

2. Limitations and Possibilities of “African Potentials” in Conflict Resolution and Co-existence:  
Towards an Endogenous Approach to Peace-building  
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In Southern Sudan during the civil war, many grassroots peace programs actively utilized “African potentials”. Essential features of “potentials” were utilized by these programs, i.e., traditional / indigenous conflict resolution mechanisms, peacemakers, a sacrifice and feast, thorough discussion with a consensual aspect, and an orientation for restorative justice.

Kurimoto argues that conflict resolution efforts should not only be indigenous but also endogenous. Initiatives should come from the people, based on their desire for peaceful co-existence, not from outside or above. Conflict is a great disadvantage for the everyday existence of people and for their livelihoods. Thus, elements of coexistence and crosscutting ties between communities survive war and continue to operate after such disruption. “African potentials” may be rediscovered, rehabilitated, updated and utilized for the betterment of people, peace, stability and prosperity. External actors should be there to assist and facilitate the process, not to impose external concepts on the people.