



DOUBLE DELEGATION: AN INVESTIGATION OF THE UN USE OF PRIVATE SECURITY CONTRACTORS

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MOTIVATION

- United Nations (UN) use of Private Security Contractors (PSCs)
- UN maintains absolute secrecy regarding the use of PSCs

Pictured here: Blackwater Contractors



RESEARCH QUESTION

What are the authority implications for the UN use of PSCs?

Harms UN legitimacy and authority among its peers, member states, and the civilians that interacts with its forces

PREVIOUS LITERATURE

Title	Authors	Year Published	Positive or Negative for UN legitimacy/authority
UN Peacekeeping and the International Private Military and Security Industry	Christopher Spearin	2011	Negative
In the Business of Peace	Åse Gilje Østensen	2013	Negative
The United Nations Guidelines on the Use of Armed Private Security	Lou Pinget	2014	Negative
The Anti-Mercenary Norm...	Oldrich Bures & Jeremy Meyer	2019	Negative
Contracting Security	Elke Krahnemann & Anna Leander	2019	Negative
UN Organizational and Financial Incentives...	Benjamin Tkach & Joe Phillips	2020	Negative
The Anti-Mercenary Norm ... From Norm Entrepreneurship to Organized Hypocrisy	Oldrich Bures & Eugenio Cusumano	2021	Negative
From Mercenary to UN Contractor?	Malcolm Hugh Patterson	2009	Positive
The Use of Private Force by the United Nations...	Morgan Riley	2013	Positive
From combat to non-combat action	Chris M.A. Kwaja	2015	Positive
Private security and military contractors	Swed & Crosbie	2017	Positive

THEORY: DOUBLE DELEGATION

- Delegation of authority
 - Member states  United Nations
 - United Nations  Security Contractors
- Imagery & Symbolism
 - What is state authority?
 - What is UN authority?

DOUBLE DELEGATION CONT.

- The chain of command
 - Inside vs. outside (direct vs. indirect control)
- Who works for the UN?
 - Misrepresentation of who works for and who is contracted to complete tasks for the UN



DATABASE CONSTRUCTION



Search through LexisNexis modeled after Avant & Neu (2019)



Searches of contractor websites

DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION

- **Contributions to the existing literature**
 - Double Delegation clarifies the costs of PSC use
 - Novel database on the UN use of security contractors
- **Implications**
 - Evidence of organized hypocrisy (Bures and Meyer, 2019)
 - Future work can expand the database