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### **Abstract**

This thesis critically examines the role of the United Nations in peacebuilding in post-conflict Nepal, focusing on the limitations and effectiveness of international interventions in intrastate conflicts. It uses a historical and qualitative framework to explore the political, social, and geopolitical factors that influenced Nepal's transition from a Maoist insurgency to a fragile peace following the 2006 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

Despite the deployment of the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN), the dissertation highlights the mission's limited mandate and challenges in addressing structural violence, coordinating stakeholders, and adapting to Nepal's complex political environment. The thesis critiques these shortcomings and underscores the importance of context-sensitive engagement.

A key contribution is the analysis of civil society's role in sustaining peace. The dissertation underscores how grassroots initiatives and community-based actors emerged as pivotal in rebuilding trust and promoting social inclusion, despite facing policy and resource constraints. It also explores the influence of external powers—India, China, and the United States—on the peace process, introducing “masala peacemaking” to describe their overlapping involvement.

Ultimately, the dissertation calls for a more inclusive, flexible, and locally informed approach to UN peacebuilding efforts, offering strategic recommendations to enhance future missions in similar conflict settings.