## IREn5019 No War, No Peace: Frozen Conflicts in the Caucasus

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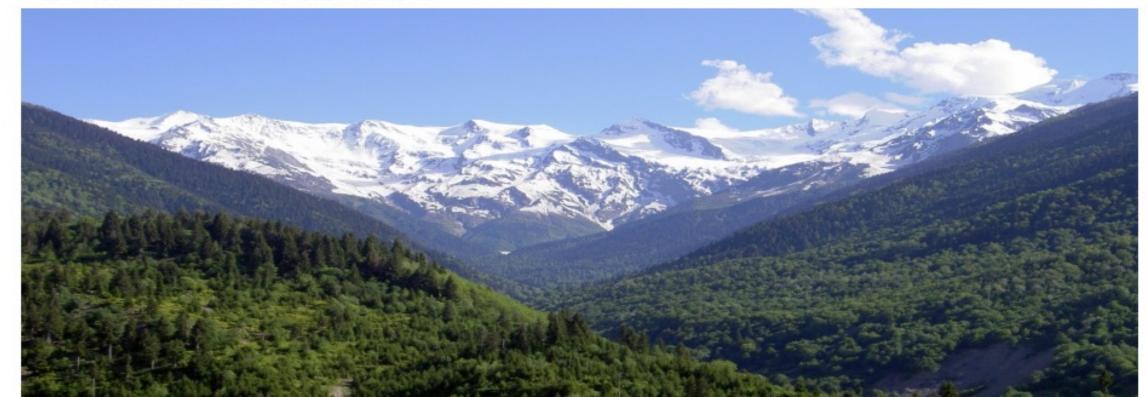
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14.9.2022

# The Caucasus

- Large mountainous zone,
- Small republics of the huge Soviet Union,
- Conflict countries from headline news.





### The Caucasus



### The Caucasus

- "The new world disorder"
- 8 conflicts: N-K, South Ossetia, Abkhazia, the Prigorodniy Rayon of North Ossetia and Chechnya – hundred thousand deaths, two million six hundred thousand refugees and Internally Displaces Persons.

Ethnic based autonomous regions of Soviet era

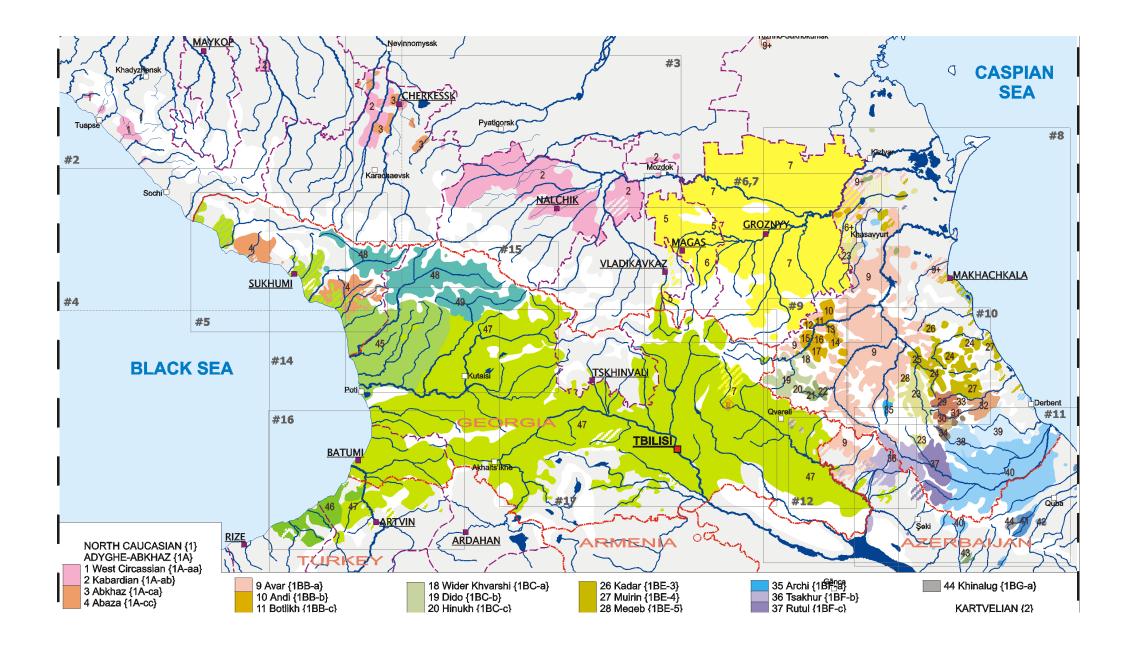
# Geographical settings in the Caucasus

- Northern border: Krasnodar and Stavropol Krai, Russian mainland begins.
- Western border: eastern border of Ottoman empire.
- Southerns border: Araxes river, Iran's northern border.
- Political map: three states- Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia plus North Caucasus, part of RF.
- 400, 000km2 over 20 million people.
- North Caucasus and South or Trans-Caucasia (from Russian Zakavkaz) terms.

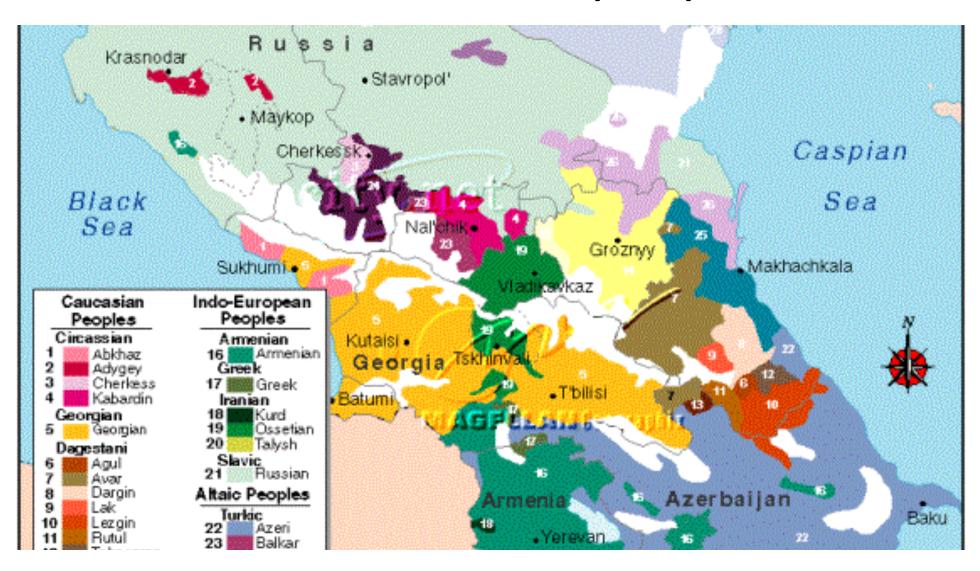
# Museum of peoples

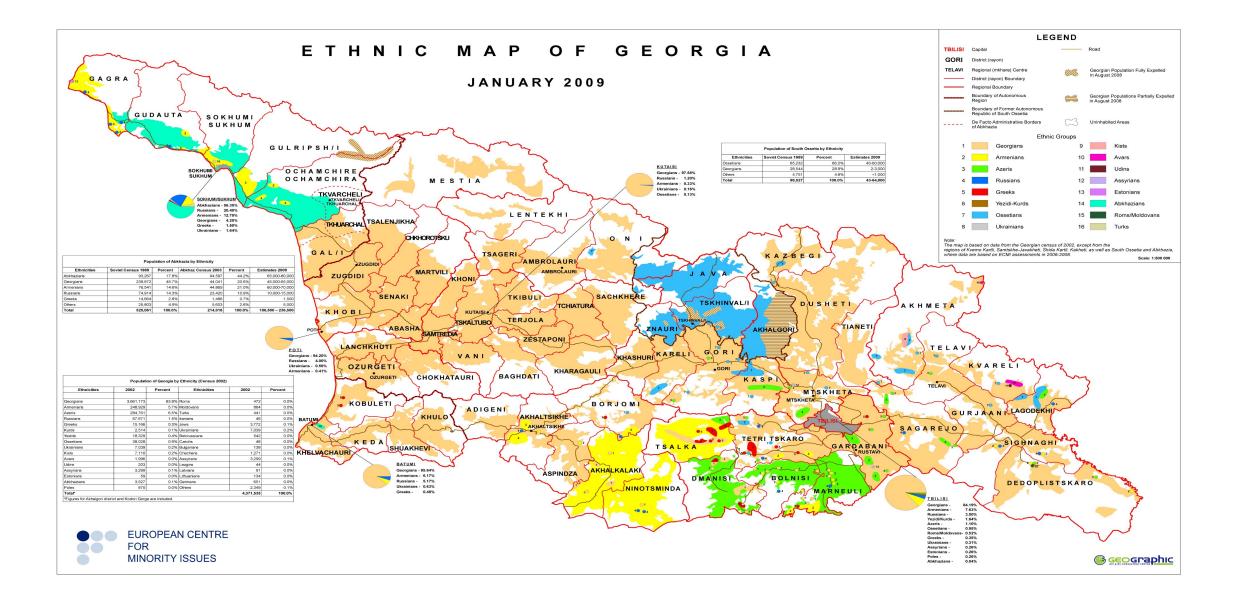
- The North Caucasus: two groups
- 1. indigenous Caucasian peoples, the Vainakh peoples composed of Chechens, Ingush and Tsova-Tush and Daegstani peoples composed of Avars, Lezgins, Dargins and Laks and the Abkhaz and Circassian peoples.
- 2. Turkic and Iranian settlers, Ossetians and Tats.

Ethnolinguistic Groups in the Caucasus Region Rostov Kazakhstan Rostov Astrakhan Sea of Azov Kalmykia Krasnodar Kray 28 21 80 Stavropol\* Stavropol' Kray Russia Caspian Cherke 21 Sea Chechnya Grozn Nazran" Makhachkala Vladykavkaz Black Dagestan Ossetia B'khimini Sea K'ut'aisi\_ Georgia Caucasian Indo-European Peoples Peoples Abkhaz Armenian Azerbaijan R\* Baku Abkhar. 16 a Armenian Armenia Yerevan Circasian Greek 16 . Xankāndi 17 Greek A Adygey (Stepanakert) 22 Cherkess Iranian Kabardin K Kurd Georgian Maxchian e O Ossetian Naxovan Aze G Georgian Tilysh Dagestani Slavic Nakhichevan R Russian Agul Turkey Avar D Dargin Altaic Peoples I Lak Iran Turkic 10 L Lezgin 22 Z Azeri 13 Ruttil 23 Balkar 1.2 Tabasaran 22 24 Karachay 13 Bakhur 23 Kurnyk Veinakh 26 Nogay 14 Chechen Republic, oblast, or kray boundary T Turkmen 15 Ingush Mongol Other too sillometers Kalmyk Sparsely populated or uninhabited areas are shown in white 100 Miles

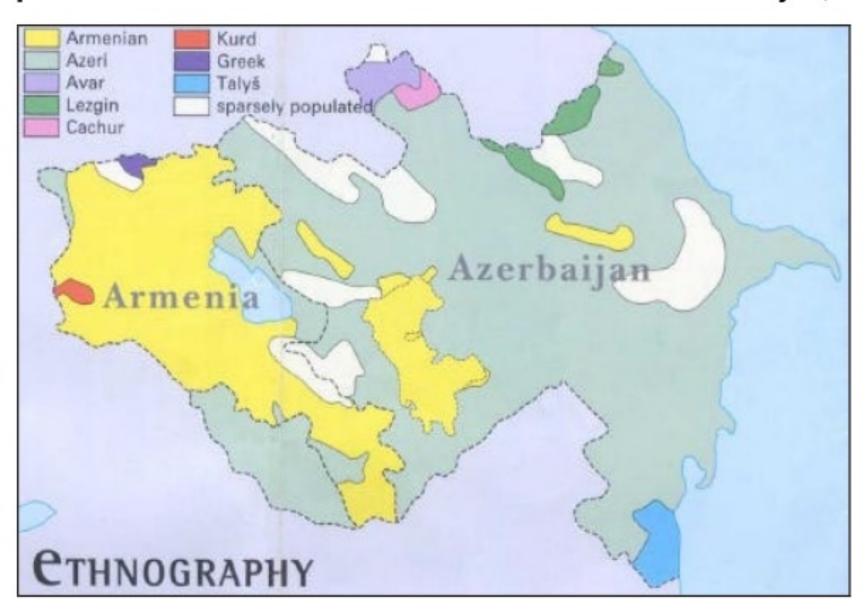


# The museum of people





Map 3: Ethnic Settlement Patterns in Armenia and Azerbaijan, 1989

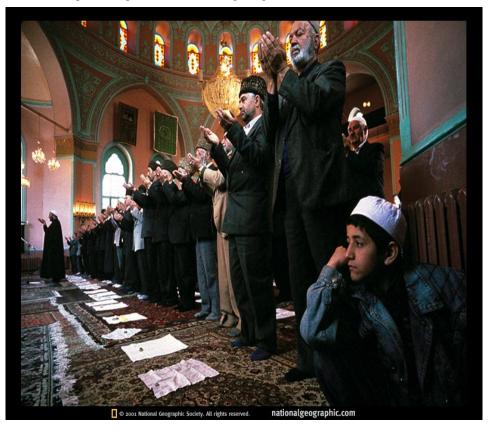


# The crossroad of religions

- Islam both Shi'i and Ja'fari Shi'i Islam majority of Azeris.
- Sunni tradition in Dagestan. Hanafi school in Chechnya and Ingushetia, the Turkic Karachais and Balkars, the Ajars of Georgia and minority of Azeris (15-25%), minority of Ossetians (20-30%) and Abkhazians (35%).
- Judaism: Georgian Jews, Tays and Mountain Jews in Azerbaijan and Dagestan.

# The crossroad of religions

Azerbaijan - a nation with a Turkic and majority-Muslim population.

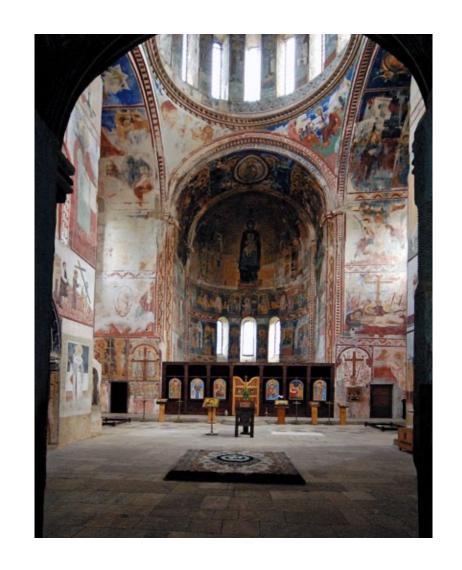


**The Armenian Apostolic Church** 



# Georgia – Orthodox Christianity



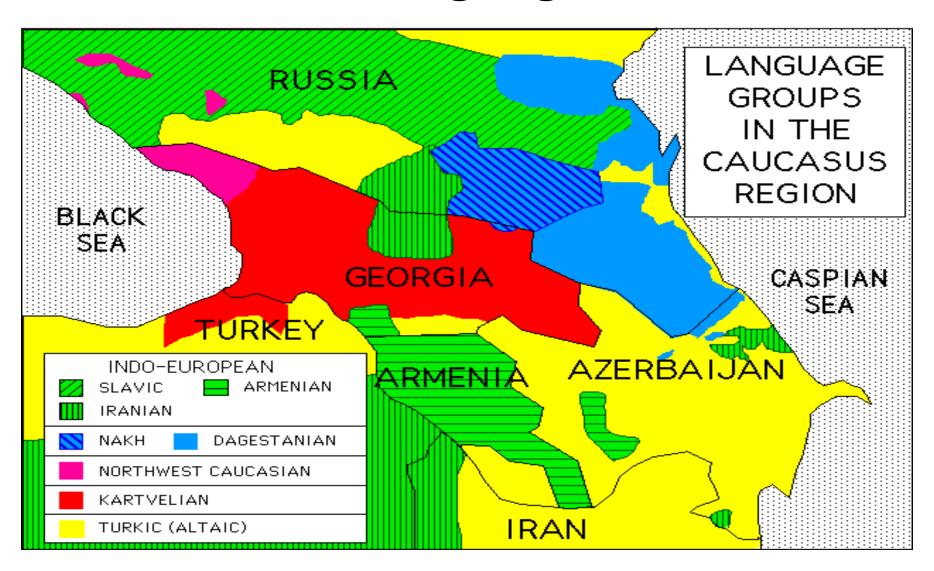








## Languages



# Languages

#### The Georgian alphabet



#### The Armenian alphabet



#### Changes in the Azerbaijan Alphabet Sequence in the 20th Century

		1923	Enrly Latin 1923 - 1939		Cyrillic 1939 - 1991		New Latin since 1991	
English. equivalency	Letter	English equivalency	Lotter	English equivalency	Letter	English equivalency	Letter	
a-art	T	а	Aa	a	Aa	a	Aa	
b	-	b	ВЬ	b	Б б	b	ВЬ	
P	_	ch	CC	v	Вв	j	Cc	
t	2	i	Cc	q	FF	ch	Cc	
s	-	d	Dd	gh	FE	d	Dd	
i	8 0	е	Ee	d	Дд	е	H c	
ch	€	ae	9.5	е	Ee	ae	90	
h	-	f	FI	ae	20	f	Ff	
kh-some no	2	g	Gg	zh	ж ж	g	Gg	
d	4	gh	qq	z	3 3	gh	Gg	
z	劉	h	Hh	I-mg	14 m	h	Hh	
r	3	i-mc	11	I Merse	bl tit	kh	Xx	
z	3.	- Beatanne	la te	У	11	1-Maries	Li	
zh ,	割	У	J.J.	k	Kĸ	1-to	11	
S	-	k	Kk	g	KK	zh	Jj	
sh	4	1	LI	I.	Лл	k	Kk	
S	-	m	M m	m	MM	q	Qq	
z	-	n	Nn	n	Нн	1	LI	
t	16 E	O-reste	00	O-toni	00	m	M m	
Z	<u> 14</u>	O-world	θө	O-world	0.0	n	Nn	
ae	2	P	Pp	p	Пп	O-tate	00	
gh	E E	q	Qq	r	Pp	O-word	00	
f	1100	r	Rr	s	Cc	р	Pp	
q	33	S	S 5	t	TT	r	Rr	
k	-5	sh	\$5	U-sal	Уу	S	5 8	
g	3	t	T1	U-nus	YY	sh	5.5	
ngapag	3	Urper	Uu	f	ФФ	t	Tt	
I	3	LI-ture	УУ	kh	Xx	U-put	Uu	
m	£-	V	V.v.	h	h h	Union	Uu	
n	0	kh	Xx	ch	Чч	v	Vv	
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h	27	zh	7.2	sh	III m	z	7. 2	
y, i	Vice	apostrones		Specialization		аргонтпром	-	

# Early history

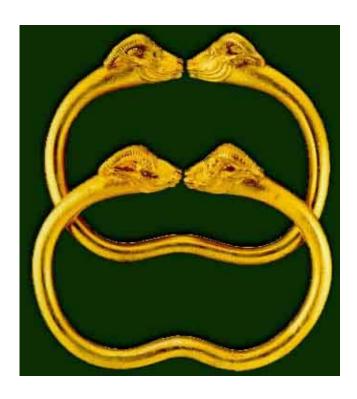
 The advanced economy and favorable geographic and natural conditions of the area attracted the Byzantine, Persian, Mong ol, Ottoman and Russian empires.  Ancient countries of Caucasus: Armenia, Iberia, Colchis and Albania.



#### Culture

The area was home to the well-developed bronze culture known as the Colchian culture.

Golden braceletes, c 5-4 centuries BC.





# Course goals

- By the end of the semester, students will be able to identify, analyze and evaluate who were the conflict parties? What were the parties' incompatible goals, values and interests? What were the trigger events and issues at stake? How the conflicts evolved and why they have never been resolved?
- The learning outcomes of the course will enable students upon completion to:
- 1. Engage critically with different theories of ethnic conflicts.
- 2. Obtain a broad knowledge of the conflict escalations process in the Caucasus region.
- 3. Acquire insights of how political developments, socio-economic process and systemic features resulted into the outbreak of violence.
- 4. Examine the nature of conflicts in the Caucasus with respect to factors that generates those conflicts and their change in time.
- 5. Acquire knowledge of **international engagement** towards conflict settlement and establishment of democratic institutions in the Caucasus.

## Requirements

Readings: The syllabus lists mandatory readings below. Students are responsible for completing all of these **readings before every class** and coming to class prepared to discuss issues indicated for every session. Required readings for the course are to be found in Study Materials folder in Information System. **Policy Papers**: there will be **three Policy Papers** during the semester. The length of the assignment should vary between 1800 and 3600 characters and should be uploaded to the IS. Each of the Policy paper will be graded between 0 and 10 points. Thus the students can obtain up to 30 points.

1. Choose one of the conflicts in the Caucasus and explain what was the major causes of this conflict? Was the conflict ethnic/political/economic/territorial/? Why? Due to: 6 November 2022.

2. Based on comparison of Russian and Western engagement in the Caucasus conflicts explain one of the questions bellow:

1. How you assess the role of the EU in Nagorno Karabakh conflict? How you assess the role of Russia in

Nagorno Karabakh conflict?

2. The EU's ambition to promote peace and stability into its neighbourhood has often stumbled upon division, short terms interests of its member states, lack of assertiveness and more decisive role in conflict resolution effort. How can EU do better in Georgia? How do you access the role of Russia in separatist areas (Abkhazia and South Ossetia)? Due to **28 November 2022.**3. What could be done for conflict resolution in the Caucasus? Choose one conflict and draw at list three

policy recommendation for the actors involved in a conflict. Due date: 11 December 2022.

# Requirements

Final written test: **The final written** test will contain 10 open questions from the mandatory literature. You will have a maximum of 60 minutes to complete the written test and receive up to **30 points.** There will be several terms of final examination in the Information System. Final Grading: The maximum is 60 points; the minimum to complete the course is 35 points.

A 56 - 60 points

B 51 - 55 points

C 46 - 50 points

D41-45 points

E 36 - 40 points

F less than 36 points.

#### Structure

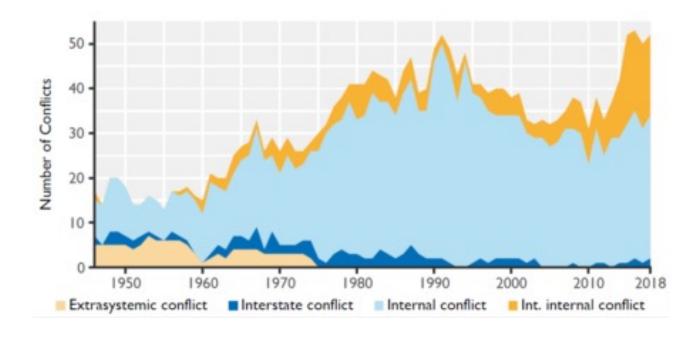
- Introduction
- A taxonomy of conflict
- Who fights?
- Why do they fight?
- Where do they fight?
- □ Is the world getting more or less peaceful?

### Introduction

• International violence is becoming less problematic than it was during the last century – more intrastate conflicts, than interstate struggles.

• From 1989 to 1996 there were 69 armed conflicts, of which only five have been between states.

#### Conflict trends



#### Conflict trends

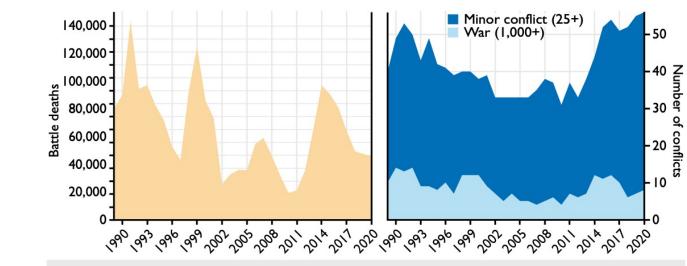
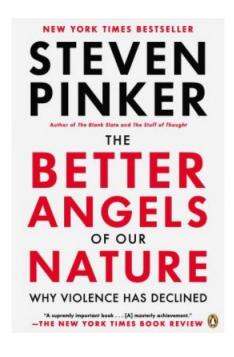
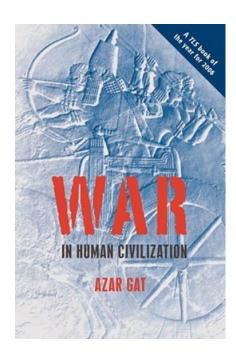


Figure 1: Number of battle deaths and conflicts, 1989–2020. Source: UCDP database (ucdp.uu.se)

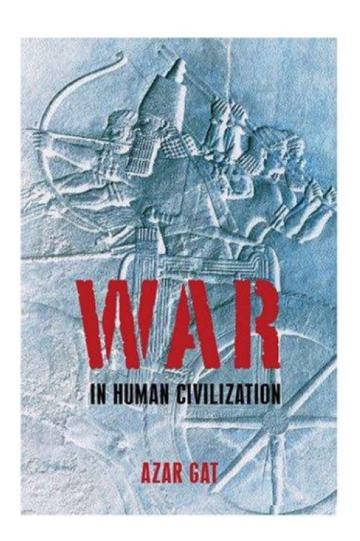
#### Is the war declining?





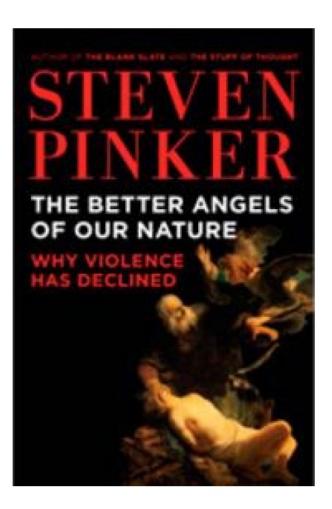
#### Is war declining?

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



#### Our better angels

- Identifies the same trend.
  - 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
  - Pewer people are growing up in violent societies where they are taught that violence is acceptable, a way of life



#### Trends in conflict I

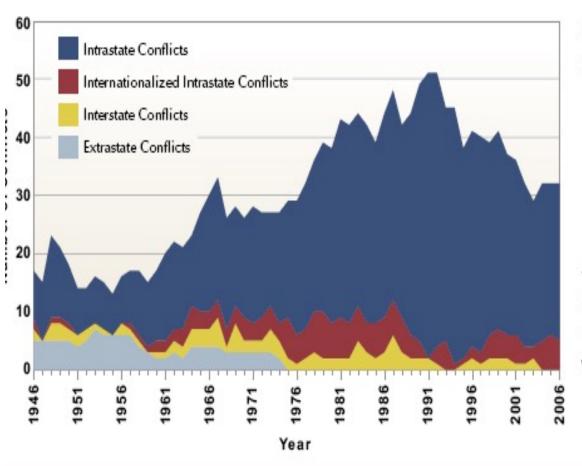


Figure 3.1 State-Based Armed Conflicts by Type, 1946-2006

After more than a decade of uneven decline, the number of state-based conflicts being fought around the world has levelled off.

Data Sources: UCDP/PRIO; UCDP. Human Security Report Project Dataset

## 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?

#### The concept of conflict

- This word is derived from the Latin "con-fligo" which means strife.
- "Conflict is a struggle in which the aim is to gain objectives and simultaneously to neutralize, injure, or eliminate rivals".
- Conflict is "a social situation in which minimum of two actors (parties) strive to acquire at same moment in time an available set of scarce resources."
- Conflict is a situation in which "actors use **conflict behavior** against each other to attain **incompatible goals** and/or express their hostility".
- In general, conflict is understood in terms of aspirations of conflicting parties to achieve incompatible goals simultaneously.

#### The concept of conflict

What is "conflict behavior"?

- The definition suggests that conflict behavior is any behavior that helps the party to achieve its goal that is incompatible with that of the opponent or that expresses its hostility towards him.
- Rational action is based on careful deliberation, judgment and valuing a set of all relevant alternatives, assessing their outcomes correctly, evaluation in accordance with own values and then choosing the action that was the best. Contrary to that, non-rational actions are quick, impulsive and driven by emotions.

#### The concept of conflict

Conflict action - conflict behavior.

□ If the actions of conflict party are guided by *rational considerations*, then we speak about **conflict action**. When we assume that they may be rational or *non-rational*, we use the term **conflict "behavior**."

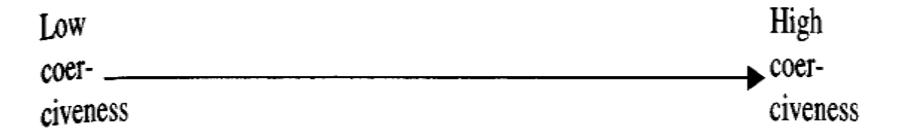
### The concept of conflict

- "coercive" "non-coercive" action/behavior:
- Coercive action forces the opponent side to what they do not wish to do, by threatening to inflict injury or by actually inflicting it.
- Distinguish between physical violence and symbolic injury.
- Severe physical violence, can be violent, in sense of hurting or killing the opponents, or destroy their property. It could also have non-violent character, such as depriving opponents of resources they need. Symbolic injury, in the other hand, weakens the opponent by inducing fear, shame, or guilt.
- Not all conflict actions involve coercion.

## The concept of conflict

#### "Conflict behavior"

- an umbrella term that covers many diverse types of behavior. It can involve rational or non-rational conflict actions and expressions of hostilities and a range of behavior that is highly coercive as well as to behavior that is fully cooperative.



"Pure" Promising Trying to Threat of Nonviolent Violent coop- a reward persuade coercion coercion coercion eration

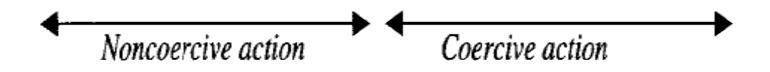


Figure 2.1. Coerciveness of Conflict Action

# The concept of Conflict

□ *Goals are incompatible* when the action of one party threatens the interests of another party.

The complexity of conflict depends whether tangible issues (like recognition, security, territory, money) are more significant than intangible aspects like symbolic meanings that shape values and ideologies, legitimizing a certain conflict behavior.

### The concept of conflict

- □ Donald Horowitz: "conflict is a struggle in which the aim is to gain objectives and simultaneously to neutralize, injure, or eliminate rivals" (Horowitz 1985: 95).
- The Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research defines conflict as "the clashing interests (political differences) on national values of some duration and magnitude between at least two parties (organized groups, states, groups of states, organization) that are determined to pursue their interests and win their cases."

# Towards conceptual clarity

- Peter Wallensteen:
- In order to understand and provide conflict analysis, we have to focus on three major components of the phenomenon:
- □ 1) actors,
- 2) process (action), and
- □ 3) incompatibility (issues at stake).

## The concept of conflict

By combining these aspects, we arrive at a most comprehensive analysis of all possible kinds of conflict, which is a "social situation in which a minimum of two actors (parties) strive to acquire at the same moment in time an available set of scarce resources" (Wallensteen 2009: 15).

- (1) Extrasystemic armed conflict, which takes place between a state and a non-state group outside its own territory. In the Correlates of War (COW) project, this category is further divided into colonial wars and imperial wars;
- (2) interstate armed conflict, which occurs between two or more states;
- (3) internal armed conflict, in which the government of a state is in conflict with internal opposition groups without intervention from another state; and
- (4) internationalized internal armed conflict, when conflict occurs between the government of a state and internal groups in opposition to and with intervention from an outside state (Havard, Wilhelmsen, Gleditsch 2004: 11).

- □ **Civil war**—affected states are states in which "it is almost the case that significant elements of actual or potential military power exist outside the control of the central state apparatus" (Giddens 1987).
- **Violence** is a central feature of such a conflict and the only way to establish the authority of one or the other conflicting party. Under this condition a state uses its military power to suppress rebellions challenging its authority and legitimacy. As a result civil conflict is brutish and nasty, accompanied by killing, which is "to a great extent a matter of national pride" (Misra 2008: 45).

- Emergence of new non-state actors
- Trends that have increased a range of worldwide arms trades expanded the power of multinational corporations and the growth of trans-border exchange of weapons, drugs, and people, which in turn has contributed to the formation of coalitions that have acquired the capacity to form armies.

- first, between states;
- second, between a state and non-state actors outside of the state;
- third, between a state and non-state actors within a state; and
- fourth, between non-state actors taking place outside of the state.

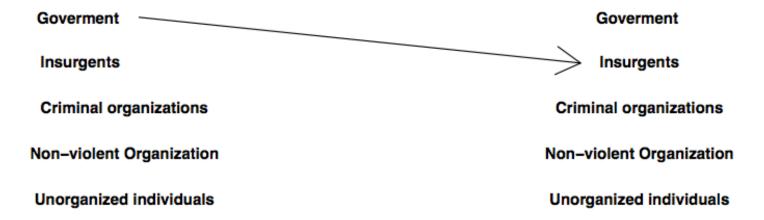
Interstate war

Figure: Interstate war



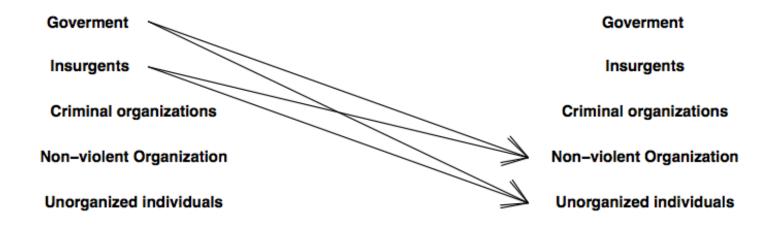
Intrastate war

Figure: Intrastate war



### One-sided violence war

Figure: One-sided violence



#### Non-state conflict

Figure: Non-state conflict



Criminal violence

Figure: Criminal violence

Goverment

Insurgents

Criminal organizations

Non-violent Organization

Unorganized individuals

Goverment

Insurgents

Criminal organizations

Non-violent Organization

Unorganized individuals

The COSIMO (Conflict Simulation Model) conflict categorization belongs among the most prominent classifications; it has been developed by the Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research (HIIK), aiming to grasp armed conflict from non-violent, latent conflict to violent war phases.

- Dennis Sandole (1998):
- **Non-violent** conflict is a manifestation of conflict processes during which one party seeks to undermine the goal-seeking capabilities of another conflicting party by non-violent means, as i.e. economic sanctions, exclusion of some groups from access to power, and so on.

- According to The Uppsala Conflict Data Program:
- **Minor armed conflicts** conflicts with more than 25 deaths but fewer than 1000 for the year and for the duration of the conflict.
- Intermediate armed conflicts conflicts with more than 25 deaths and fewer than 1000 for a year, but more than 1000 for the duration of the conflict.
- Wars conflicts with more than 1000 battle-related deaths in one year.

- □ Hedley Bull's definition, which has guided research within the field of IR, defines war as "organized violence carried on by political units against each other" (Bull 1977: 184).
- Significant assumptions made by this definition elucidate the following aspects of war: first, it is fought by **political organizations** (not by any other collective actors, as for example economic corporations); second, **war is organized violence with its own rules and norms**; and third, war is **collective, not individual** (Vasquez 1993: 35).
- □ As the most well-known definition by famous military theorist Carl von Clausewitz claims "war is merely the continuation of policy by other means" (Clausewitz 2008).

The concept of war has been based on two primary criteria: (1) a certain magnitude of battle related fatalities (initially including only soldiers and military staff) and (2) the status of the conflicting actors. According to these scholars, the threshold of 1,000 battle-related deaths caused by sustainable organized armed forces differentiate war from other types of conflict (Singer, Small 1972: 8).

# Conflict dynamics

- □ Latent conflict,
- □ Manifestation of the conflict,
- □ Escalation,
- □ Dead-point,
- □ De-escalation,
- □ Resolution and
- □ Post conflict arrangement of relations (peace building).

# Conflict dynamics

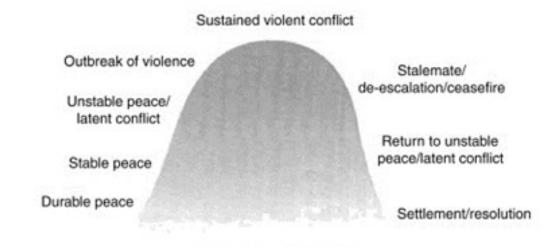
- □ During the phase of <u>latent conflict</u> divergence of interests are perceived, but the actors are unwilling or unable to clearly articulate the existence of conflict.
- During the *manifestation of the conflict* at least one of the actors articulates its incompatible interests and intention to protect them at the expense of other party.
- During the <u>escalation of the conflict</u> both conflict parties try to achieve their goals. This phase has four sub-phases: 1. Discussion, 2. Polarization, 3. Isolation and 4. Destruction.

# Conflict dynamics

- □ <u>Dead-point</u> is a situation when neither conflict party is able to end conflict in his favor.
- □ <u>De-escalation</u> —decreasing the destructive power of conflict, a greater willingness to search compromise solutions.
- □ <u>Resolution</u> and post conflict arrangement, peace building restore relation between the parties, the objective is to restore cooperation and peace.

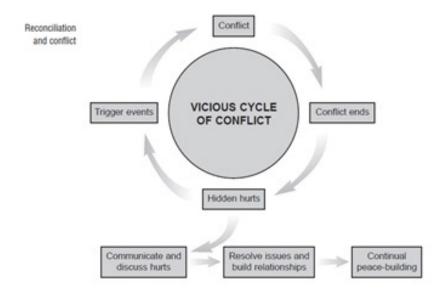
## Phases of violent conflict

Phases of violent conflict



DURATION OF CONFLICT

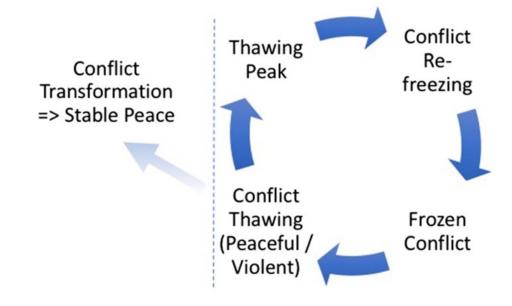
## Frozen conflict



## Frozen conflict

- Michal Smentana and Jan Ludvik: "a protracted, postwar conflict process, characterized by the absence of stable peace between the opposing sides".
- Four criteria: "it must be (a) international and (b) protracted post-war, it must have (c) core unresolved issues, and it (d) lacks stable peace.
- Under influence of internal and external factors, a frozen conflict undergoes a periodical "thawing" : toward diplomatic negotiations - "peaceful thawing" or re-escalation toward use of armed force - "violent thawing".

## Frozen conflict



# Competing goals: typology of issues at stake in armed conflicts

Academic research focuses on such aspects as religion, ideology, language, ethnicity, resources and markets, dominance, equality, and territory.

(1) ethnic conflict, (2) conflict over political arrangements, (3) ideological, (4) economic, and (5) territorial cross-border conflict.

# Competing goals: typology of issues at stake in armed conflicts

Each conflict differs on a range of dimension and may include ethnicity, religion, political, economic, and territorial aspirations.

The question is how these dimensions interrelate in the whole process of conflict dynamics and how far each contributes to armed conflict?

# A typology of Internal Armed Conflict

FIGURE 1
A TYPOLOGY OF INTERNAL ARMED CONFLICT

		THE STATE	
		Uncontested	Contested
THE RULE	Idea	Ideological Conflict (1)	RESOURCE CONFLICT (3)
	Individual	Leadership Conflict (2)	ETHNIC CONFLICT (4)

## Ethnic conflict

Ethnic conflict is a conflict in which the key causes of confrontation run along ethnic lines, which involve some elements of ethnic identity, the status of ethnic groups, and the opportunity to mobilize violent confrontation. At the outset of a conflict, ethnic conflict could be identified by the observable pattern of rebel recruitment, while ethnicity by itself could be a motivation to mobilize forces.

## Conflict over political arrangements

- The long-term political relationship becomes increasingly conflictive and hostile when
- (1) political change is used as a tool to mobilize masses,
- (2) there are conflicting visions about the political arrangement of a state, and
- (3) incompatibility of goals rests upon a change of political regime.

## Ideological confrontation

- Religion can tur into armed confrontation if
- (1) the religious make-up of a state involves different religious groups,
- (2) there are conflict-prone religious structures, and
- (3) religion is a politicized issue and serves as a tool in the hands of political leaders.

## **Economic conflict**

- Economic aspects of conflict are operationalized as follows: (1) economic decline and inequality in the economic development of different regions,
- (2) the shadow economy (smuggling, drug trafficking, illegal trade activities), and
- (3) interest to control key economic resources.

- Irredentism is not a state-based process; it is a movement that seeks to attain the external support and territory of the group across the existing border. The goal of this group is to add territory and population into an existing state by reason of common affinities, such as ethnic, cultural, historical, or linguistic ties (Wolff 2007).
- Secession, which is a process at the end of which a population group inhabiting a defined territory within an existing state has succeeded in splittin itself and its territory off from a titular state. As a result it has established an independent state of its own (Wolff 2004). Secession is a process of political divorce and the formation of at least one new sovereign unit through a formal declaration of independence.

## Challenges in conflict research

- ☐ It is critically significant to think about the **dialog between the conceptual and operational level** of our analysis.
- The problem remains **how to assess the causal impact of one factor in relation to others.** One of the possible ways for establishing the relation between operationalization and measurement lies in the case-oriented view.
- □ The challenge for further research is to explore not only the combination of issues at stake in armed conflict, but also the correlation and causal relationships among these aspects.

## Conflict research

- □ Study of each conflict requires the research of:
- □ 1. Background of the conflict (history of mutual relations),
- □ 2. Type of actors,
- □ 3. Character and nature of involved parties,
- □ 4. Reasons of conflict and
- □ 5. Context (the role of external actor).

# Useful Sources in Conflict Research

#### **News databases**

- □BBC Summary of World Broadcasts (www.monitor .bbc.co.uk)
- □Factiva (<u>www.factiva.com</u>)
- □Open Source Center (<u>www.opensource.gov</u>)
- □Keesing's Record of World Event (<u>www.keesings.com</u>)
- □LexisNexis (academic.lexisnexis.com)

#### Reports issues by specialized NGOs and IGOs

- □Global Witness (<u>www.globalwitness.org</u>)
- □Human Rights Watch (www.hrw.org )
- □International Crisis Group (<u>www.crisisgroup.org</u>)
- □Integrated Regional Information Network (<u>www.irinnews.org</u>)

# Useful Sources in Conflict Research

#### **Surveys**

- □Afrobarometer (<u>www.afrobarometer.org</u>)
- □ Households in Conflict Network HiCV (www.hinc.org)
- □World Values Survey (<u>www.worldvaluessurvey.org</u>)

#### **General country information**

- □World Development Indicators (data.worldbank.org)
- UN Data (data.un.org)
- □The Quality of Government Institute, Goteborg University (<u>www.qog.pol.gu.se</u>)
- □Gapminder (<u>www.gapminder.org</u>)

#### **Conflict data programs**

- Center for International Development and Conflict Management, University of Maryland (<a href="https://www.cidcm.umd.edu">www.cidcm.umd.edu</a>)
- □Correlated of War (<u>www.correlatesofwar.org</u>)
- □Uppsala Conflict Data Program (<u>www.ucdp.uu.se</u>)

### Literature:

- □ Bartos, O. J., Wehr, P. (2002): *Using Conflict Theory*, Cambridge University Press.
- □ Tesar, F. (2007): Etnicke konflikty, Praha, Portal.
- □ Waisová, Šárka (2005): Řešení konfliktů v mezinárodních vztazích. Praha: Portál.
- □ Wallensteen, P. (2007): *Understanding Conflict Resolution, War, Peace and Global System,* SAGE, London.
- □ Wolff, S. (2006): *Ethnic Conflict A Global Perspective*, Oxford University Press.