### Abstract

The purpose of the thesis is to contribute to the ongoing debates on greed and grievance factors as to the causes of civil war. Firstly, the central focus of this study is to determine whether greed or/and grievance theories are relevant to explain the causes of civil war in Sierra Leone. Secondly, the thesis analyses whether there are linkages between greed and grievance factors in the causes of civil war of Sierra Leone.

The thesis is in qualitative form. It is theory-orientated as it aims to review the theoretical debate, and to contribute in the theoretical discussion. The study is a descriptive-explanatory, single case-study research that compares two ‘the causes of civil wars’ theories. The research method used in the thesis is descriptive-explanatory analysis and synthesis. The study employs the case study method by analysing a wide range of secondary sources on or about the causes of civil war theories, greed and grievance theories and Sierra Leone civil war in order to examine the greed and grievance factors, and their linkages as to the causes of the Sierra Leone civil war. The unit of the analysis is the state of Sierra Leone and the causes of its civil war in 1991–2002.

The thesis confirms that the civil war in Sierra Leone and it causes are many, diverse and a very complex phenomenon. The results of this study show that greed factors are not the only or exhaustive explanation enough to explain the causes of the civil war in Sierra Leone. Also grievance factors played a major role in causing the war.

The thesis confirms that both greed and grievance proxies existed and have been simultaneously causing the civil war in Sierra Leone. The thesis confirms that many greed or grievance -motivated proxies are connected to each other. Therefore Collier's and Hoeffler's view on greed and grievance as contrasting motivations for rebellion is not a correct one.

### Keywords

- sisällissodat
- Sierra Leone
- civil wars
- greed
- grievance
- peace - and - conflict - studies

### Additional Information

- Muita tietoja-Övriga uppgifter-Additional information