

# Conflict: Types and Trends

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# Outline

Course introduction

A taxonomy of conflict

Who fights?

Why do they fight?

Where do they fight?

Consequences of conflict

Is the world getting more or less peaceful?

## Assignment: Paper

- 1 Pick a conflict you're interested in and utilize two of the theories from the course to attempt to explain why the conflict occurred. In this we want you to compare the two theories and discuss what they get right and what they got wrong. The core questions is, can this theory explain this conflict?
- 2 Alternatively you can pick one theory and use it to explain a (one) conflict.

## What does a paper look like?

- The paper could be a small-N or large-N study
- It should have a CLEAR and researchable hypothesis
- Don't spend a ton of time reviewing literature you are not going to use
- Observable implications
- Guide books:
  - For large-N studies: King, Gary (2006) *Publication, Publication, PS: Political Science and Politics*
  - For small-N studies: van Evera, Stephen (1997) *'Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science'* Ithaca: Cornell University Press

# Structure of the course

- Topics:
  - What is Conflict
  - Ethnicity, Cleavages and Conflict
  - Institutional Design, Quality and Conflict
  - Development and Conflict
  - Forecasting Conflict
  - Non-violent Conflict
- Strong focus on the quantitative / statistical study of conflict
- Focus mostly on *internal* armed conflict

# A taxonomy of conflict

- Who fights?
  - Governments
  - Organizations
  - Individuals
- Why do they fight?
  - Politics?
  - Economics?
  - Insanity?
- Where do they fight
  - Home or away?
- Consequences of conflict
  - How many were killed?
  - What is the time frame?

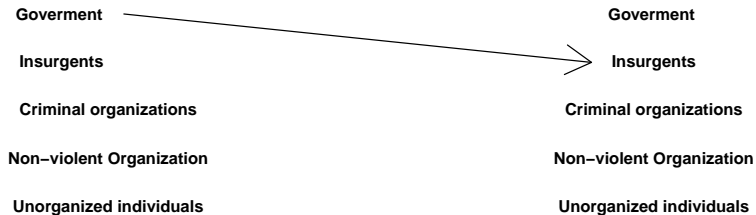
# Interstate war

Figure: Interstate war



# Intrastate war

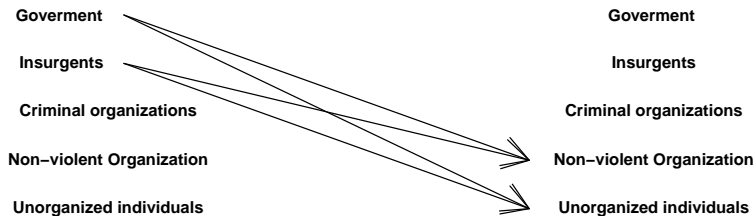
Figure: Intrastate war





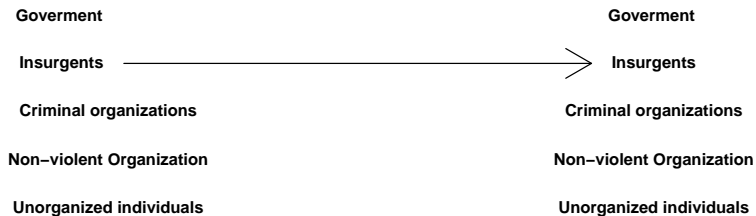
# One-sided violence war

Figure: One-sided violence



# Non-state conflict

Figure: Non-state conflict



# Criminal violence

Figure: Criminal violence



# Why do they fight?

- Incompatibility
  - ① Government?
  - ② Territory?
  - ③ Ideology/Religion?
  - ④ Security?
  - ⑤ Insanity?
  - ⑥ Irrationality?
  - ⑦ Wealth?
  - ⑧ Government in disguise?
- Often difficult to observe
- Self-reporting

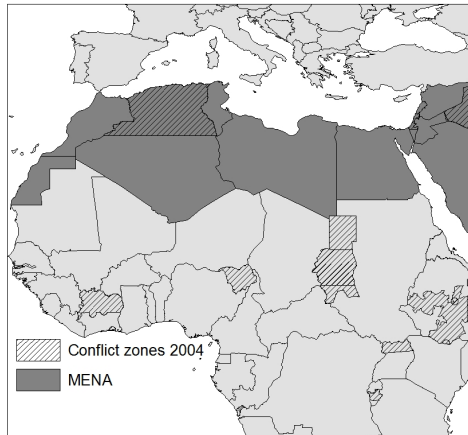


*"No, I don't want to ask the audience.."*

# Why do they fight?

- Location

- ① Which party to the conflict fights on home turf?
  - One?
  - All?
  - None?
- ② Is the conflict located in the area of contention?
  - Imperial conflict
- ③ Is the conflict located within a recognized state?
  - Extra-systemic conflict



# Consequences of conflict

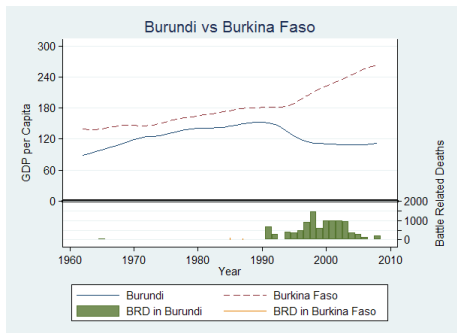
## Fatalities

### 1 What fatalities should be counted?

- Soldiers killed in combat
- Civilians killed in combat
- Killings civilians outside of combat
- Conflict-related overmortality

### 2 Other forms of damage?

- DALY



# DR Congo

- International Rescue Committee (IRC) claim:
  - Cumulative deaths due to conflict: 5.4 million (+/- 2.2m)
  - 5 household surveys 2000-07
  - Crude Death Rate (CDR) compared to average SSA
  - Critique: what is the counterfactual CDR? Battle-deaths: 145,000 (1998-2001)

## Duration

Private Baldrick: No, the thing is: The way I see it, these days there's a war on, right? and, ages ago, there wasn't a war on, right? So, there must have been a moment when there not being a war on went away, right? and there being a war on came along. So, what I want to know is: How did we get from the one case of affairs to the other case of affairs?

Captain Blackadder: Do you mean 'How did the war start?'

- What defines the start of a conflict? The statement of the incompatibility?
  - ① The decision to use violence?
  - ② The first fatality?
  - ③ The fulfillment of all criteria?
- What defines the end of a conflict?
  - ① Peace treaty/ceasefire?
  - ② End of combat?



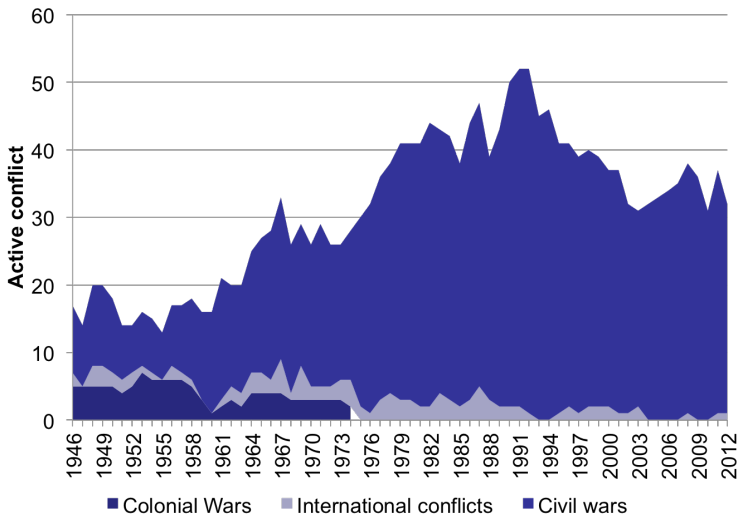
# What is a conflict?

- How do we separate between one and several conflicts?
  - 1 Actors?
  - 2 Time Periods?
  - 3 Incompatibility?
  - 4 Location?

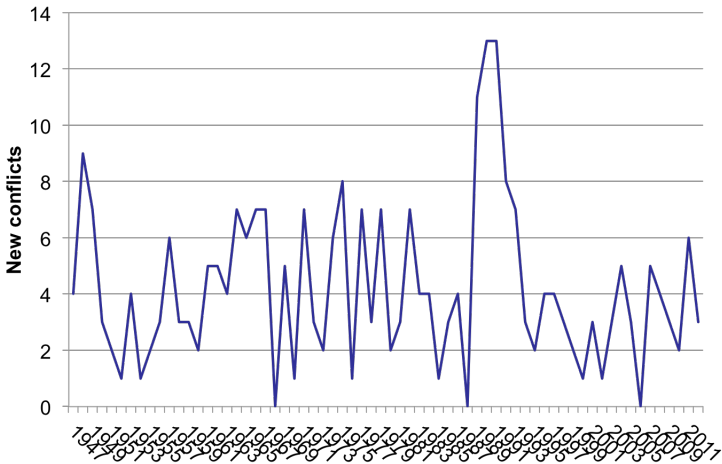
## UCDP's definition of conflict?

- Armed Conflict (State-based):
  - ① Contested political incompatibility
  - ② Organized parties
  - ③ At least one party is government of a state
  - ④ At least 25 battle related deaths (BRD) (999 < War)
- Non-State Conflict
  - ① Use of violent force
  - ② Between organized parties
  - ③ Of which none is a government
  - ④ At least 25 BRD
- One-sided Conflict
  - ① Use of force
  - ② By organized actor against non-violent civilians
  - ③ At least 25 BRD

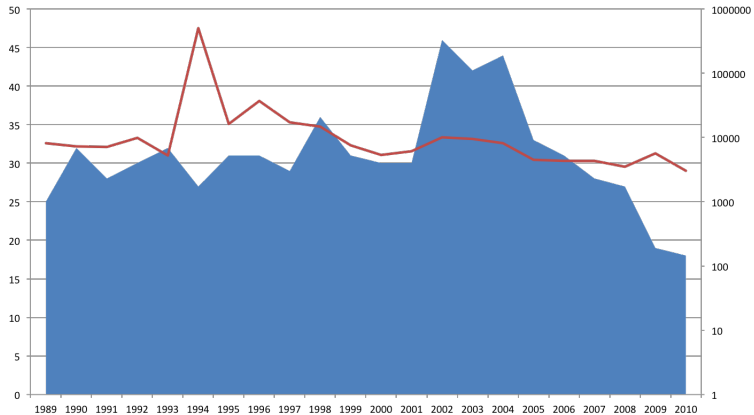
## Trends in conflict



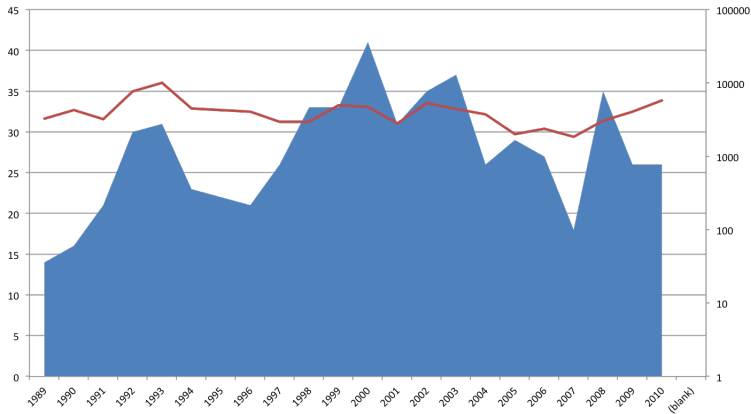
# Conflict onsets



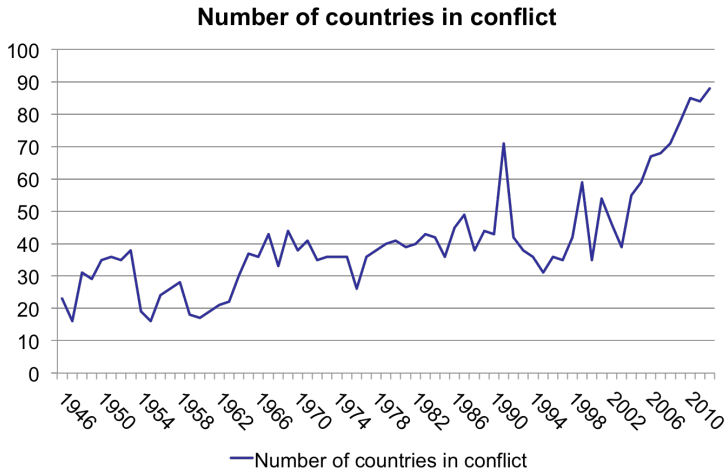
# One sided violence



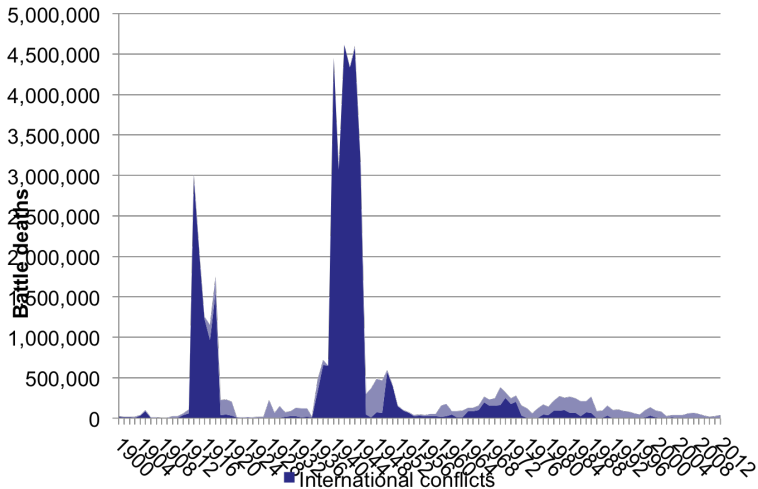
# Non state conflict



# Countries in conflict



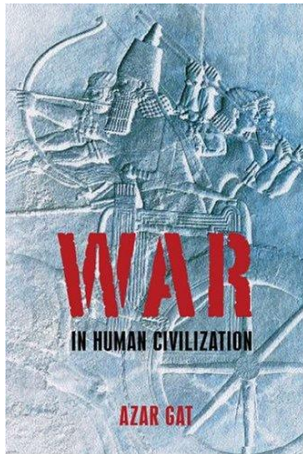
# Battle related deaths





# Is war declining?

- War is declining!
  - 1 The central role of the state
    - Monopoly of violence
    - Internal peace
    - Reduced exposure to interstate war
  - 2 World Wars 1 and 2 sharply diverge from the trend
    - Normann Angell (1911)  
The Great Illusion
  - 3 Key reason
    - Peace has become more profitable
    - War has not become more lethal



## Our better angels

- Identifies the same trend.
  - ① Explanations
    - The Leviathan (again!)
    - Trade and commerce (the profitability of peace again)
    - Feminization: increases respect for interests and values of women
    - Cosmopolitanism: makes it easier to identify with 'others'
    - Rise of reason and rationality
  - ② Fewer people are growing up in violent societies where they are taught that violence is acceptable, a way of life

