International conflicts today:
From local to global social impact

Diego Checa Hidalgo

Visiting Research Fellow

Instituto de la Paz y los Conflictos

Universidad de Granada

01/12/2016

International conflicts today

- Peace Research
  - Conflicts
  - Types of Violence

- Conflicts in the international arena
  - Armed conflict trends
  - Terrorism
  - Peace

- Conflict resolution in the international arena
  - War as a conflict resolution tool
  - UN mechanisms for conflict resolution
  - Other mechanisms to prevent the negative effects of wars

PEACE RESEARCH

Interdisciplinary
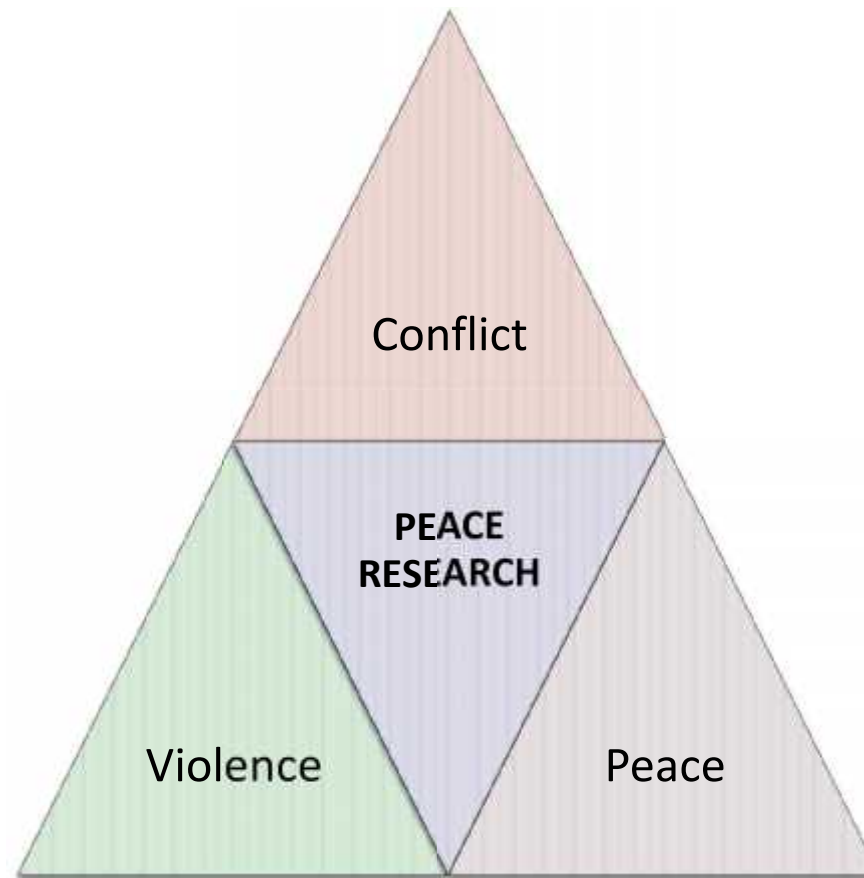
Conflict Resolution Vs. Conflict Transformation

Conflict

- Familiar term → multiple understandings

- Lowest common denominator
  - Processes
  - Individuals / groups / parties
  - Incompatible goals

- Negative charged → violent dynamics

- It is everywhere → human societies

Analyzing conflicts

- Elements
  - Contradictory goals
  - Attitudes
  - Behaviours

- Analyzing conflicts → dynamics
  - Competition → winner – loser
    - Getting own goals at the expense of others
  - Cooperation → winner – winner
    - Getting own goals not exclude other parties to get their ones
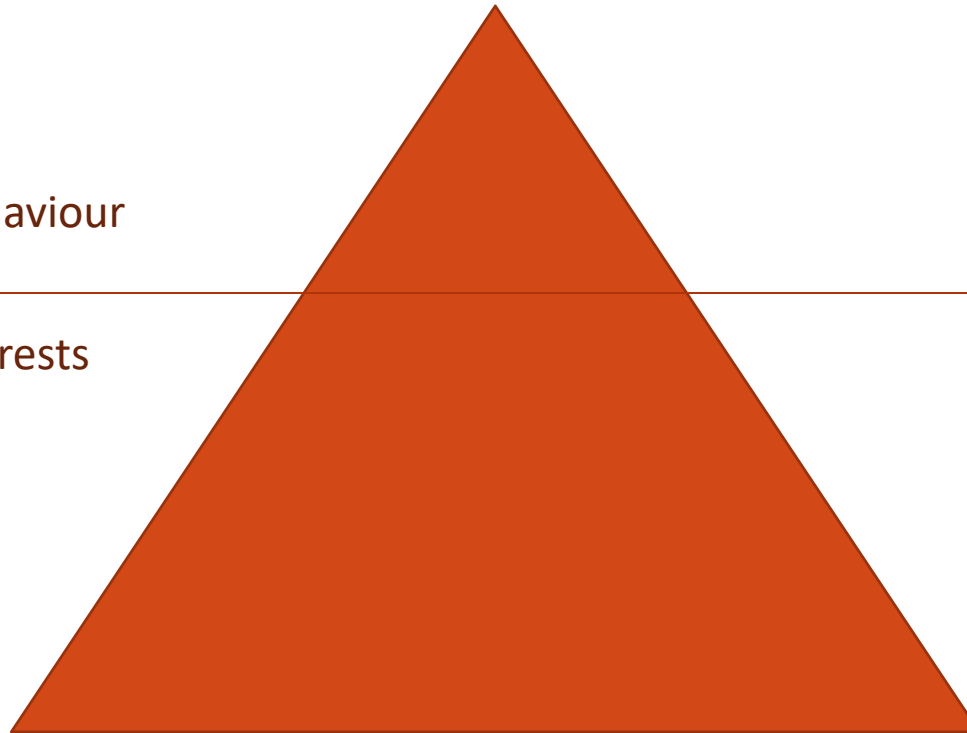
Conflict

Behaviours

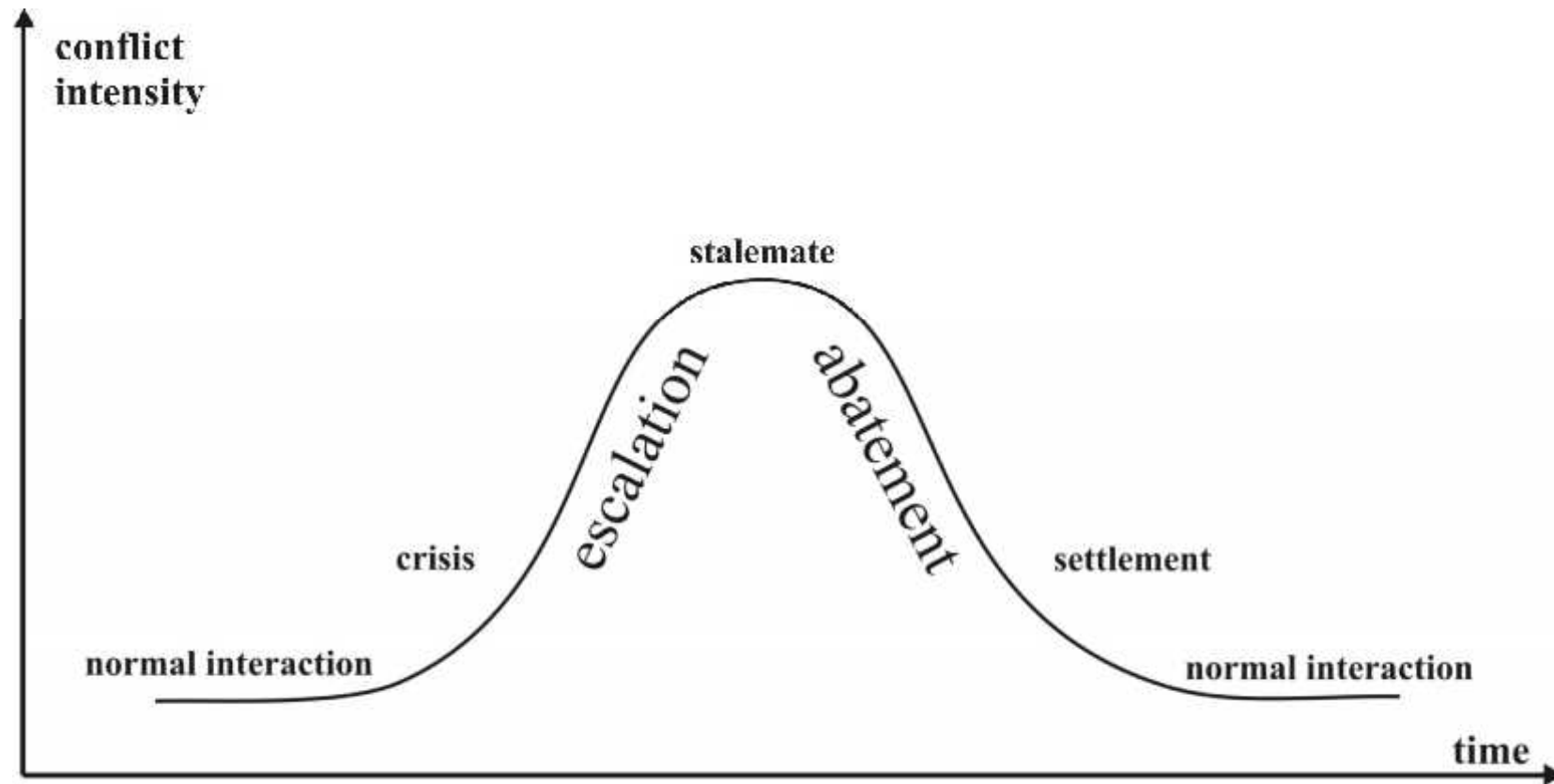Observable behaviour

Underlying interests

Attitudes

Contradictions

(Galtung 1969)

Conflict Stages

Adapted after Alker et al. (2001) and Brahm (2003)

Analyzing conflicts

- Fundamental → how we manage conflicts
  - Using violence
  - Without violence

- Conflict → potential positive effects → problem solving
  - Facilitates changes
    - improve institutional frameworks and decision making processes
  - Fosters creativity in societies
  - Strengthens social cohesion

Violence

- Multiple interpretations → according to different conceptions

  - How we understand human beings
  - How we understand human societies

- Origins

  - Biological or genetic positions
    - natural aggressive instincts

  - Socio-cultural positions → teaching learning process
   - Aggressiveness → human predisposition shaped by culture

Violence

"The use or threat of use of force or power, open or hidden, in order to obtain from one or more individuals something that is not freely consented, or to make them some kind of evil (physical, mental or moral)"

(Fisas 1998)

Violence

- Tool

- Used to achieve a goal

- Real or potential act

- Impose the will of some over others

Types of Violence
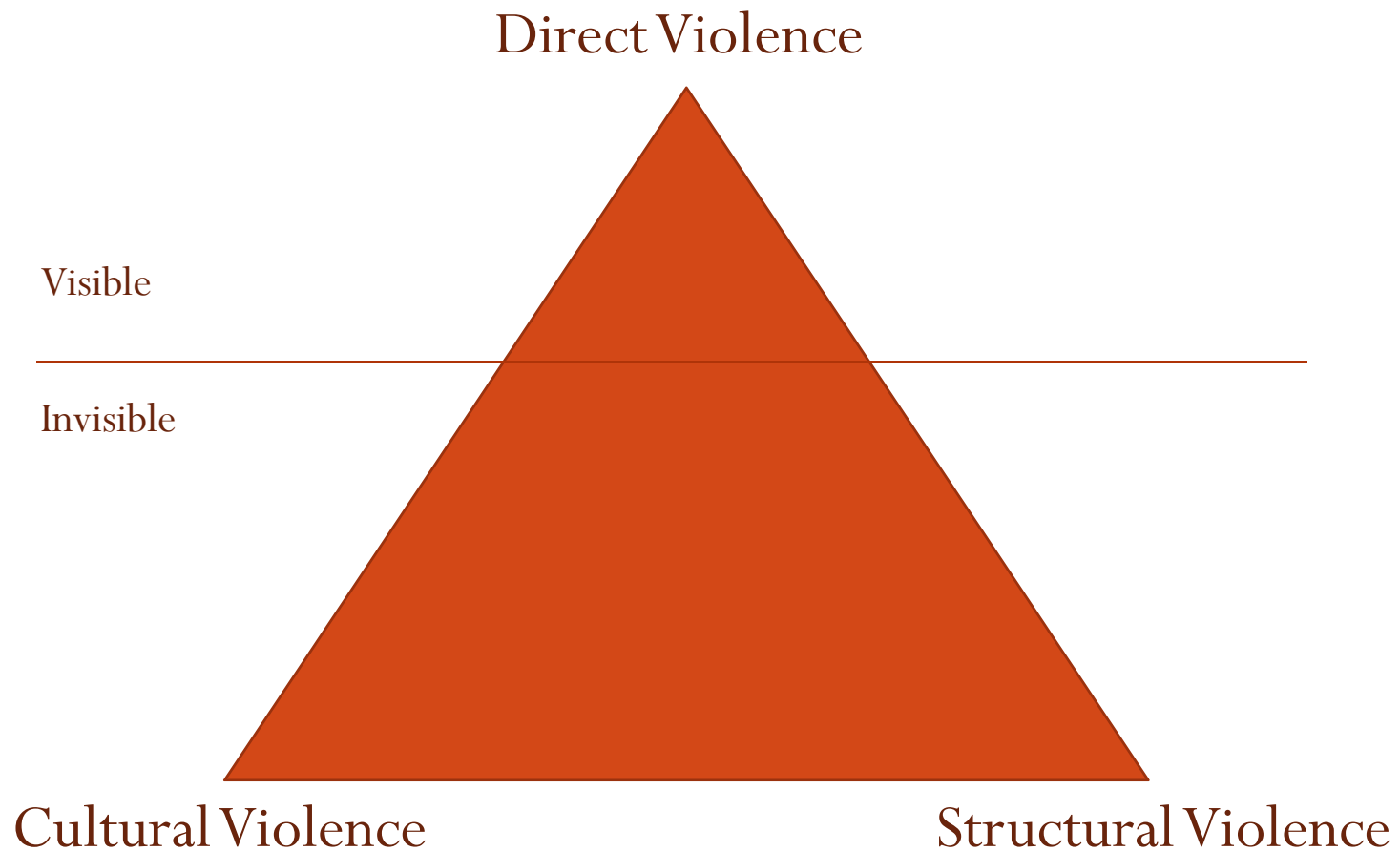
Types of Violence

- Direct violence
  - Actors generate violence to produce consequences
  - Manifestation → visible aggressions → war, punch

- Structural violence
  - There is no clear actor → structures → political / economic / social
  - Manifestation → inequality, power asymmetry, unbalanced opportunities

- Cultural violence
  - Justifies / legitimises → structural violence and direct violence
  - Manifestation → racism, militarism
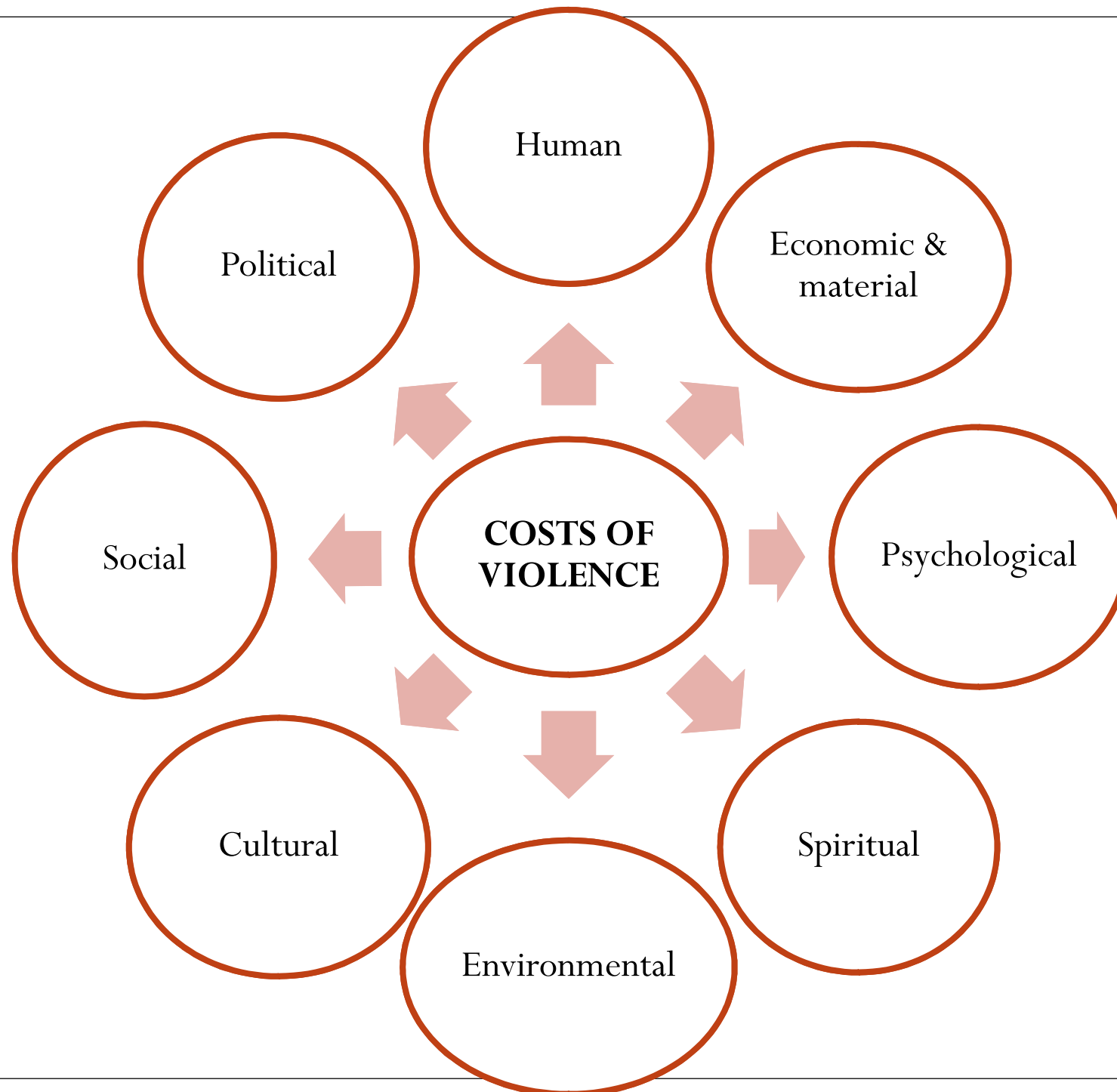
CONFLICTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA

- Violence & War in the international arena

    - War → Ultimate expression of direct violence

    - Mechanism for conflict resolution

    - Accompanied by → militarism + culture of arming

War & violence in the world

- Armed conflicts in 2014

  - Number → 40

  - Wars → 11

  - Locations → 27

  - People killed → 104.000

- What does it mean? → short / long term

Most deadly conflicts in 2014

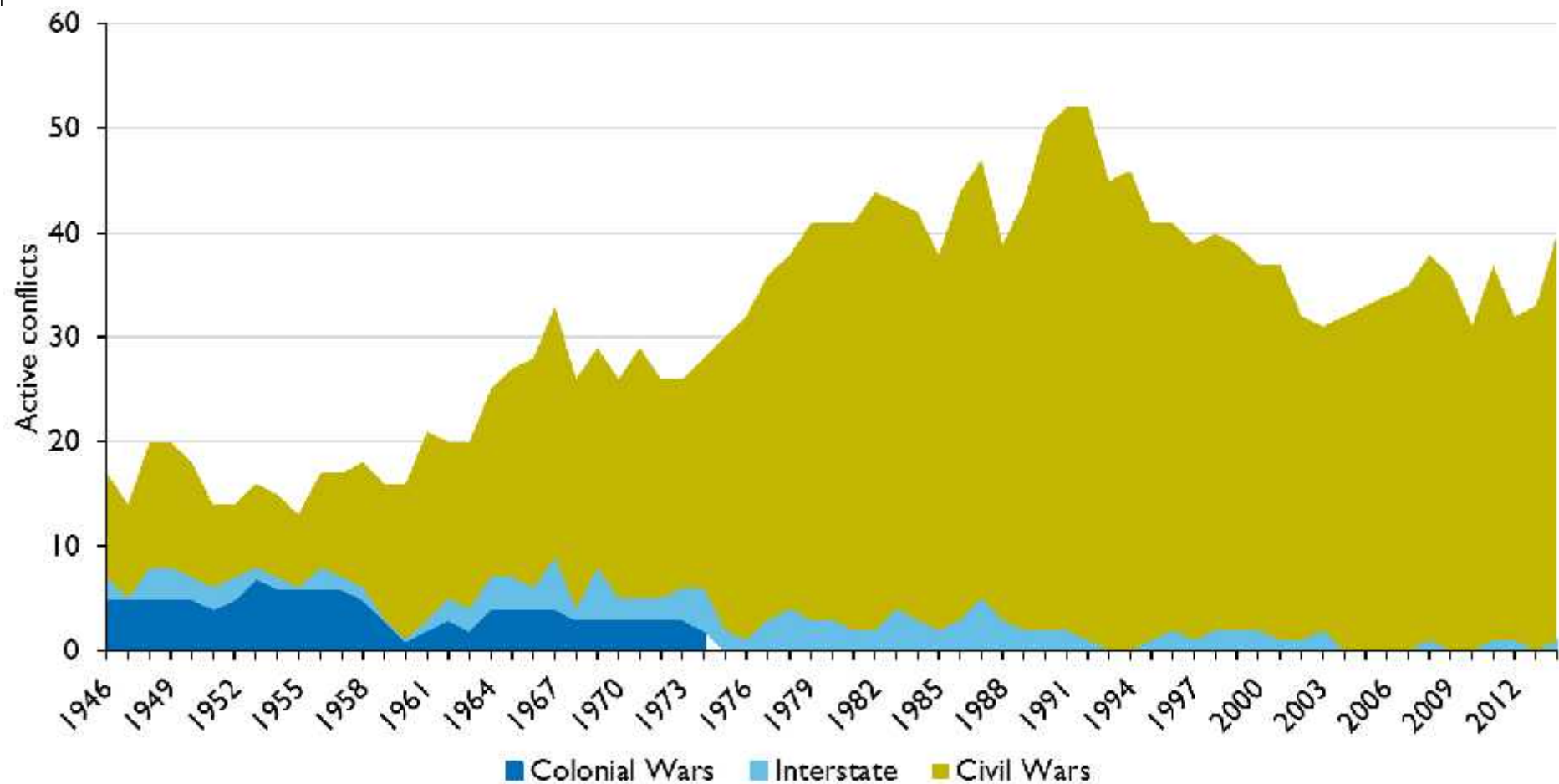(PRIO 2016)
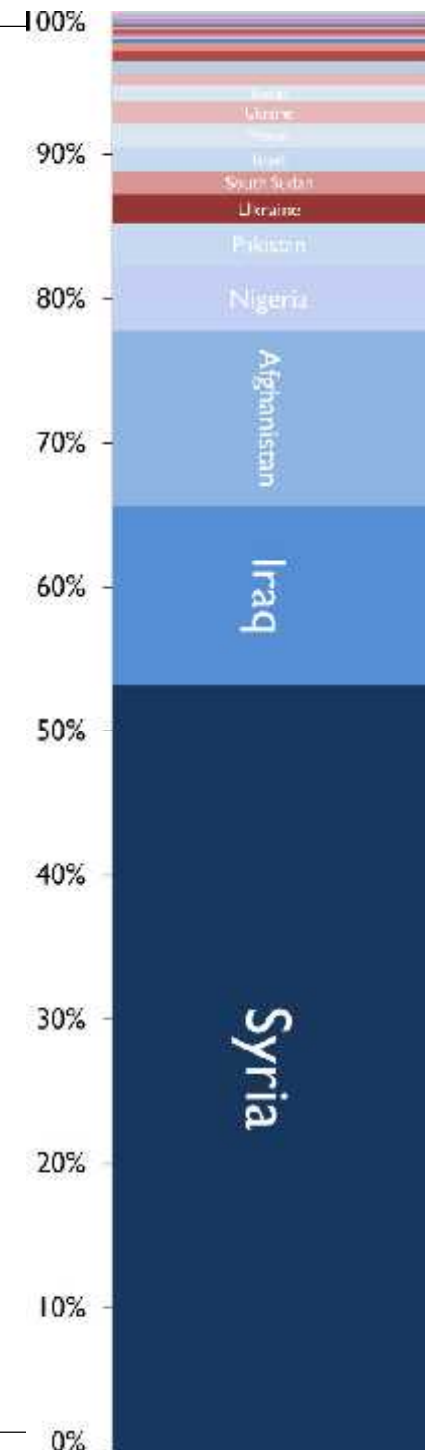
Trends in armed conflict

Table I. Armed conflicts, battle-related deaths,[a] and conflict locations, 1989–2014

Level of conflict	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Minor	30	35	39	37	34	39	32	31	33	28	29	27	30
War	10	14	12	11	9	9	8	10	7	12	11	11	8
BRD low estimate	50,114	76,156	66,765	35,320	37,564	32,280	27,466	27,625	36,981	37,158	78,605	75,199	19,927
BRD best estimate	54,224	79,580	70,520	36,459	38,671	32,836	28,419	27,879	39,727	39,315	79,597	77,354	22,347
BRD high estimate	83,095	96,986	88,465	60,593	60,808	55,256	43,583	32,963	61,185	50,331	101,984	90,138	37,858
All conflicts	40	49	51	48	43	48	40	41	40	40	40	38	38
All dyads	59	65	66	59	54	58	46	50	55	52	50	51	49
All locations	34	37	38	36	32	34	31	31	31	33	31	29	30

Level of conflict	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Minor	27	27	26	27	28	31	33	31	26	31	26	28	29
War	6	5	7	5	5	4	5	6	5	6	6	6	11
BRD low estimate	15,755	20,600	18,361	11,864	18,457	18,193	27,700	30,318	19,458	21,719	37,149	39,265	44,497
BRD best estimate	17,541	20,986	18,916	12,207	19,601	19,030	28,493	33,370	20,371	22,614	37,992	70,451	101,406
BRD high estimate	26,328	31,083	25,793	15,601	28,162	25,123	36,974	41,742	27,521	30,008	60,375	79,321	112,549
All conflicts	33	32	33	32	33	35	38	37	31	37	32	34	40
All dyads	45	44	45	40	47	44	48	47	40	51	40	48	53
All locations	25	25	25	23	25	25	29	27	25	30	26	25	27

Trends in armed conflict (1989-2014)

TYPES OF CONFLICT	1989	1993	1998	2003	2008	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Intrastate	38	41	33	25	30	22	27	23	24	26
Intrastate Internationalised	4	5	4	2	5	9	9	8	9	13
Interstate	2	0	2	2	1	0	1	1	0	1
Total	44	46	39	29	36	31	37	32	33	40

Uppsala Conflict Data Project, 2016.

Types of armed conflicts (1946-2014)

PRIO & Uppsala Conflict Data Programme, 2016

Armed Conflict by Region, 1946-2014

© UCDP 2015
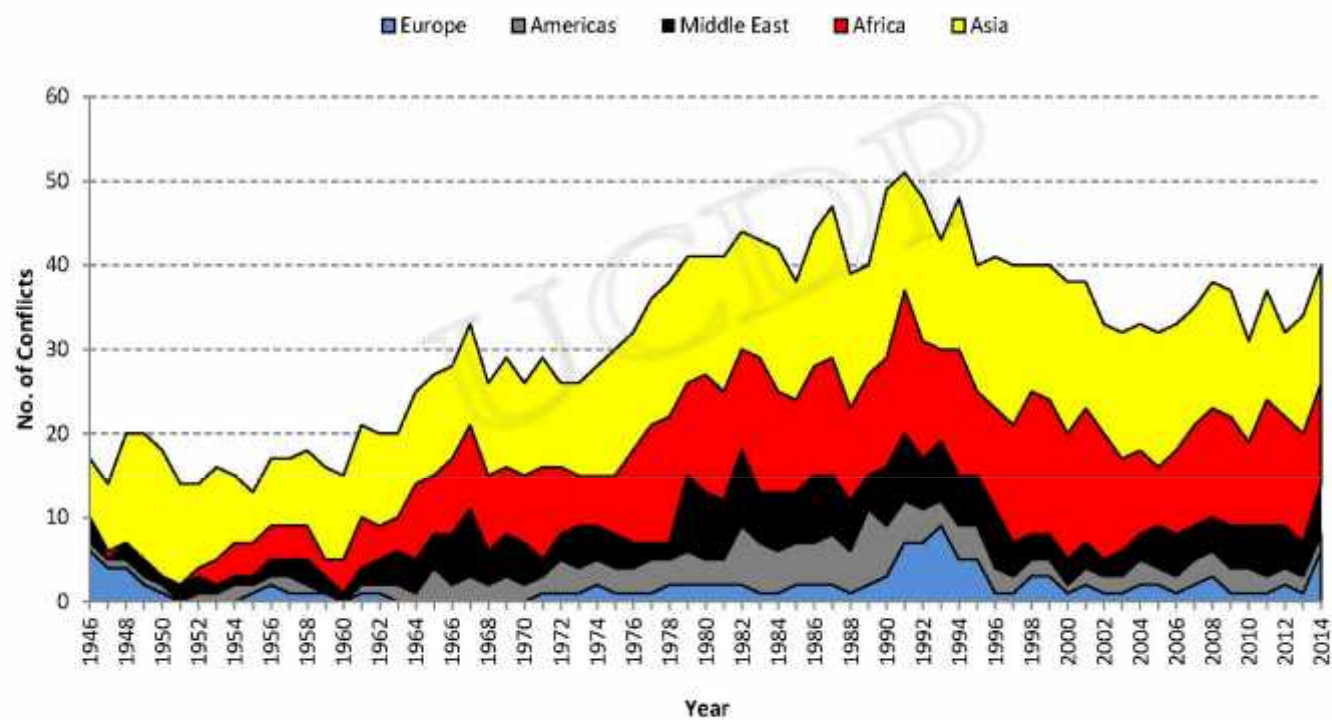
Armed Conflicts by Intensity, 1946-2014

© UCDP 2015
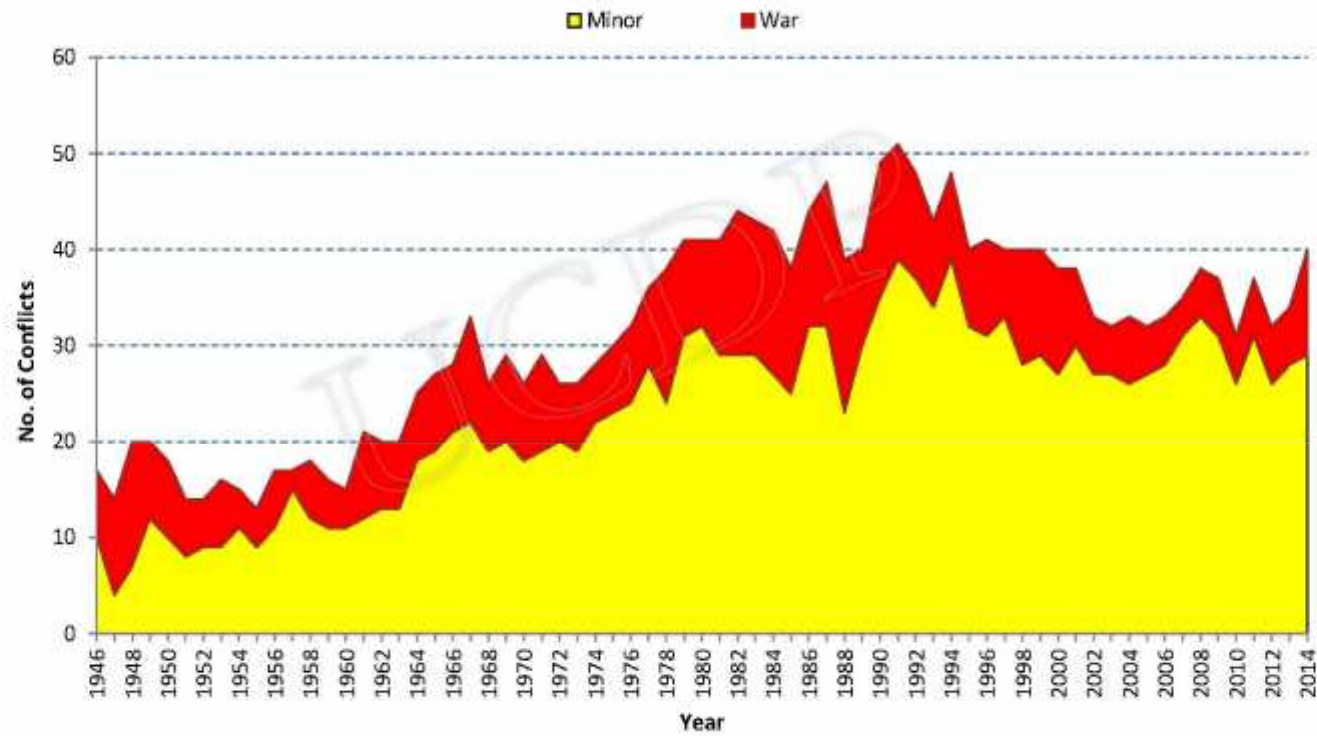
Armed Conflicts by Incompatibility, 1946-2014

□ Territory&Government   ■ Territory   □ Government

© UCDP 2015

Terrorism (2000-2014)

Institute for Economics and Peace, 2015
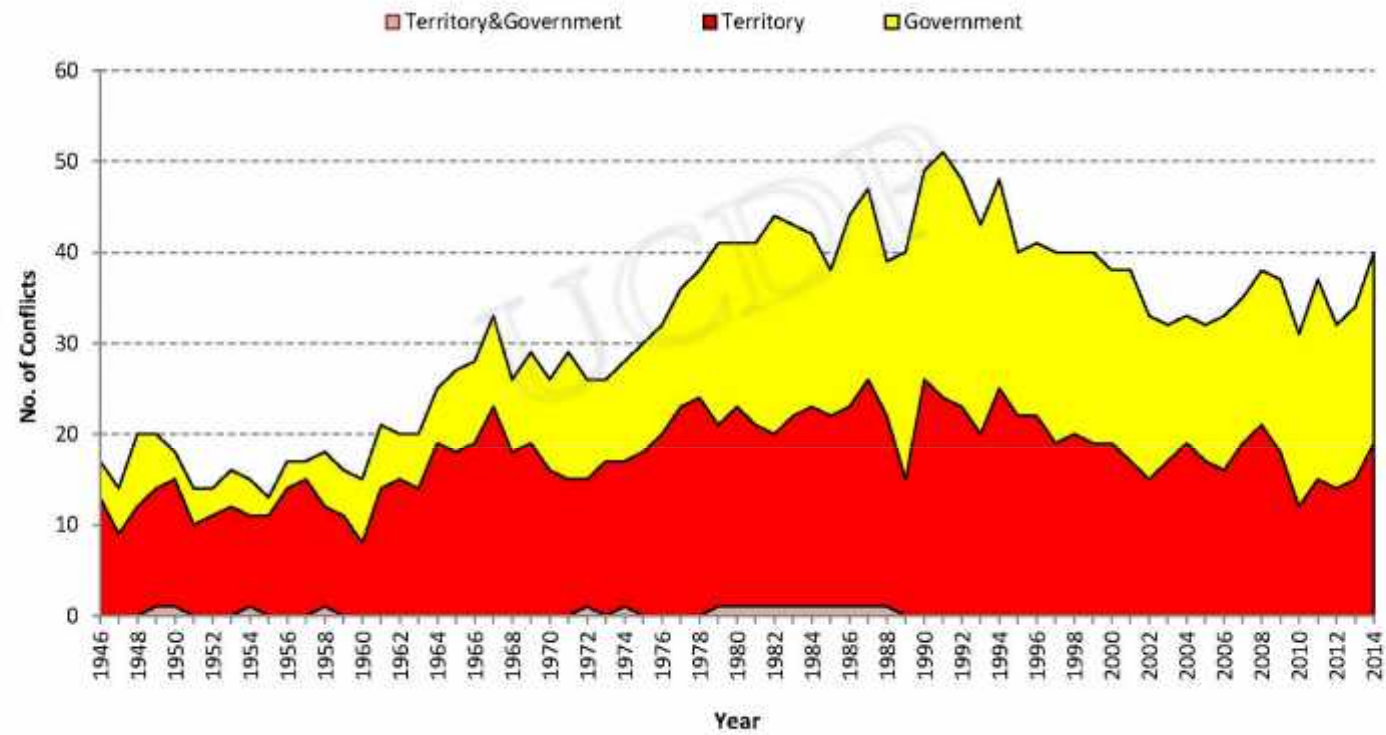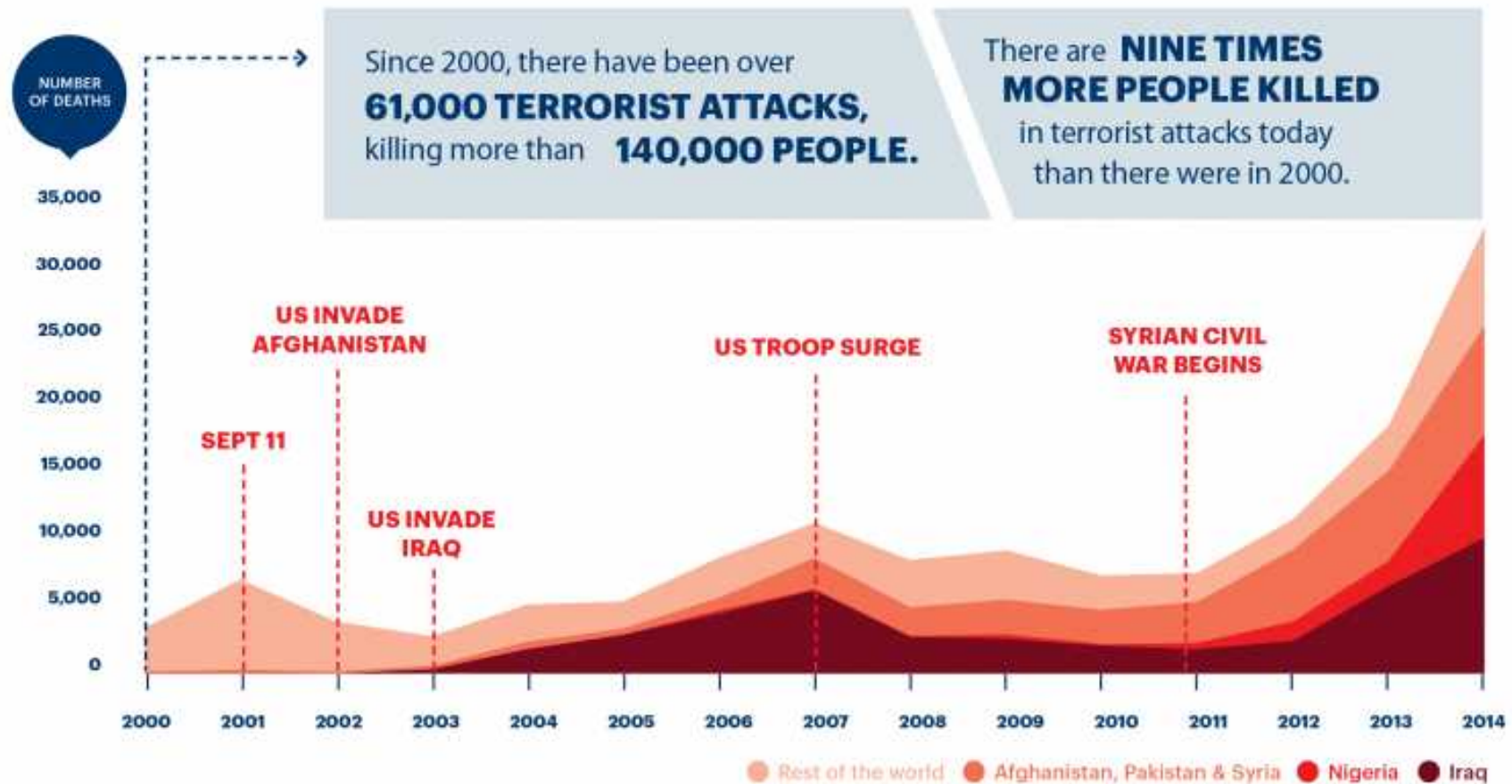
Organized Violence in 2014

Americas

Russia

Asia

Europe

Ukraine

Azerbaijan

Syria

Afghanistan

Israel — Iraq

Algeria

Libya

Egypt

Pakistan

India

United States
of America

Mexico

Sudan

Yemen

Myanmar
(Burma)

Africa

Mali

Ethiopia

Somalia

Nigeria

Philippines

Thailand

Colombia

Central African
Republic

DR
Congo

South
Sudan

Uganda

Middle East

Legend

Country Experiencing Armed Conflict

Actual intensity of violence

1000
100
25
1
0

UCDP

UPPSALA CONFLICT DATA PROGRAM
UPPSALA UNIVERSITY
UCDP.UU.SE

Battle related deaths (1946-2014)

Global Peace
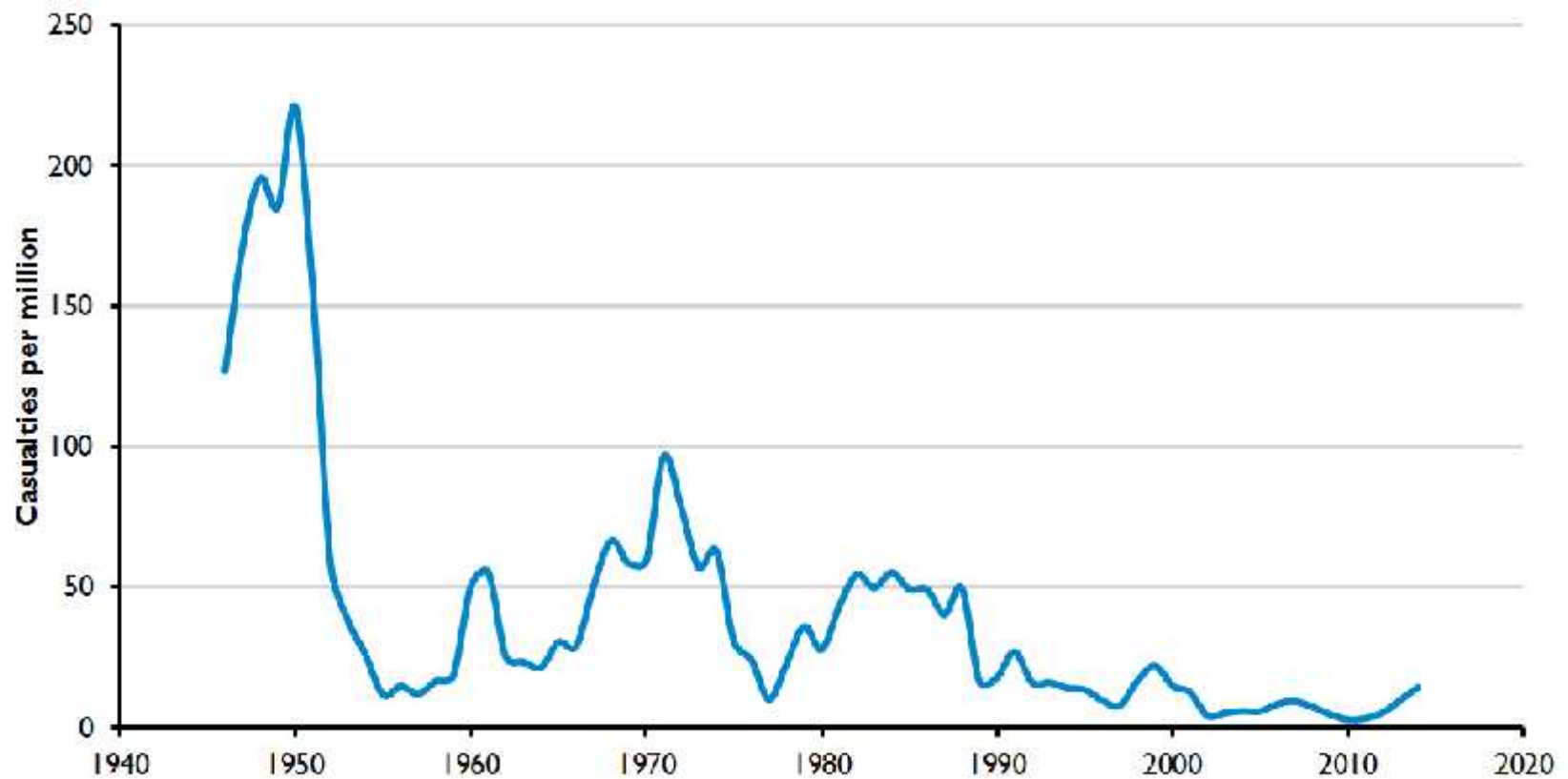
2015 GLOBAL PEACE INDEX
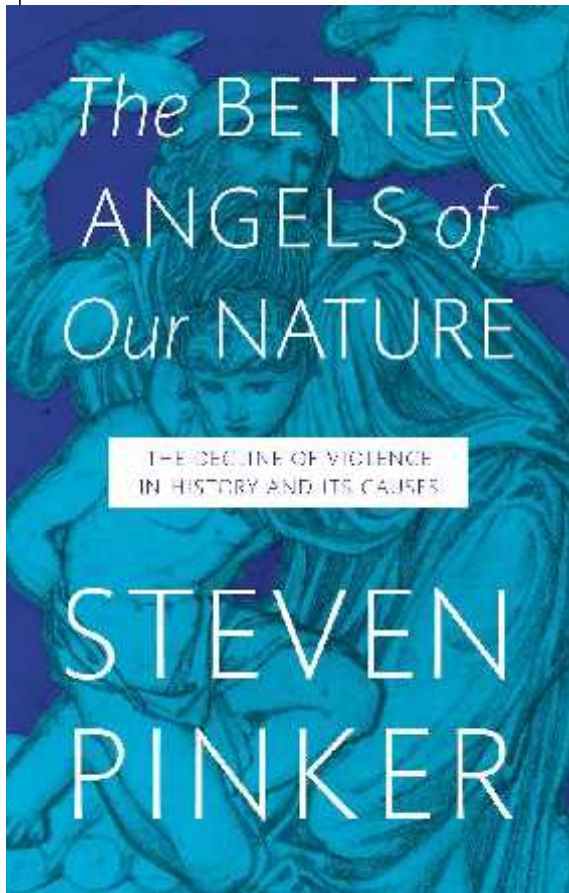A SNAPSHOT OF THE GLOBAL STATE OF PEACE
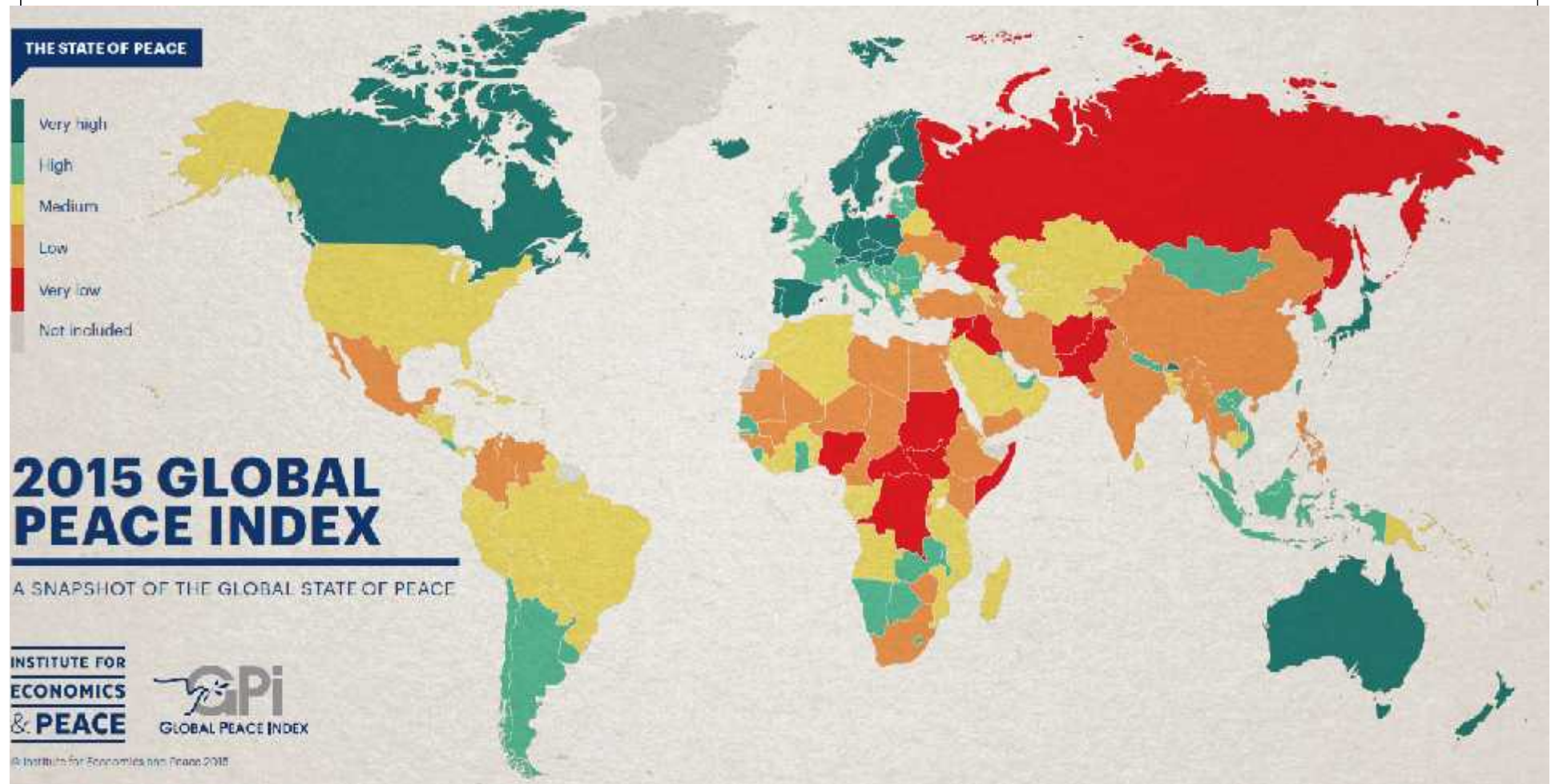
Global Peace Index

Global Peace

- We live in the most peaceful period of human history
  - Last 1000 years → violent reduction

- Historical trends
  - The end of the state of nature
  - The Civilizing Process
  - The Humanitarian Revolution
  - Toward the end of interstate wars
  - New Peace after the Cold War
  - The Rights Revolutions

Conflict Resolution
in the international arena

- War as a conflict resolution tool → is it legal?

Conflict Resolution
in the international arena

- League of Nations (1919) → to promote international co-operation and to achieve international peace and security
  - Not to resort to war
  - "respect and preserve … the territorial integrity and existing political independence of all Members of the League"
  - "Maintenance of peace requires the reduction of national armaments to the lowest point …"
  - States were required to submit complaints for arbitration or judicial inquiry before going to war

- Briand – Kellogg Pact (1928)
  - General Treaty for Renunciation of War as an Instrument of National Policy → crimes against peace

Conflict Resolution
in the international arena

- UN Charter (1945)
  - "All Members **shall refrain** in their international relations **from the threat or use of force** against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations. (UN Charter, Art. 2. par. 4).

  - Exceptions → When is the use of force legal? (UN Charter, Chapter VII)

    - right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs
    - UNSC authorizes the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security

Conflict Resolution
in the international arena

- UN Charter (1945)

  - Pacific settlement of disputes (Chapter VI)
    - Negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, regional agencies, etc.

  - UNSC → measures not involving the use of armed force (Art. 41)
    - Complete or partial interruption of economic relations and of any means of communications, plus the severance of diplomatic relations

UN strategies for conflict management

STRATEGY	PROBLEM	ACTORS	ACTIVITIES	GOAL
Preventive diplomacy	Avoid conflict escalation into violence	Track I Track II Track III	Analysis of conflict Fact finding missions Early warning networks Preventive deployment	Nonviolent prevention of conflict escalation
Peacekeeping	Violent behaviour	Military forces Police forces	Monitoring missions Interposition Keeping a presence	Prevent further violence
Peacemaking	Perceived incompatibility of interests	Track I Track II	Negotiation Mediation Facilitation Dialogue Meetings	Conflict resolution
Peace-building	Negative attitudes and socio-economic structures that create major inequalities	Track III Track II Track I	Educational programmes Economic aid Democracy support Psycho-social aid	Overcoming the causes of conflict

Conflict Resolution
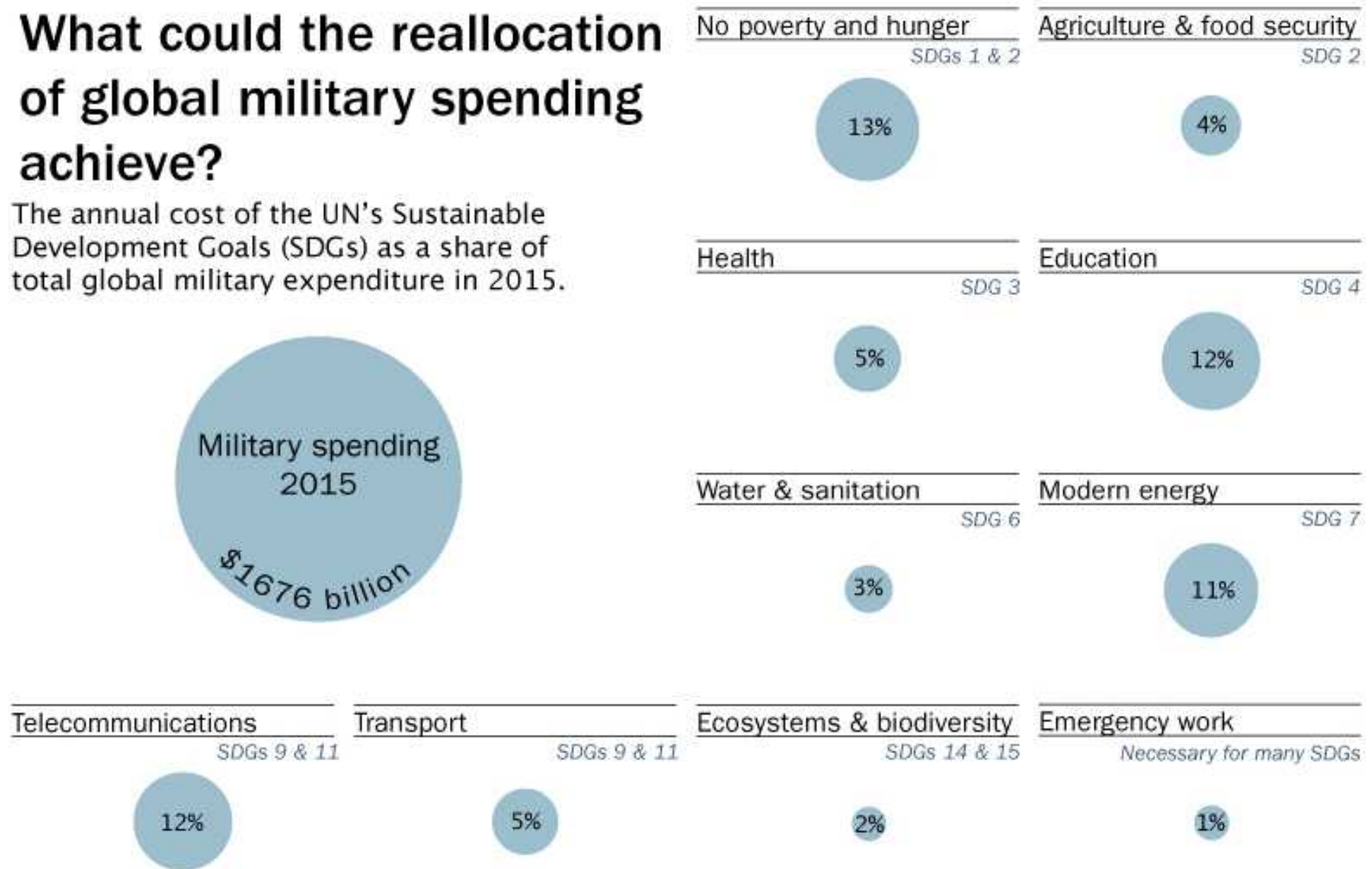# in the international arena

- However, there are still many armed conflicts

- Mechanisms to reduce the effects of wars

  - Disarmament → Suppression or reduction of means to make wars

  - International Humanitarian Law → it regulates the conduct of war (*jus in bello*) → seeks to limit the effects of violence
    - protecting persons who are not participating in hostilities
    - regulating the means and methods of warfare available to combatants

World military expenditure, 1988–2015

Military expenditure (constant US$ billion)
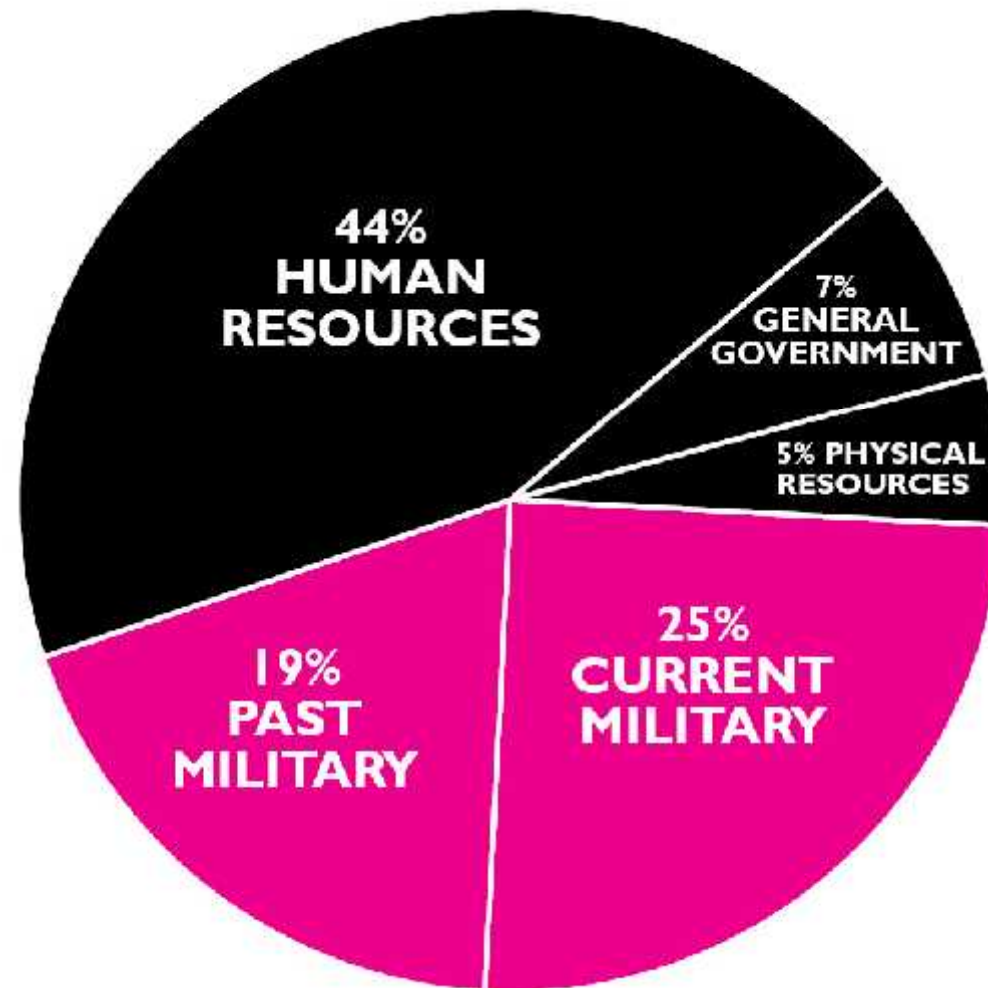
www.sipri.org

© 2016 SIPRI
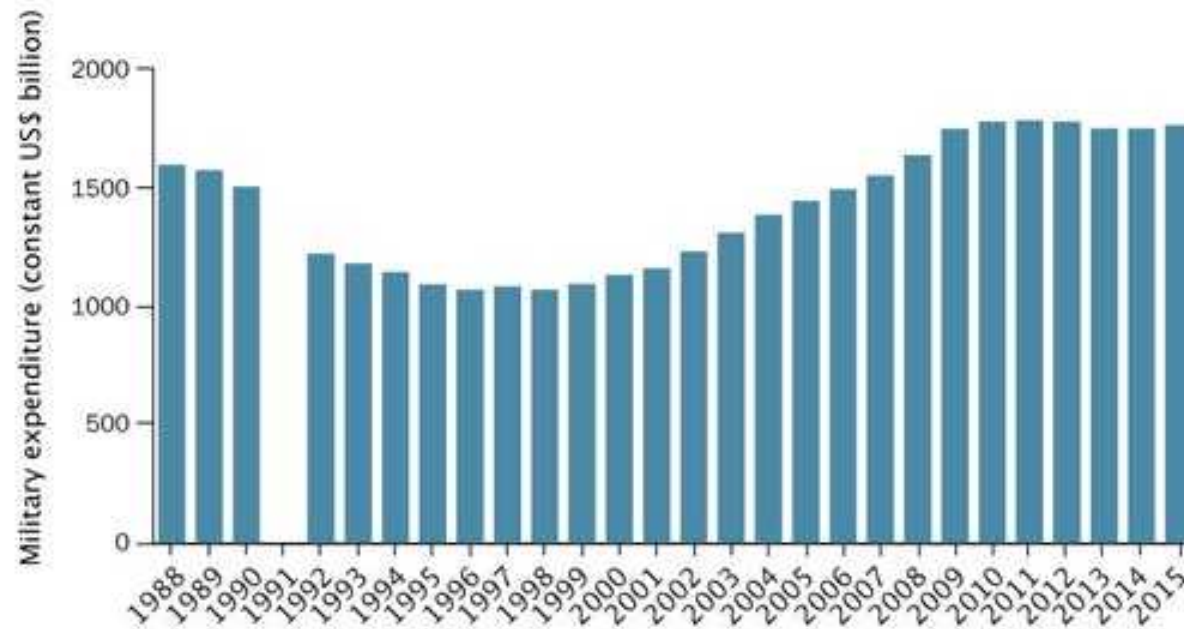
What could the reallocation of global military spending achieve?

The annual cost of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a share of total global military expenditure in 2015.

Military spending 2015

$1676 billion

No poverty and hunger
SDGs 1 & 2

13%

Agriculture & food security
SDG 2

4%

Health
SDG 3

5%

Education
SDG 4

12%

Water & sanitation
SDG 6

3%

Modern energy
SDG 7

11%

Telecommunications
SDGs 9 & 11

12%

Transport
SDGs 9 & 11

5%

Ecosystems & biodiversity
SDGs 14 & 15

2%

Emergency work
Necessary for many SDGs

1%

Disarmament

Federal Budget
USA 2016-2017

44%
HUMAN
RESOURCES

7%
GENERAL
GOVERNMENT

5% PHYSICAL
RESOURCES

19%
PAST
MILITARY

25%
CURRENT
MILITARY

War Resisters International, 2016

International Humanitarian Law

- Geneva Conventions (1949, 1977 & 2005)

- Specific agreements

- Customary Law

- International Committee of the Red Cross

International Humanitarian Law

- Geneva Conventions (1949)
  - Convention (I) for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in **Armed Forces in the Field**.

  - Convention (II) for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked **Members of Armed Forces at Sea**

  - Convention (III) relative to the Treatment of **Prisoners of War**.

  - Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of **Civilian Persons** in Time of War.

- Additional protocols to the Geneva Conventions (1977 & 2005)
  - Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of **Victims of International Armed Conflicts** (Protocol I)

  - Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of **Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts** (Protocol II)

  - Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive **Emblem** (Protocol III)*

International Humanitarian Law

- Specific agreements:

  - Convention for the **protection of cultural property** in the event of armed conflict. The Hague, 14 May 1954

  - **Biological Weapons** Convention, 1972

  - Convention on prohibitions or restrictions on the **use of certain conventional weapons** which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects. Geneva, 10 October 1980

  - **Chemical Weapons** Convention, 1993

  - Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of **Anti-Personnel Mines** and on their Destruction. Ottawa, 18 September 1997

- Customary Law

Any questions?

Any comments?

diegochecahidalgo@gmail.com

Twitter: @diegodlamancha