



La Repubblica Democratica del Congo: conflitti e problematiche socio-territoriali
Francesco De Pascale, Luca Jourdan, Kalenge Nguvulu Chris (Eds.)

The emergence of complexity and the limits of the international approach in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Alessandro Soggiu¹

Abstract

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is often presented as an example of a “fragile” state, if not a failure; with this contribution we want to investigate the hypothesis that the international community’s approach to the Congolese crisis has been in some ways “reductionist”. As an “international community” I will refer to three specific actors active in the country: the United Nations (and more precisely the peacekeeping mission called MONUSCO, still active today in the DRC), the European Union (as a single unitary actor) and the African Development Bank (AdB). The fulcrum of this analysis is the international intervention in the DRC, analyzed using the applied models of the modern development paradigm. However, this intervention is interpreted in a “technocratic and scientific” sense (Zamponi, 2007, p. 191), thus abstracted from the reality and the socio-political specificities of the Congolese case. In the first two paragraphs I will outline the modern discourse of development, first in general and then more specifically applied to the DRC case, to then conclude with the case study of the South Kivu region, where conflict and marginalization scenarios continue to recur. In parallel to the violence, however, the independent emergence of new complex forms (here understood in a more anthropological sense, as it will be explained later) of protection, authority and access to well-being will be investigated (Vlassenroot, Raeymaekers, 2005; Raeymaekers, 2007). These emerging models have also contributed to the erosion of the centrality of the State, which today has an absolutely new role, in some ways “interstitial” (Raeymaekers, 2007); this new role of the central authority will be analyzed and discussed in the conclusions.

Keywords: Democratic Republic of the Congo development, democracy, international community, marginalization, complexity, conflict, identity,

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¹ Università degli Studi di Bologna, Scuola di Scienze Politiche, Strada Maggiore 45, 40126, Bologna; e-mail: alessandrosoggiu1@gmail.com.



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