

Table One America's History of Nation-Building

Country	Years	Peak US Troops	International Cooperation	Assessment	Lessons Learned
West Germany	1945-52	1.6 million	Joint project with Britain and France; and, eventually NATO	Very successful; an economically stable democracy and NATO member within 10 years.	Democracy can be transferred. Military forces can underpin democratic transformation.
Japan	1945-52	350,000	None	Very successful; economically stable democracy and a regional security anchor within 10 years.	Democracy can be exported to non-Western societies. Unilateral nation building can be simpler (but more expensive) than multilateral efforts.
Somalia	1992-94	28,000	UN humanitarian oversight	Not successful; little was accomplished other than some humanitarian aid delivered in Mogadishu and other cities.	Unity of command can be as essential in peace as in combat operations. Nation-building objectives need to be scaled to available resources.

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Haiti	1994-96	21,000 ^a	UN help in policing	Not successful; US forces restored democratically elected president but left before democratic institutions took hold.	Exit deadlines can be counterproductive. Building competent administrations and democratic institutions takes time.
Bosnia	1995-present	20,000	Joint NATO, UN, and OSCE effort	Mixed success; democratic elections occurred within 2 years, but government is constitutionally weak.	Nexus between organised crime and political extremism can be a serious challenge to enduring democratic reforms.
Kosovo	1999-present	15,000 ^b	NATO military action and UN support	Modest success; elections occurred within 3 years, and economic growth is strong. But there has been no final resolution of Kosovo's status.	Broad participation and extensive burden-sharing can be compatible with unity of command and US leadership.
Afghanistan	2001-present	10,000	Modest contribution from UN and NGOs	Too early to tell; no longer a launch pad for global terrorism, but there is little democratic structure, and there is no real governmental authority beyond Kabul.	A low initial input of money and troops yields a low output of security, democratisation and economic growth.

Footnotes

^a Plus 1,000 international police.

^b Plus 4,600 international police.

Source: James Dobbins, John G. McGinn, Keith Crane, Seth G. Jones, Rollie Lal, Andrew Rathmell, Rachel Swanger and Anga Timilsina, *America's Role in Nation-Building: From Germany to Iraq* (Santa Monica, CA: RAND, 2003).