism and market liberalization. They contribute to funding local organizations according to the global system's agendas, but do not play a role in improving or changing situations.

10. Due to the significant shortcomings of both classical states and often nation-states, attempts are being made to graft onto them a neutral system called civil society. However, this concept does not fully represent civil society as it drains it of its democratic essence and is used to mitigate the crisis of liberalism, represented by the nation-state.

11- Organizations often attempt to exploit the deep gap that commonly exists between governments and society, especially after the profound crisis that affected nation-states and led to a loss of appeal for individuals. They do this by filling this gap with alluring slogans and messages.

12. International organizations have become an undeniable reality and an integral part of the global system. They hold advisory positions within the United Nations and thus avoiding engagement with these organizations does not yield results. Building positive relationships with these organizations and leveraging their positions is essential for regional political and economic empowerment.

13. Increasing awareness about the risks posed by organizations and addressing societal deficiencies such as unemployment, poverty, healthcare, and education is the best remedy for strengthening and empowering the community.

14. The most important target demographic is the youth. Therefore, developmental projects should be established to attract and engage young individuals, aiming to fill the void resulting from instability.

15. From all that has been discussed, we often witness situations where the status of organizations surpasses that of governments. This is due to the nature of NGOs, which are not subject to the same accountability. Additionally, their work often transcends national borders.