

## The Credibility Challenge

How Democracy Aid Influences Election Violence

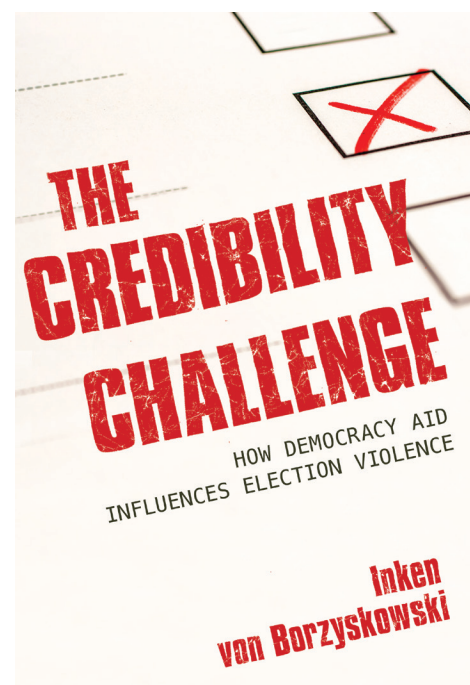
INKEN VON BORZYSKOWSKI

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The key to the impact of international election support is credibility; credible elections are less likely to turn violent. So argues Inken von Borzyskowski in *The Credibility Challenge*, in which she provides an explanation of why and when election support can increase or reduce violence.

Von Borzyskowski answers four major questions: Under what circumstances can election support influence election violence? How can election support shape the incentives of domestic actors to engage in or abstain from violence? Does support help reduce violence or increase it? And, which type of support—observation or technical assistance—is better in each instance? *The Credibility Challenge* pulls broad quantitative evidence and qualitative observations from Guyana, Liberia, Kenya, Sierra Leone, and Bangladesh to respond to these questions. Von Borzyskowski finds that international democracy aid matters for election credibility and violence; outside observers can exacerbate postelection violence if they cast doubt on election credibility; and technical assistance helps build electoral institutions, improves election credibility, and reduces violence. Her results advance research and policy on peacebuilding and democracy promotion in new and surprising ways.

INKEN VON BORZYSKOWSKI is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Florida State University. Her research has appeared in *International Studies Quarterly*, *British Journal of Political Science*, and *Review of International Organizations*.



"Inken von Borzyskowski's *The Credibility Challenge* is thought-provoking and sure to stir debate about the appropriate role of international actors in their longstanding efforts to promote democracy around the world."

—Susan Hyde, University of California, Berkeley

"*The Credibility Challenge* is a clear, compelling, and engaging account of how international monitoring and assistance can reduce election violence. The importance of the topic, the novelty of the data, and the careful manner in which evidence is examined make this book a real achievement."

—Daniela Donno Panayides, University of Pittsburgh

"An invaluable and original contribution for scholars and practitioners interested in international development, civil wars, democracy and elections."

—Pippa Norris, Harvard University

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