



# **CONTEMPORARY ARMED CONFLICTS**

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# Conflict - Definition

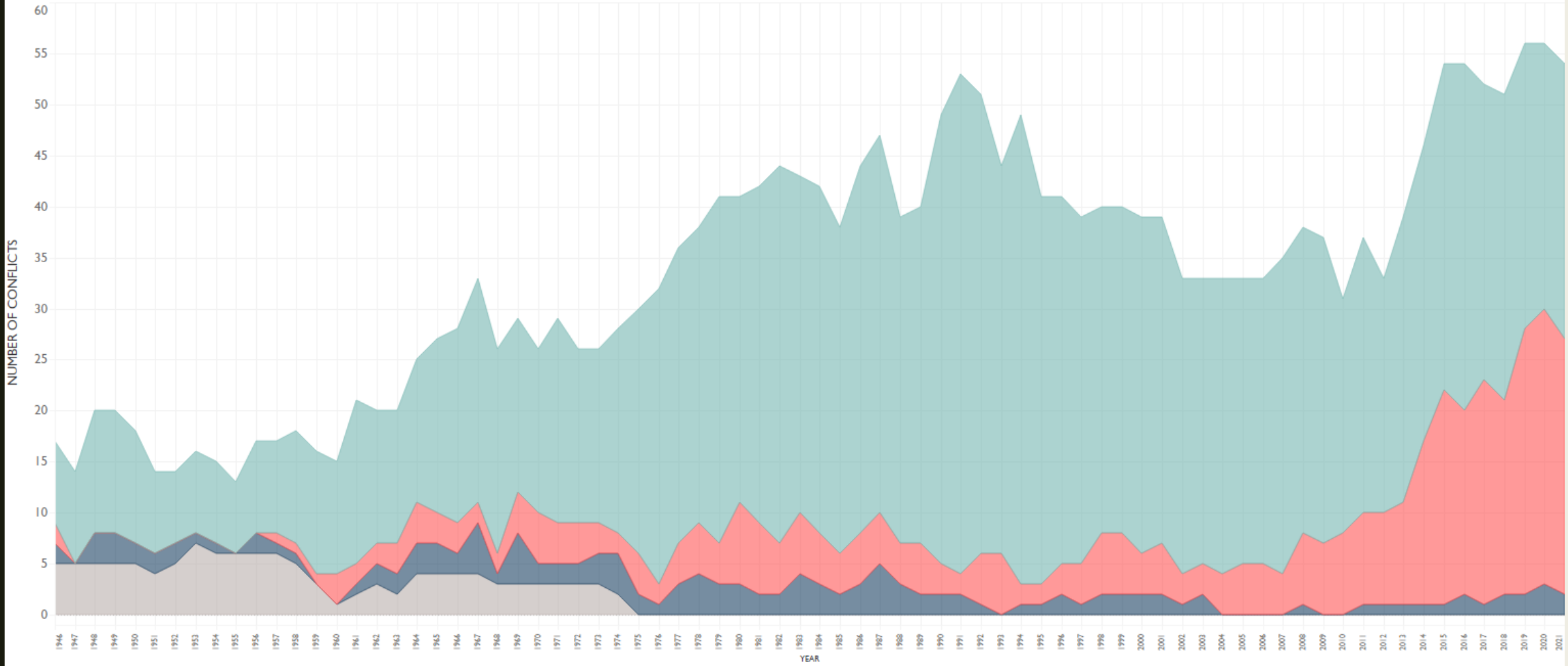
- **An armed conflict** is a contested incompatibility that concerns government and/or territory where the use of armed force between two parties, results in at least 25 battle-related deaths in one calendar year.
- **Conflict:** clash between two actors who have incompatible interests.
- Necessary features 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
- Civil War Criteria:
  - a) Organized military actions
  - b) At least 1000 victims per year
  - c) Participation of the armed forces of the government (state actor)
  - d) Effective resistance from opposition forces (5%)

# Conflict - Typology

- Based on:
  - a) **strength/intensity** - low, medium, or high intensity conflict (war).
  - b) **used means**: violent, non-violent (armed, unarmed).
  - c) **causes**: territorial, ethnic, religious, constitutional, ideological, economic, etc.
  - d) location (**geographical level**): international, transnational, national, or interpersonal
  - e) **actor** - non-state/sub-state, intrastate, and interstate
    - intrastate conflict (civil war vs. intercommunal war)
    - extrastate conflict
- Types of conflict internationalization
- Typology of actors:
  - a) primary, secondary, external (tertiary)
  - b) spoilers
  - c) participants vs. conflicting parties

# ARMED CONFLICT BY TYPE, 1946-2021

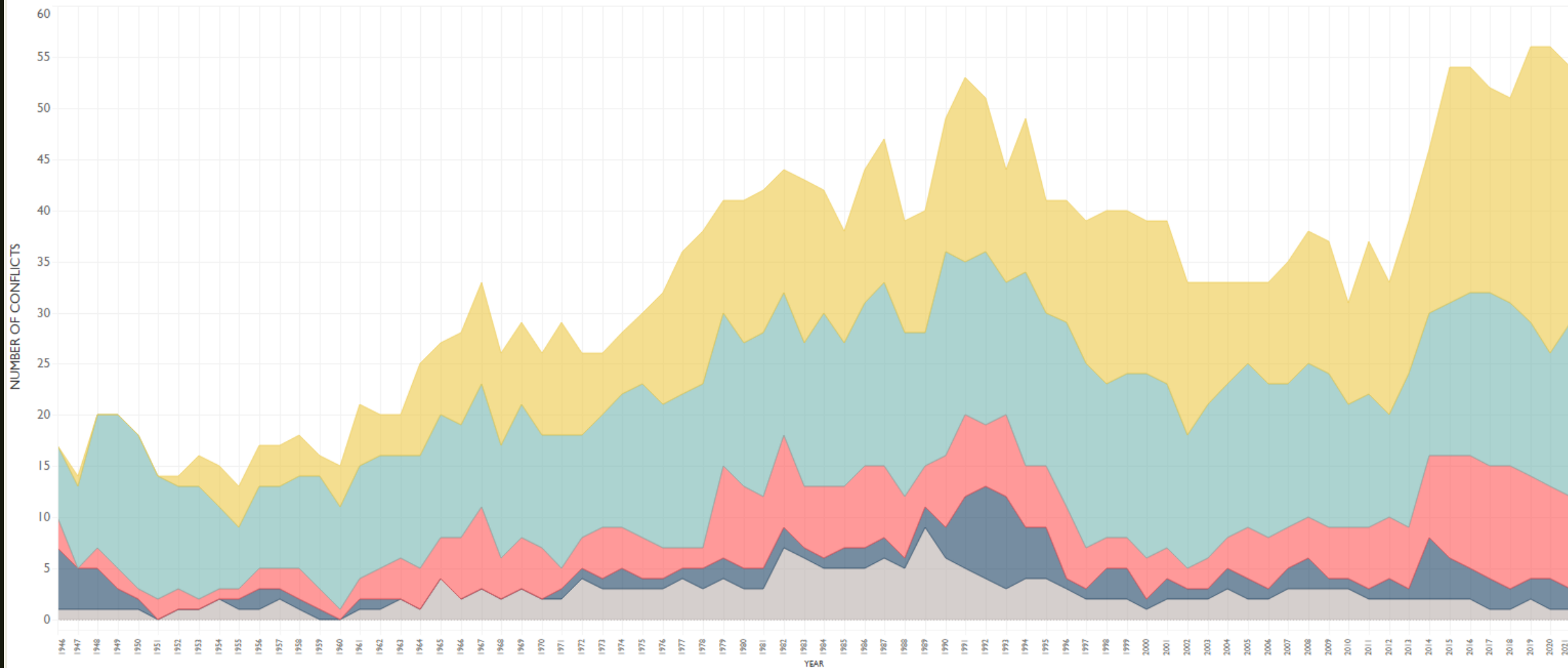
■ EXTRASTATE ■ INTERSTATE ■ INTERNATIONALIZED INTRASTATE ■ INTRASTATE



Based on UCDP 22.1 data

## ARMED CONFLICT BY REGION, 1946-2021

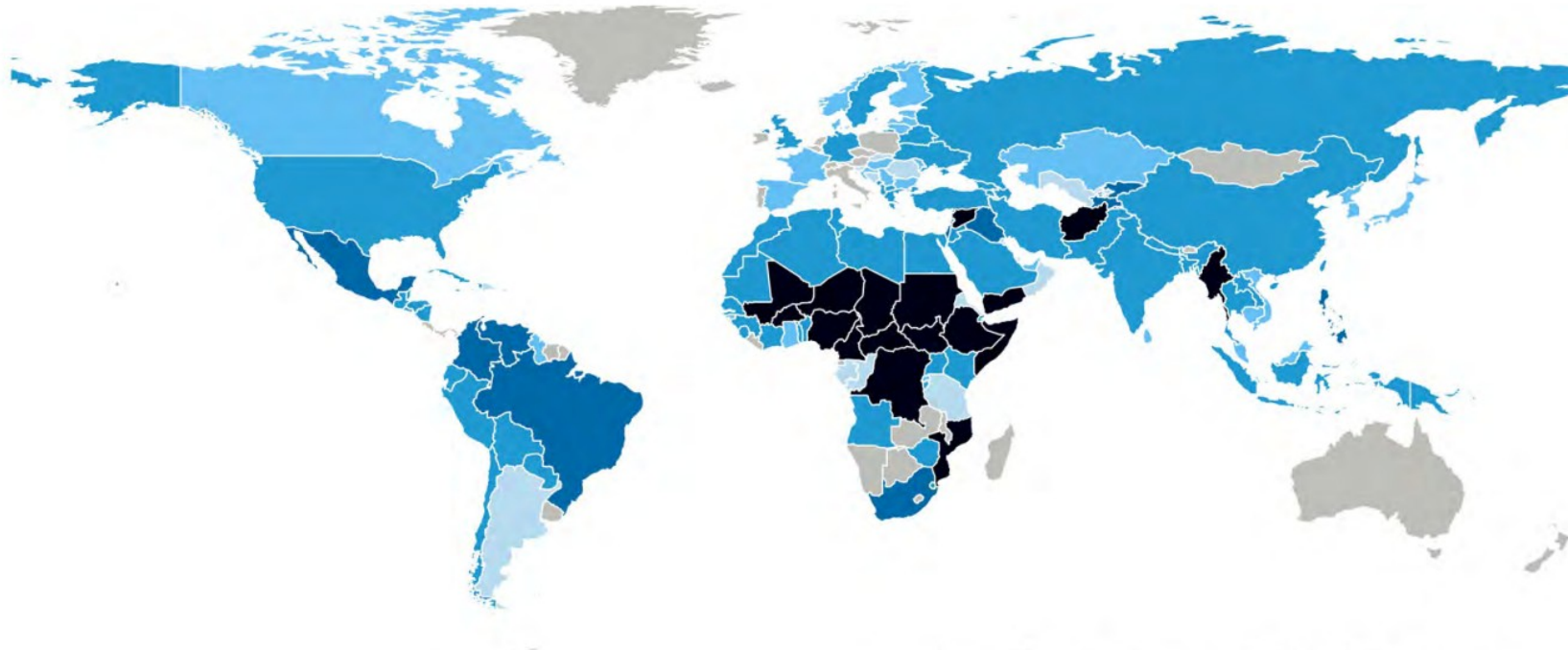
AFRICA AMERICAS ASIA EUROPE MIDDLE EAST



Based on UCDP 22.1 data

# Conflict Intensity - HIIK

CONFLICTS IN 2021  
(NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL)



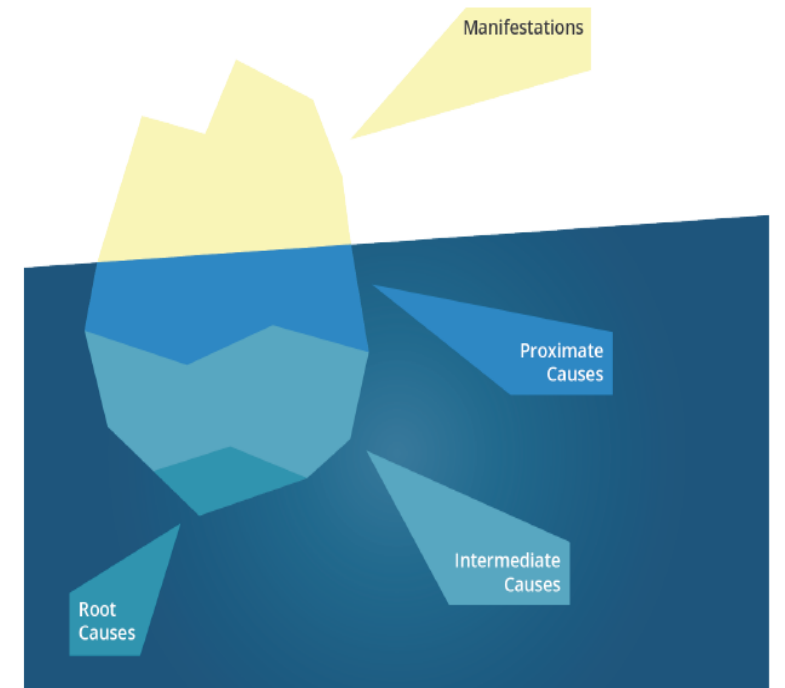
| intensity Level | terminology        | level of violence     | intensity class  |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1               | dispute            | non-violent conflicts | low intensity    |
| 2               | non-violent crisis |                       |                  |
| 3               | violent crisis     | violent conflicts     | medium intensity |
| 4               | limited war        |                       | high intensity   |
| 5               | war                |                       |                  |

# Causes of Conflicts

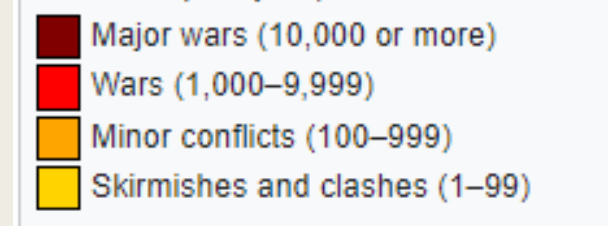
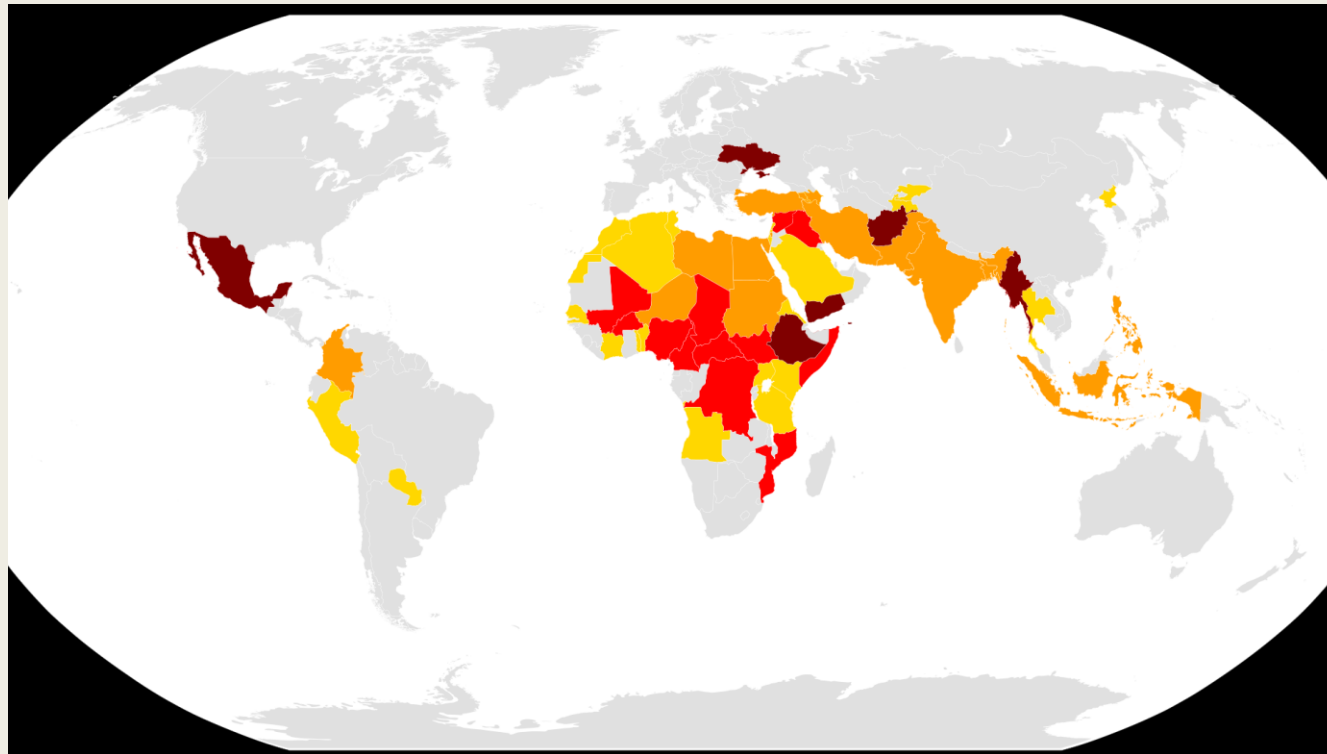
- Greed vs. Grievance
- Conflicts of values vs. Conflicts of interests
- Structural causes vs. Proximate causes vs. Triggers
- Paul Collier – Conflict/development traps:
  - *Natural Resource Trap*
  - *Landlocked with Bad Neighbours*
  - *Bad Governance in a Small Country*
  - *Conflict itself*

RELATION BETWEEN THE CHARACTERISTICS OF RESOURCES AND TYPES OF CONFLICTS

| Characteristics | Point                                    | Diffuse                |
|-----------------|--|------------------------|
| Proximate       | <i>Coup d'état</i> /foreign intervention | Peasant/mass rebellion |
| Distant         | Secession                                | Warlordism             |



# Contemporary Armed Conflicts (2021-2022)





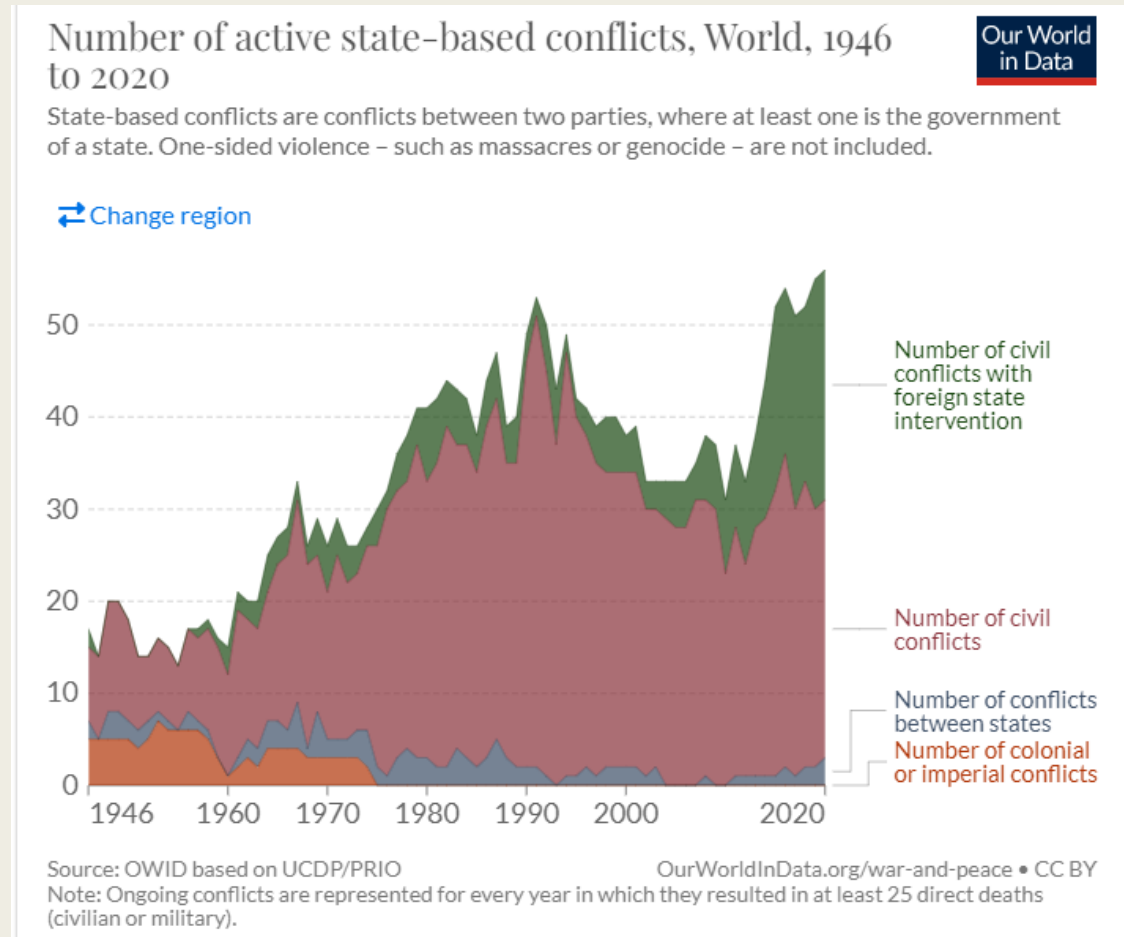
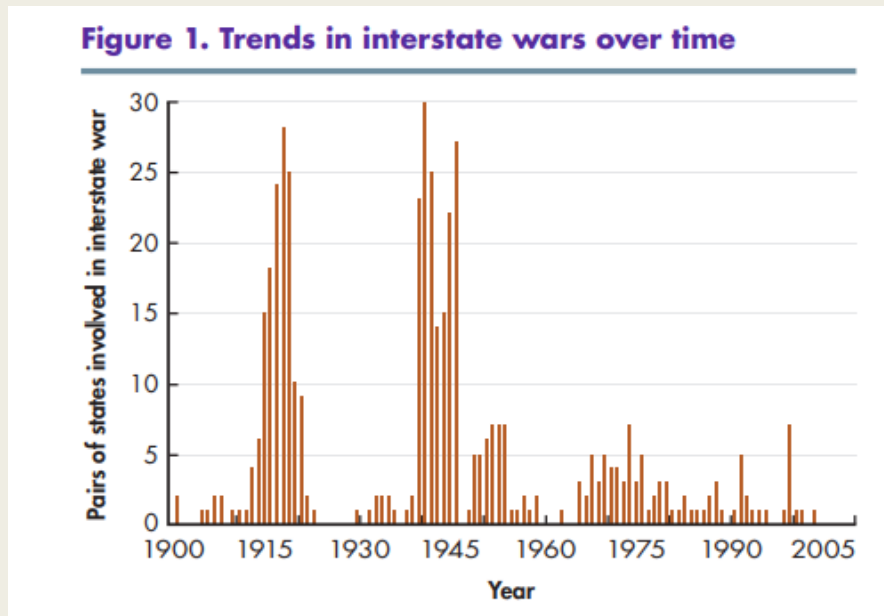
# The Bloodiest Conflicts of the 21st Century

| The bloodiest conflicts of the 21st century |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| DRC (1998 – 2003)                           | 2,5 – 5 mil       |
| Afghanistan (2001-2014)                     | 170 00            |
| Iraq (2003-2011)                            | 200 000 - 1,2 mil |
| Syria (2011 -)                              | 500 000           |
| Yemen (2014 -)                              | 500 000           |
| Darfur (2003 -)                             | 400 000           |
| Nigeria (2009 -)                            | 200 000           |
| Somalia (1991 - )                           | 500 000           |

- Ukraine?

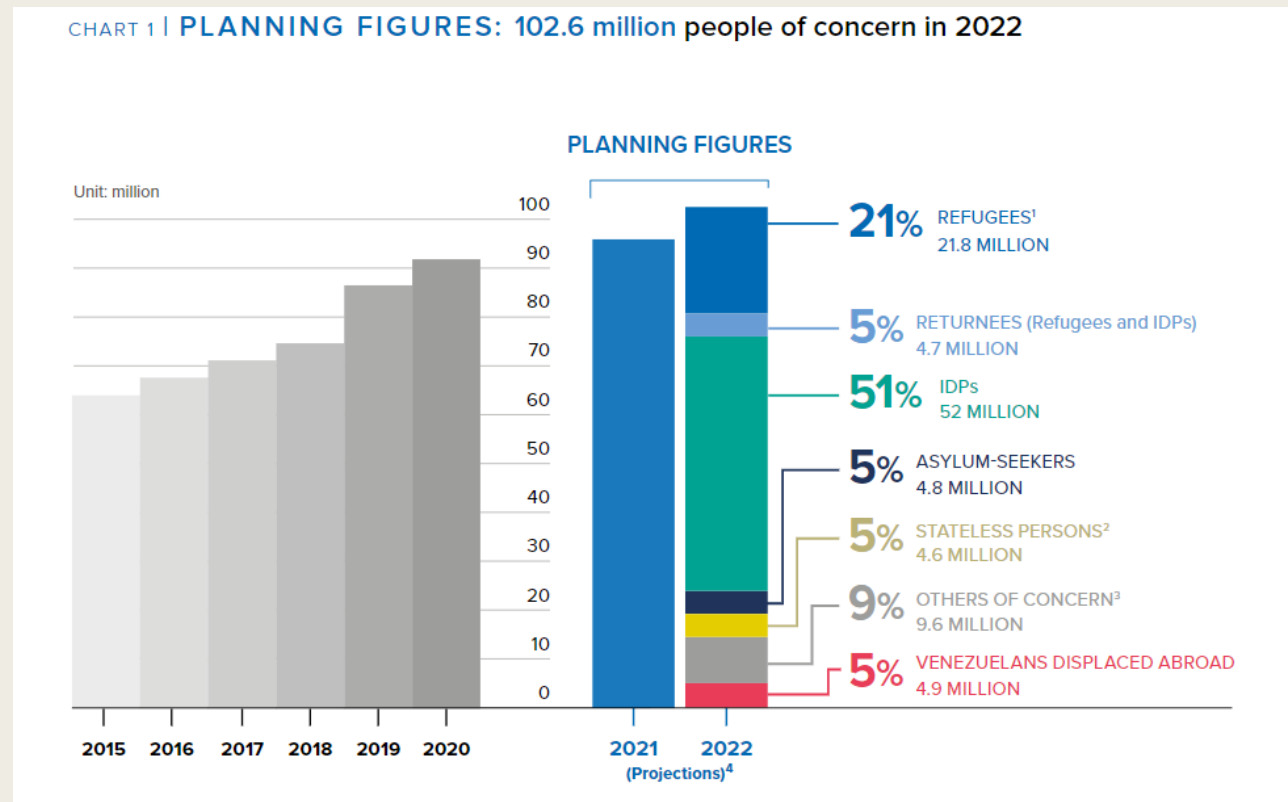
# Contemporary Conflict Trends

- 1. A decrease in the number of interstate wars and an increase in the number of intrastate and substate wars,
- 2. Internationalization of national/intrastate conflicts
- 3. Engagement of foreign units that are motivated by the economic interests of their countries
- 4. An increase in identity conflicts
- 5. An increase in conflicts involving VNSA
- 6. An increase in civilian casualties



# Contemporary Conflict Trends

- 7. Increasing numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons
- 8. Development of humanitarian activities and aid
- 9. Technologization of war and information warfare
- 10. Privatization of conflicts
- 11. Brutalization of conflicts
- 12. Extending the duration of conflicts



# Contemporary Conflict Trends – Red Cross

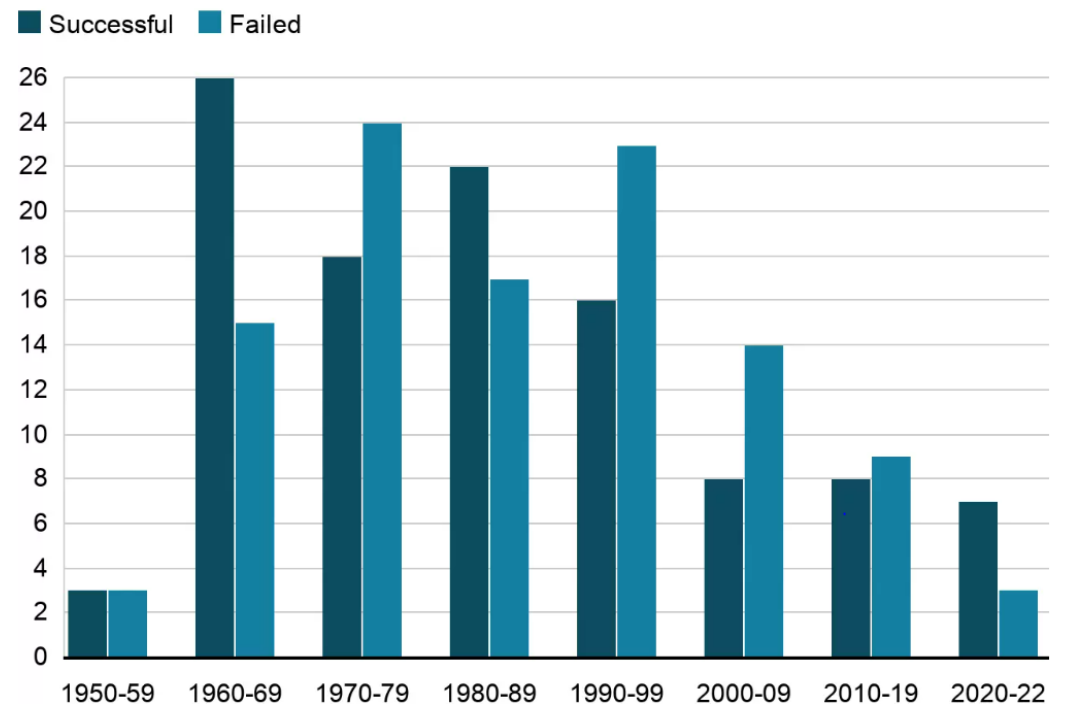
- 10 most significant trends that humanitarian organizations must face in conflicts:
  - a) Urban warfare
  - b) Explosive weapons in populated areas
  - c) Missing persons and their families
  - d) Non-state armed groups
  - e) Children associated or affiliated with VNSA
  - f) New technologies of warfare
  - g) Environment, climate risk and armed conflicts
  - h) Female protection
  - i) Private military companies
  - j) Preserving humanitarian aspace

# Increase of Military Coups in Africa?

- Coup - an illegal and overt attempt by the military - or other civilian officials - to unseat sitting leaders.
- Inward-looking factors and outward-looking factors.
- Cultural pluralism, soldiers' greed and grievances, poor governance, corruption, autocracy, limited economic growth, low-income levels, increase in insecurity, and fragile democracy.
- Neocolonialism

SPECIFICALLY, THESE AFRICAN LEADERS REALISED THAT THEY HAD POLITICAL BUT NOT ECONOMIC CONTROL OF THEIR STATES, DESPITE ACHIEVING INDEPENDENCE FROM THE COLONISERS

**Military coups in Africa over the decades**



# Increase of Military Coups in Africa?

Countries in Africa with the highest number of coups since 1952



Source: Jonathan Powell, Uni of Central Florida and Clayton Thyne, Uni of Kentucky

# Increase of Military Coups in Africa?

| Year | State   |
|------|---|
| 2019 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2019 Gabonese coup d'état attempt</li><li>• 2019 Sudanese coup d'état</li><li>• 2019 Amhara Region coup d'état attempt (Ethiopia)</li></ul>   |
| 2020 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2020 Malian coup d'état</li><li>• 2020 Sudanese coup d'état attempt</li><li>• 2020–21 Central African Republic coup d'état attempt</li></ul>  |
| 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2021 Nigerien coup d'état attempt</li><li>• 2021 Malian coup d'état</li><li>• 2021 Guinean coup d'état</li><li>• 2021 Chad's covert coup</li><li>• September 2021 Sudanese coup d'état attempt</li><li>• October–November 2021 Sudanese coup d'état</li></ul> |
| 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• January 2022 Burkina Faso coup d'état</li><li>• 2022 Guinea-Bissau coup d'état attempt</li><li>• September 2022 Burkina Faso coup d'état</li></ul>  |

# Class Participation- Discuss the following points:

- Do you think that the events in Ukraine and Syria foreshadow a new trend of increasing interstate conflicts? Justify your answer
- Do you know some examples of interstate conflicts after 1990 from Asia, America, Africa, and Europe?
- Do you know any other contemporary conflict trends that have not been mentioned?



Thank you for your  
attention