## REGIONAL SECURITY

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### Regional Security

- Region is the area of interest to many fields of science.
- Definition and characteristics of RS:
  - a) "System of mutual relations between countries in the region against the threats of instability, crises, armed conflicts and regional wars" (Kusztal A., 2017 Theoretical foundations of regional security in international relations).
  - b) Most frequently, security at the regional level is built based upon a system or an alliance operating within the defined region, and "regional security institutions are often, but not always, established on the basis of geographical boundaries of the region, at the interface of functional cooperation.
- Criteria of regional security according to Kusztal:
  - the military potential of states of a region and its technical and technological levels;
  - the condition, strategy and the size of armed forces of countries in a region;
  - the quality of management of a defense sector in states of a region;
  - the character of borders between countries of a region and of external ones (geographical and political);
  - political and military alliances of regional range;
  - the role of political elites and rationality in choosing allies within and beyond a region

## Security architecture and relations among states

- "An institutional system of organizing relations between states guaranteeing their security. It is based on the assumption that issues and problems related to the security of states cannot be solved individually."
- Cooperative security ongoing effort to reduce the risk of war that does not target a specific state or coalition of states
- Collective security states avoid the use of force in mutual relations (two principles the obligation to resolve all disputes by peaceful means, the prohibition of the use of force in mutual relations)
- Collective defense system of joint defense against external threats, i.e. against attacks by states that are not members of the organization

# Evolution of security studies towards regional security - Critical Security Studies

- Shift in the 90s (The first impulse Toronto school Strategies in Conflict: Critical Approaches to Security Studies)
- Traditional security studies focused on military and state as a referent object
- A shift in the definition of the referent object and threats
- According to Waisova, there are two main characteristics of CSS:
  - a) Exploring the differences between the Euro-Atlantic approach and that of Third World authors
  - b) The concept of the individuals as a separate referent object
- Mohammed Ayoob subaltern realism
- Discussion of the concept of security in the 90s three groups
  - A) group against changing the agenda (John Mearsheimer, Stephen Walt)
  - B) group supporting the partial change (Schultz, Buzan?, Greenwood)
  - C) group supporting radical reform (Ulman, Kegley, Kolodzej)

## Evolution of security studies towards regional security – Toronto School

- 1994 small conference at the York University entitled Strategies in Conflict: Critical Approaches to Security Studies
- Keith Krause and Michael C. Williams Critical Security Studies: Concepts and Cases
- They began to questioning the concept of state as the main referent object who or what is to be secured?
- Set out agenda of CSS in three points:
  - a) referent object
  - b) security more than just a military security
  - c) changed the way how security was studied

# Evolution of security studies towards regional security – Copenhagen School

- 1995 Barry Buzan, Ole Weaver and Jaap de Wilde published book: Security: A New Framework for Analysis
- Old vs. new concept of security
- Resolves its incoherence by arguing that the social production of security is sufficiently stable to be treated objectively
- Concept of sectoral security military, political, economic, societal, environmental security
- Concept of analytical levels/categories (international systems, international subsystems, units, subunits and individuals).
- Concept of regional security complexes (4 basic principles)
- Concept o Securitization

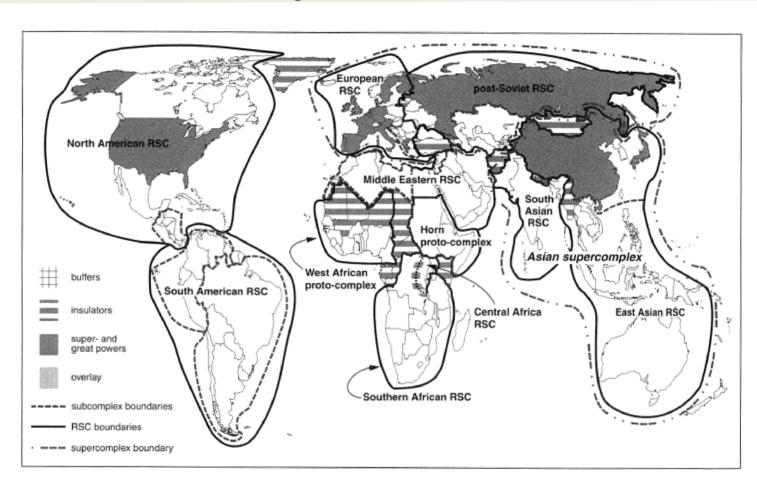
## Theory of Regional Security

- Complexes (4 basic principles):
  - Composed of two or more states
  - Geographically coherent grouping
  - Mutual security dependency relationship (MSDR)
  - MSDR deeply embedded, long term not permanent

"a group of states whose major security perspectives and concerns are so intertwined that the national security issues of each cannot be adequately analyzed or addressed separately"

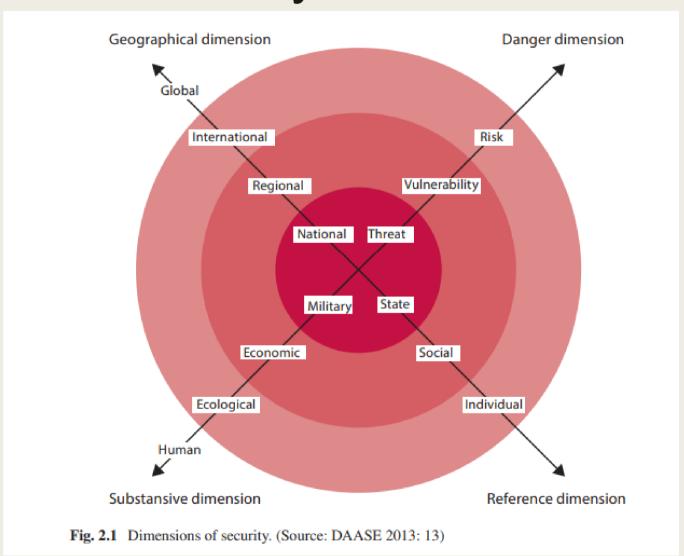
- Lower level security complex x Higher level security complex
- Bufffer zones and states "inbetween"

## Copenhagen School – Regional Security Complexes



Map 2. Patterns of Regional Security Post-Cold War

## **Security Dimensions**



### Regional Security Threats

- The most prominent regional threats According to Eichler (2009):
  - a) Military threats regional conflicts, WMD proliferation and armed aggression
  - Political threats terrorism and organized crime, existence of dangerous dictatorial regimes, human rights violations and threats to internal politics by superpowers (NATO, USA, etc.).
  - c) Economic threats instability of world markets, uneven economic development and economic crisis.
  - d) Ecological threats changes in land and sea use; direct exploitation of natural resources; climate change; pollution and invasive species.

### Regional Security Threats - WMD

 NPT 1968 - the NPT non-nuclearweapon states agree never to acquire nuclear weapons and the NPT nuclearweapon states in exchange agree to share the benefits of peaceful nuclear technology and to pursue nuclear disarmament aimed at the ultimate elimination of their nuclear arsenals.

#### 2023 ESTIMATED GLOBAL NUCLEAR WARHEAD INVENTORIES

The world's nuclear-armed states possess a combined total of over 12,500 nuclear warheads; nearly 90% belong to Russia and the United States. Approximately 9,600 warheads are in military service, with the rest awaiting dismantlement.



### Regional Security Threats - Conflicts

- An armed conflict is a contested incompatibility that concerns government or territory where the use of armed force between two parties, results in at least 25 battle-related deaths in one calendar year.
- Conflict: clash between two actors who have incompatible interests.
- Necessary features of conflict according to Holsti (1991):
  - a) Actors of the conflict
  - b) Area of the clash (incompatibility)
  - c) Tension
  - d) Conflict behavior
- Conflict vs. War vs. Civil war

### Regional Security Threats - Conflicts

#### The World at War in 2023

Countries in which armed clashes between state forces and/or rebels were reported in 2023\*

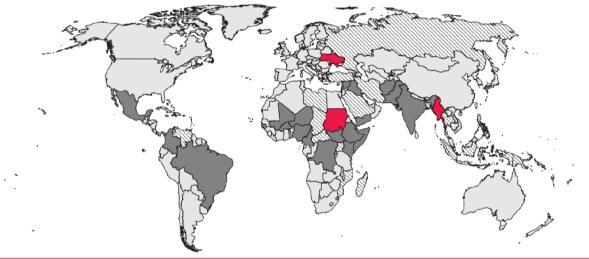


\* As of April 28 Source: The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project

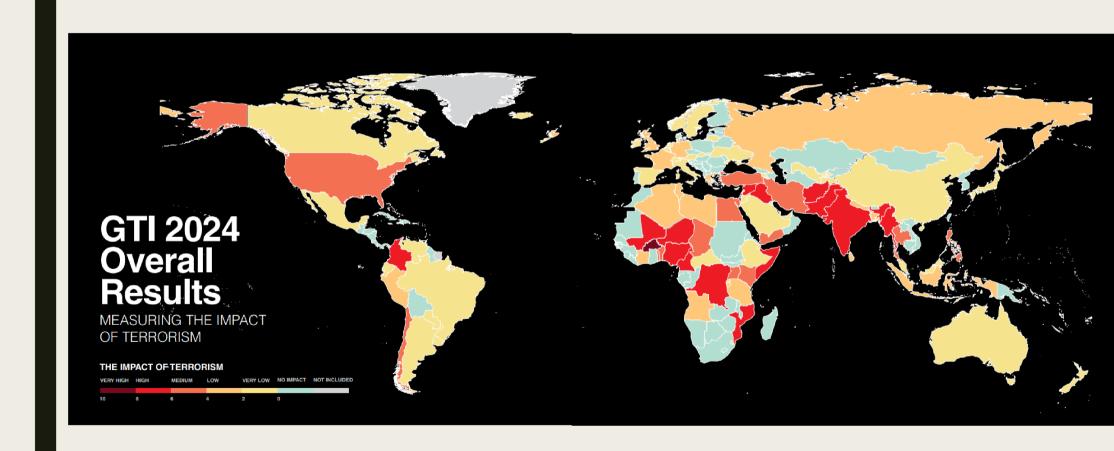


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#### ARMED CONFLICTS BY NUMBER OF ESTIMATED CONFLICT-RELATED FATALITIES, 2023



- Major armed conflicts with 10 000 or more conflict-related fatalities in 2023
- High-intensity armed conflicts with 1000 to 9999 conflictrelated fatalities in 2023
- Low-intensity armed conflicts with 25 to 999 conflict-related fatalities in 2023



RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	RANK CHANGE
1 (	Burkina Faso	8.571	†1
2 (	Israel	8.143	† 24
3 (	Mali Mali	7.998	†1
4 (	Pakistan	7.916	† 3
5	Syria	7.890	<b>+</b>
6	Afghanistan	7.825	↓5
7	Somalia	7.814	↓4
8	Nigeria	7.575	<b>+</b>
9 (	Myanmar	7.536	<b>+</b>
10	Niger Niger	7.274	<b>+</b>
11 (	Iraq	7.078	↓5
12	Cameroon	6.98	↓1
13	Democratic Republic of the Congo	6.514	†1
14	India	6.324	<b>↓</b> 1
15	Mozambique	6.267	13
16	Colombia	6.188	↓1
17	Chile	5.679	↓1
18	Kenya	5.616	†1
19	Philippines	5.383	<b>↓</b> 1
20	Egypt	5.221	13
21	Chad	4.987	<b>↓</b> 1
22	Palestine	4.966	<b>†</b> 6
23	Yemen	4.951	↓1
24	Benin	4.898	† 3
25	Togo	4.67	<b>†</b> 5
26	🛑 Iran	4.464	↓1
27	Uganda	4.377	<b>†</b> 22

RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	RANK CHANGE
28	Thailand	4.219	↓5
29	Türkiye	4.168	18
30	<ul><li>United States of America</li></ul>	4.141	<b>1</b> 1
31	Indonesia	3.993	↓7
32	<ul><li>Bangladesh</li></ul>	3.317	<b>†</b> 14
33	<ul><li>Sri Lanka</li></ul>	3.072	↓2
34	Greece	3.028	¥1
35	Russia	3.016	<b>†</b> 8
36	Tunisia	2.914	† 4
37	Germany	2.782	↓2
38	France	2.647	14
39	<ul><li>Libya</li></ul>	2.469	<b>↓</b> 7
40	<ul><li>Burundi</li></ul>	2.434	14
41	United Kingdom	2.373	<b>†</b> 3
42	Tanzania	2.267	13
43	Angola	2.254	† 48
44	<ul><li>Algeria</li></ul>	2.197	↓6
45	<ul><li>Nepal</li></ul>	2.163	18
46	Côte d'Ivoire	2.06	<b>↓</b> 5
47	Peru	2.045	↓6
48	<ul><li>Djibouti</li></ul>	2.035	13
49	<ul><li>Brazil</li></ul>	1.988	↓2
50	<ul><li>New Zealand</li></ul>	1.947	↓2
51	<ul><li>Belgium</li></ul>	1.904	† 11
52	Canada	1.753	† 4
53	<ul><li>Norway</li></ul>	1.747	↓3
54	<ul><li>Ukraine</li></ul>	1.686	† 20

RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	RANK CHANGE
55	Spain	1.669	<b>†</b> 5
56	Lebanon	1.562	<b>1</b> 5
57	Australia	1.475	↓2
58	ltaly	1.447	↓4
59	Central African Republic	1.445	↓2
60	<ul><li>Saudi Arabia</li></ul>	1.366	<b>†</b> 5
61	Argentina	1.274	13
62	Ethiopia	1.272	↓3
63	Kosovo	1.218	† 28
64	Japan Japan	1.189	<b>+</b>
65	Venezuela	1.174	↓13
66	Slovakia	1.092	↓5
67	Mexico	1.04	† 1
68	Austria	0.953	↓5
69	Tajikistan	0.871	↓16
70	Sweden	0.735	<b>1</b> 4
71	<ul><li>Switzerland</li></ul>	0.627	↓4
72	Cyprus	0.616	† 3
73	China	0.582	† 21
74	<ul><li>Netherlands</li></ul>	0.577	↓4
75	<ul><li>Jordan</li></ul>	0.455	↓4
=76	Armenia	0.423	† 18
=76	<ul><li>Uzbekistan</li></ul>	0.423	↓4
78	Paraguay	0.241	↓5
=79	<ul><li>United Arab Emirates</li></ul>	0.233	↓2
=79	Iceland	0.233	↓2
81	Malaysia	0.192	↓5

#### Ten countries most impacted by terrorism, GTI ranks 2011–2023

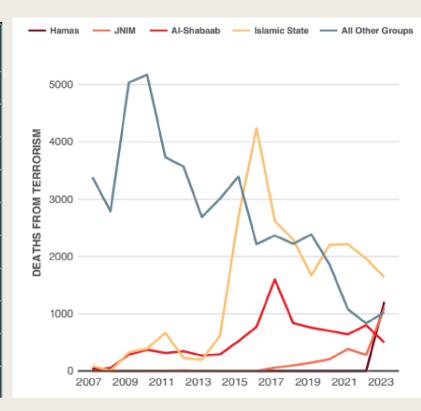
Burkina Faso recorded the highest impact of terrorism for the first year.

Country	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Burkina Faso	114	113	111	110	52	30	21	15	7	6	4	2	1
Israel	22	18	22	23	29	31	33	31	34	34	35	26	2
Mali	40	22	19	21	16	13	10	9	8	7	7	4	3
Pakistan	2	2	2	2	4	4	5	5	5	8	9	7	4
Syria	19	4	4	5	6	7	7	8	6	5	6	5	5
Afghanistan	3	3	3	4	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	6
Somalia	5	7	7	7	8	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	7
Nigeria	8	5	5	3	2	2	4	4	4	4	5	8	8
Myanmar	17	20	23	29	41	43	40	42	23	24	10	9	9
Niger	50	60	45	34	19	19	18	19	14	12	8	10	10

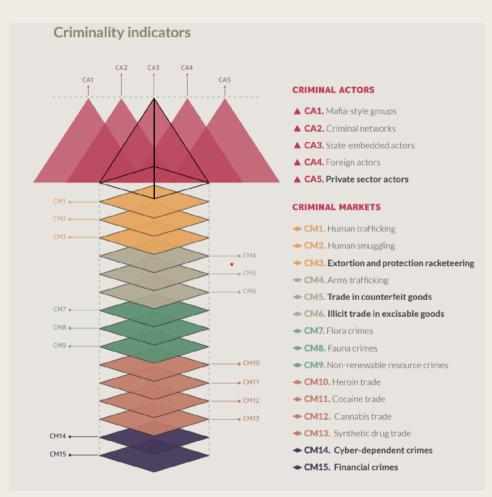
Worst attacks in 2023

						DESCRIPTION
1	COUNTRY	ISRAEL	PROVINCE	HADAROM	DEATHS	Over 1,000 Palestinian militants from Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and other Palestinian armed groups infiltrated the Gaza Israel border on vehicles through border crossings and breached
	DATE	7/10/2023	GROUP	HAMAS	1,200	fences, and attacked Israeli communities around the Gaza Strip with gunfire, explosives and bladed weapons on the morning of 7 October.
2	COUNTRY	NIGER	PROVINCE	TILLABÉRI	DEATHS	Gunmen killed at least 200 soldiers and wounded at least 34 others in an ambush on four military columns at Tassilatane, Fillingue department, Tillaberi region on 16 November. No group had
	DATE	16/11/2023	GROUP	JNIM	200	claimed responsibility at the time of writing, but local media outlets reported that the attack was a joint operation by Greater Sahara Province of Islamic State (IS) and Jamaat Nusrat Al-Islam wal Muslimeen (JNIM).
3	COUNTRY	SYRIA	REGION	номѕ	DEATHS	Several explosive-laden drones killed possibly as many as 100 soldiers and civilians and wounded at least 240 others in an attack on a military college graduation ceremony at the Homs Military
	DATE	5/10/2023	GROUP	SEPARATIST/NATIONALIST (UNDETERMINED)	89	Academy, Homs, Homs Governorate on 5 October. No group had claimed responsibility at the time of writing, but jihadists and anti-regime groups operate in the area.
4	COUNTRY	PAKISTAN	PROVINCE	KHYBER-PAKHTUNKHWA	DEATHS	A suicide bomber killed at least 84 people and wounded at least 200 others at the Police Lines  Mosque, Peshawar, Peshawar district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province at around 1340hrs on 30
	DATE	30/1/2023	GROUP	TEHRIK-E-TALIBAN PAKISTAN (TTP)	84	January, Several hundred police officers were reportedly at the scene when the bomb exploded. No group had claimed the attack at the time of writing, but based on the target and location, Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) was probably responsible.
5	COUNTRY	BURKINA FASO	PROVINCE	SAHEL	DEATHS	Gunmen killed at least 71 soldiers, injured three, and abducted an unconfirmed number in an ambush on the Oursi and Deou axis, Oudalan province, Sahel region on 17 February. Security forces
	DATE	17/2/2023	GROUP	ISLAMIC STATE (IS)	71	claimed that they killed 160 assailants in counter-offensive operations. The Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility.
6	COUNTRY	BURKINA FASO	REGION	EST	DEATHS	Gunmen killed at least 60 civilians in an attack on Partiaga, Tapoa province, Est region on the night of 26 February. The assailants set fire to the town hall, the gendarmerie post, telephone poles and other structures. No group had claimed responsibility for the attack at the time of writing, but
	DATE	26/2/2023	GROUP	JNIM	70	a local social media outlet said that Jamaat Nusrat Al-Islam wal Muslimeen (JNIM) was probably responsible.
7	COUNTRY	BURKINA FASO	REGION	CENTRE-NORD	DEATHS	Gunmen killed at least 70 civilians in Zaongo, Namentenga province, Centre-Nord region on the evening of 5 November. No group had claimed responsibility at the time of writing, but jihadists
	DATE	5/11/2023	GROUP	JIHADIST (UNDETERMINED)	70	operate in the area. The European Union called for an investigation into the killings after some suggestions that state-linked groups may have been responsible.
8	COUNTRY	MALI	REGION	GAO	DEATHS	Fighters of Islamic State (IS) and Jamaat Nusrat Al-Islam wal Muslimeen (JNIM) clashed near Tin Fadimata village, Gao cercle, Gao region on the night of 1 March. At the time of writing, there was
	DATE	1/3/2023	GROUP	ISLAMIC STATE (IS)	60	no information on the number of casualties and on who started the fighting, but JNIM claimed to have killed at least 60 IS fighters.
9	COUNTRY	NIGERIA	PROVINCE	BORNO	DEATHS	Islamic State West Africa (ISWA) gunmen attacked Boko Haram fighters near Lake Chad in Borno
	DATE	19/8/2023	GROUP	ISLAMIC STATE WEST AFRICA (ISWA)	60	state at around 1200hrs on 19 August. Boko Haram retaliated, and 100 fighters were killed between the sides. Boko Haram reportedly lost more fighters than ISWA.
10	COUNTRY	BURKINA FASO	PROVINCE	NORD	DEATHS	Gunmen killed at least 60 soldiers and wounded at least a dozen others in an attack on military barracks in Souli, Solle department, Loroum province, Nord region at around 1100hrs on 24
	DATE	24/12/2023	GROUP	JNIM	60	December. No group had claimed responsibility at the time of writing, but local media outlets reported that Jamaat Nusrat Al-Islam wal Muslimeen (JNIM) was responsible.

Rank	ORGANISATION	DEATHS	ATTACKS	INJURED
1	Islamic State (IS)	1045	410	644
2	Al-Shabaab	784	315	1016
3	Islamic State - Khorasan Province (ISK)	498	141	832
4	Jamaat Nusrat Al-Islam wal Muslimeen (JNIM)	279	77	215
5	Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA)	233	30	113
6	Islamic State West Africa (ISWA)	219	65	118
7	Boko Haram	204	64	51
8	Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)	137	90	187
9	Islamic State - Sinai Province	71	27	32
10	Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB)	57	40	16

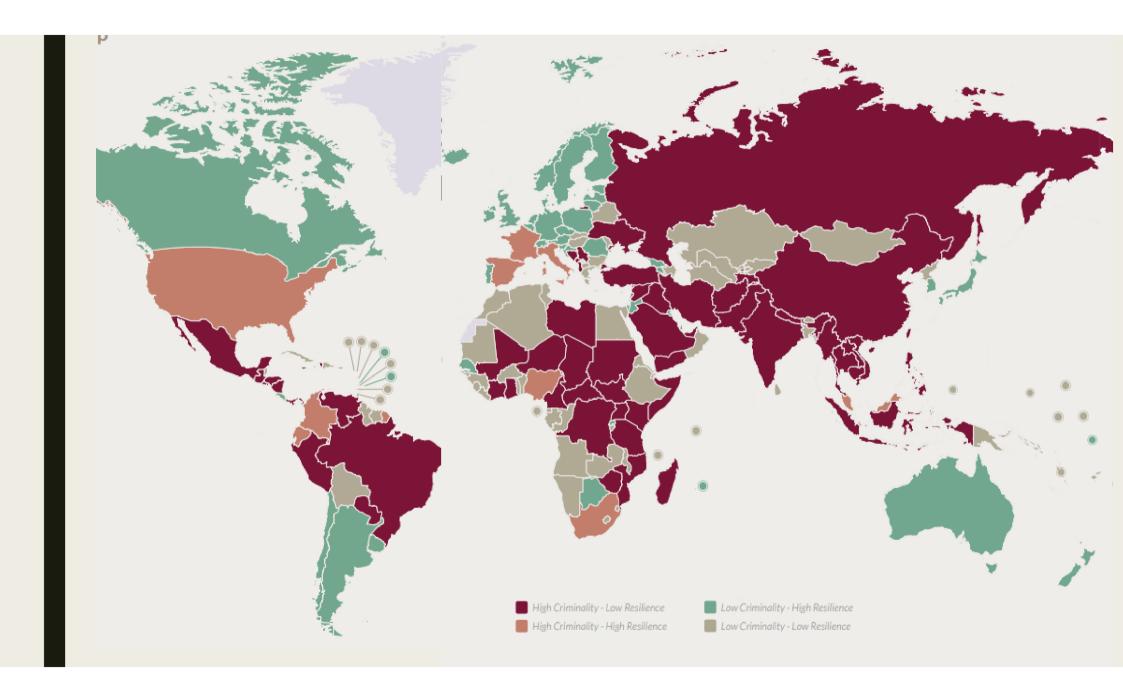


## Regional Security Threats - Global Organized Crime Index



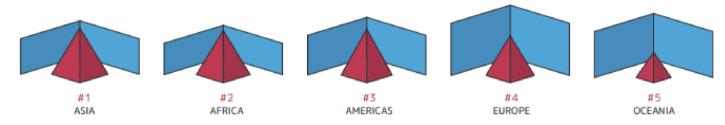
#### Scoring thresholds - criminality





## Regional Security Threats - Global Organized Crime Index

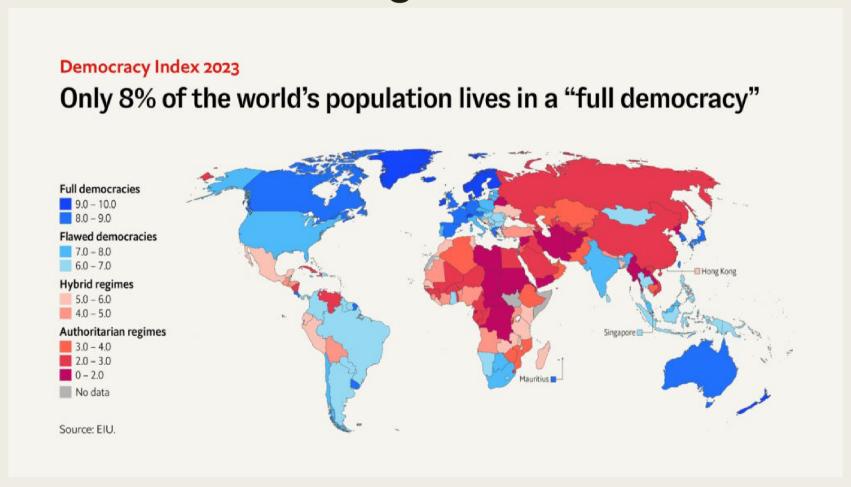
#### Criminality scores by continent

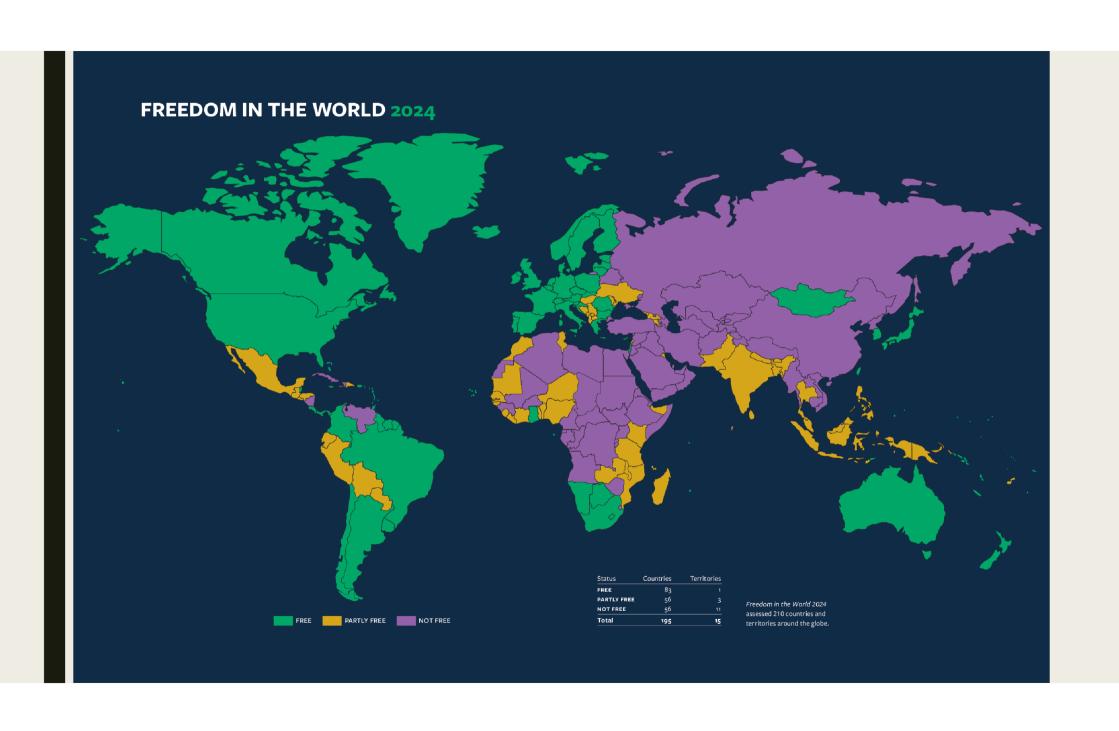


REGION	CRIMINALITY	CRIMINAL MARKETS	CRIMINAL ACTORS	RESILIENCE
ASIA	5.47 +0.18	<b>5.41</b> +0.20	5.53 +0.15	4.34 -0.12
AFRICA	5.25 +0.08	5.05 +0.11	5.45 +0.05	<b>3.85</b> +0.05
AMERICAS	5.20 +0.13	4.89 +0.19	5.51 +0.08	4.80 -0.03
EUROPE	4.74 +0.26	4.60 +0.40	4.88 +0.12	<b>6.27</b> +0.04
OCEANIA	3.23 +0.16	3.28 +0.30	3.19 +0.02	<b>5.55</b> +0.09
GLOBAL AVERAGE	5.03 +0.16	4.88 +0.22	5.19 +0.09	4.81 -0.00

COUN	ITRY	sco	RE
1.	MYANMAR	8.15	+0.56
2.	COLOMBIA	7.75	+0.09
3.	MEXICO	7.57	+0.01
4.	PARAGUAY	7.52	+0.82
5.	CONGO, DEM. REP	7.35	-0.40
6.	NIGERIA	7.28	+0.13
7.	SOUTH AFRICA	7.18	+0.56
8.	IRAQ	7.13	+0.08
9.	AFGHANISTAN	7.10	+0.02
9.	LEBANON	7.10	+0.34
11.	ECUADOR	7.07	+0.82
11.	SYRIA	7.07	+0.23
13.	HONDURAS	7.05	+0.08
14.	IRAN	7.03	-0.07
14.	TURKEY	7.03	+0.14
16.	KENYA	7.02	+0.07
17.	PANAMA	6.98	+0.31
18.	I IBYA	6.93	+0.38
19.	RUSSIA	6.87	+0.63
20.	CAMBODIA	6.85	+1.03

## Regional Security Threats - Dictatorial regimes





### Regional Organisations

- "Regional institutions are the regimes or formal organizations with membership limited to a specific geographical region or possibly two or more neighboring regions."
- Three types of regional organizations according to Kusztal:
  - Multi-tasking organizations
  - Organizations with economic profile
  - Defensive alliances
- Regional organisations vs. regimes
- "International organizations are generally seen to be more formally specified institutions, with a secretariat, permanent office, and the like. International regimes have been defined as sets of principles, norms, rules, and decisions upon which actors' expectations converge (Krasner 1983)."
- Security organisations:
  - Cooperative security
  - Collective security
  - Collective defense

## Regional organizations with security functions

Africa	
African Union (AU)	2001
Common Market for Eastern and	1994
Southern Africa (COMESA)	
Community of Sahel-Saharan	1998
States (CEN-SAD)	
East African Community (EAC)	1999
Economic and Monetary	1998
Community of Central Africa	
(CEMAC)	
Economic Community of West	1975
African States (ECOWAS)	
Intergovernmental Authority on	1996
Development (IGAD)	
Mano River Union	1973
Southern African Development	1992
Community (SADC)	

Middle East	
Arab League	1945
Arab Maghreb Union	1989
Council of Arab Economic Unity	1964
Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)	1981
Organization of the Islamic	1971
Conference (OIC)	

Asia	
Australia, New Zealand, United	1951
States (ANZUS) Security Trea	ty
Asia-Pacific Economic	1989
Cooperation (APEC)	
Association of South East Asian	1967
Nations (ASEAN):	
ASEAN Regional Forum (ARI	7) 1994
ASEAN Plus Three (APT)	1997
Conference on Interaction and	1992
Confidence-building measures	
in Asia (CICA)	
Economic Cooperation	1985
Organization (ECO)	
Pacific Community	1947
Pacific Islands Forum	1971
Shanghai Cooperation	2001
Organization (SCO)	
South Asian Association for	1985
Regional Co-operation	
(SAARC)	

## Regional organizations with security functions

Europe and Euro-Atlantic	
Arctic Council	1996
Baltic Council	1993
Barents Euro-Arctic Council	1993
(BEAC)	
Organization of the Black Sea	1992
Economic Cooperation (BSEC)	
Central European Initiative (CEI)	1989
Collective Security Treaty	2003
Organization (CSTO)	
Commonwealth of Independent	1991
States (CIS)	
Council of the Baltic Sea States	1992
(CBSS)	
Council of Europe	1949
European Union (EU)	1951
North Atlantic Treaty	1949
Organization:	
Euro-Atlantic Partnership	1997
Council (EAPC)	
Nordic Council	1952
Organization for Security and	1973
Co-operation in Europe:	
Stability Pact for South Eastern	1999
Europe	
Southeast European Cooperative	1996
Initiative (SECI)	
Visegrad Group (V4)	1991
Western European Union (WEU)	1954

Americas	
Andean Community of Nations	1969
(Andean Pact)	
Caribbean Community	1973
(CARICOM)	
Central American Integration	1991
System (SICA)	
Latin American Integration	1980
Association (LAIA)	
MERCOSUR (Southern Common	1991
Market)	
North American Free Trade	1994
Agreement (NAFTA)	
Organization of American	1948
States (OAS)	
Rio Group	1987

#### Regional Organisations/Regimes -Arab League Asia

- Cairo 1945, 22 member states
- "draw closer the relations between member states and co-ordinate collaboration between them"
- Council of the Arab League, Joint Defense Council, General Secretariat (Secretary General). Economic Council

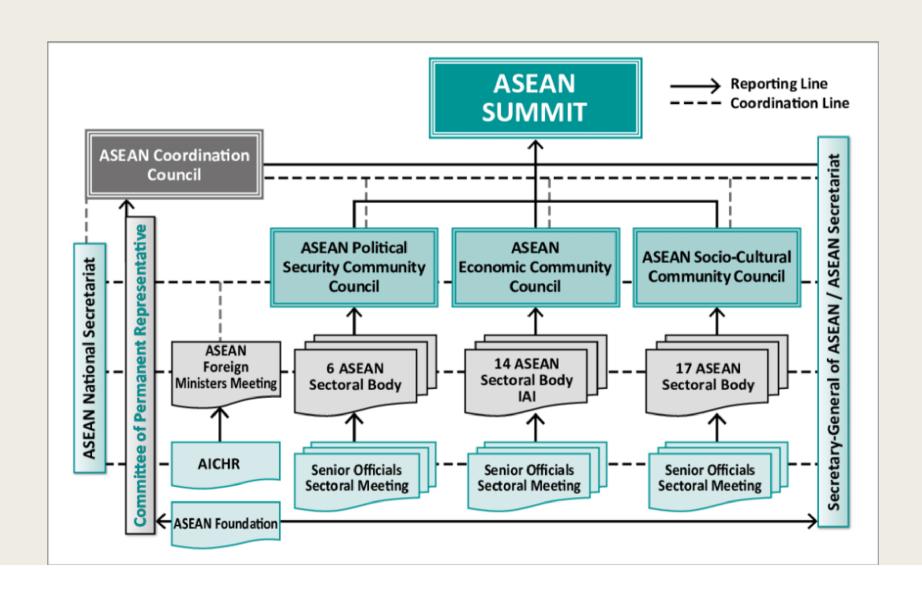
#### Australia, New Zealand, United States Security Treaty (ANZUS)

- 1951 trilateral agreement
- New Zealand was suspended from ANZUS 1986-2007
- AUKUS Trilateral Security Partnership Between Australia, U.K. and U.S.

#### **Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)**

- 1961 Association of Southeast Asia (ASA), 1967 ASEAN Declaration, 10 member states
- ASEAN's primary objectives are: "(1) to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region and (2) to promote regional peace and stability through abiding respect for justice and the rule of law in the relationship among countries in the region and adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter.,

### **ASEAN Structure**



## Regional Organisations - Africa

#### Africa Union (AU)

- 1963 Organization of African Unity (OAU), 2002 –AU, 55 member states
- Main administrative capital of the African Union is in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Multiple goals: Accelerate the political and socio-economic integration of the continent;
   Promote and defend African common positions on issues of interest to the continent and its peoples; Encourage international cooperation, etc.

#### **South African Development Community (SADC)**

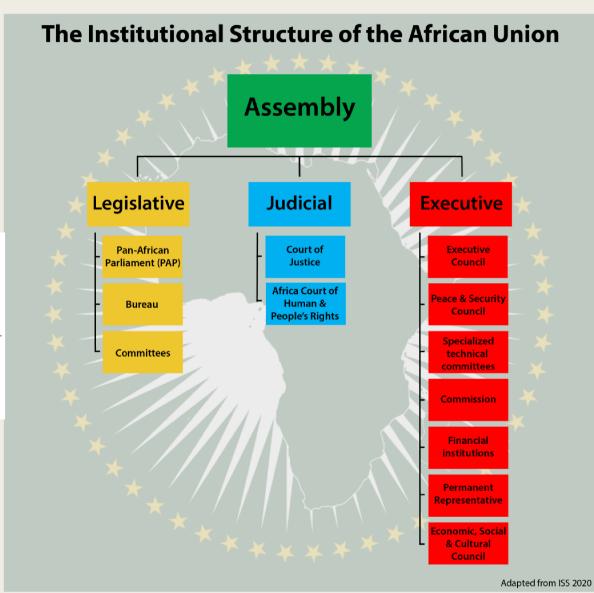
- Southern African Development Coordination Conference transformed into SADC in 1992
- Gaborone, Botswana, 16 member states
- "to achieve economic development, peace and security, and growth, alleviate poverty, enhance the standard and quality of life of the peoples of Southern Africa, and support the socially disadvantaged through Regional Integration."

#### **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)**

- 1975, 15 member states, Abuja Nigeria
- "The aim of the Community is to promote co-operation and integration, leading to the establishment of an economic union in West Africa in order to raise the living standards of its peoples, and to maintain and enhance economic stability, foster relations-among Member States and contribute to the progress and development of the African continent."
- The Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) was a West African multilateral armed force established by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). 1990-2005.

### **AU Structure**

- 2003–2004, African Union Mission in Burundi (AMIB)
- 2004-2007, African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS)
- 2007–2021, United Nations–African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID)
- 2007–2021, African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM)
- 2022-Ongoing, African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS)
- 2008, 2008 invasion of Anjouan, also known as Operation Democracy in Comoros.
- 2011–2018, Fight against the Lord's Resistance Army insurgency through the African Unionled Regional Task Force in Uganda, South Sudan and the CAR.
- 2013—Ongoing, African-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA), organized by ECOWAS.
- 2013—Ongoing, African-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic (MISCA)



## Regional Organisations/Regimes – America and Europe

#### **Organisation of American States (OAS)**

- 1948 Washington D.C., 35 member states
- "the premier regional forum for political discussion, policy analysis and decision-making in Western Hemisphere affairs. The OAS brings together leaders from nations across the Americas to address hemispheric issues and opportunities."

### North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) x Agreement between the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada (USMCA)

- 1994, agreement signed by Canada, Mexico, and the United States that created a trilateral trade bloc in North America
- 2020 free trade agreement between Canada, Mexico, and the United States

#### Visegrad Group (V4)

- 1991, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and Hungary
- To advance co-operation in military, economic, cultural and energy affairs
- International Visegrad Fund, Non-institutionalized, regular meeting of top executives (Presidency lasts one year)

# Thank you for your attention