

## **Chapter 21**

### **The use and abuse of militias: Making sense of militia-induced conflicts in post-colonial Africa and the impotence of regional organizations**

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#### **Introduction**

The focus of this chapter is on post-colonial Africa's experience with militia backed movements. It discusses the various theories behind emergence and actual use of militias, as most such Western theories tend to blame governments for fuelling conflict. Using contemporary examples, the chapter then delves into what really promotes such militias on the continent. This is done in order to demystify and deconstruct some mentalities raised by state centred theories. Since armed conflict has become a major preoccupation of the African Union (AU), there is a section on what AU has done so far together with impediments to its effort. ...