

POLS 280: Politics of Development and Foreign Aid

Class 22:

Political violence, conflict, and development

Recap

- Benefits and pitfalls of sociability
- Strong associations between ethnic diversity/fractionalization:
 - Economic growth
 - Government public goods provision
 - Societal trust
 - Conflict

Plan for today

- Conflict and development

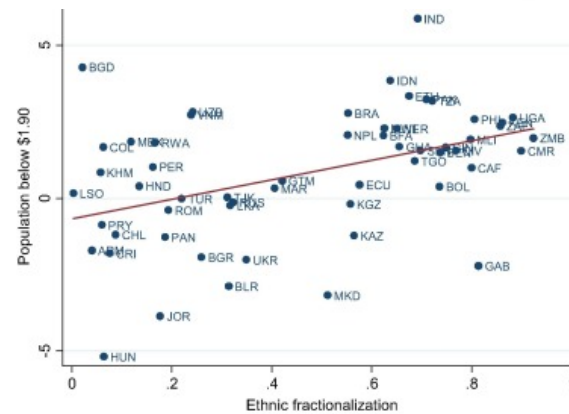
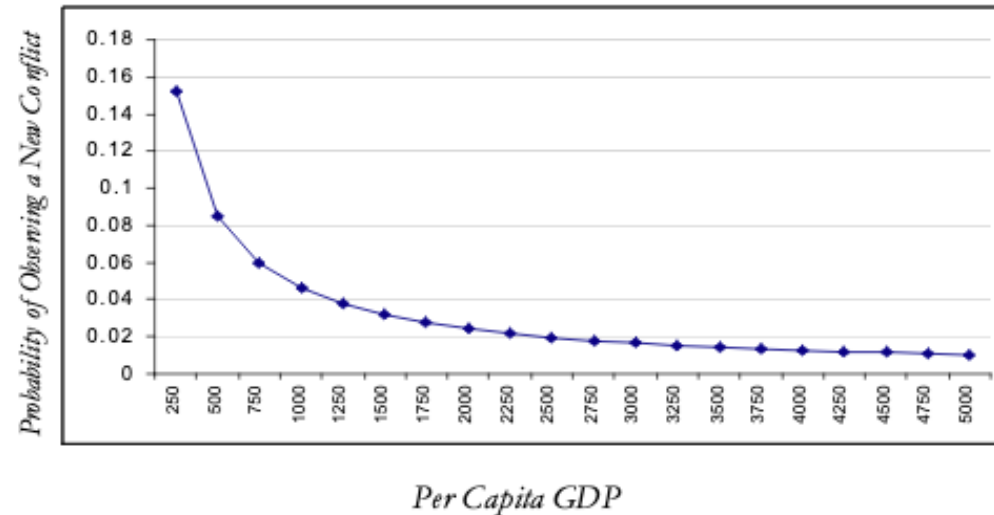
Ethnic diversity and conflict

- Political Instability Task Force: more than half of civil conflicts since World War II classified as (inter)ethnic
 - From Ray, Debraj, and Joan Esteban. 2017. "Conflict and Development." *Annu. Rev. Econ* 9 (April): 263–93.
- Fearon: 14% of the 709 categorized ethnic groups involved in interethnic conflicts
 - Fearon, James D. 2003. "Ethnic and cultural diversity by country." *J. Econ. Growth* 8: 195–222.

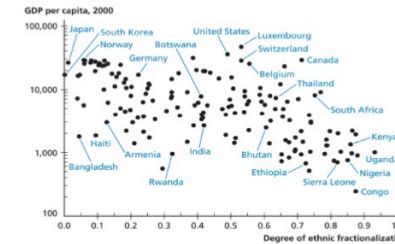
Does ethnic diversity cause
conflict?

Ethnic diversity and conflict

- Strong associations between:
 - Ethnic diversity
 - Conflict
 - Low level of (economic) development + poverty
 - Experience of colonialism
 - State weakness / low state capacity
 - Neopatrimonialism
 - Authoritarianism

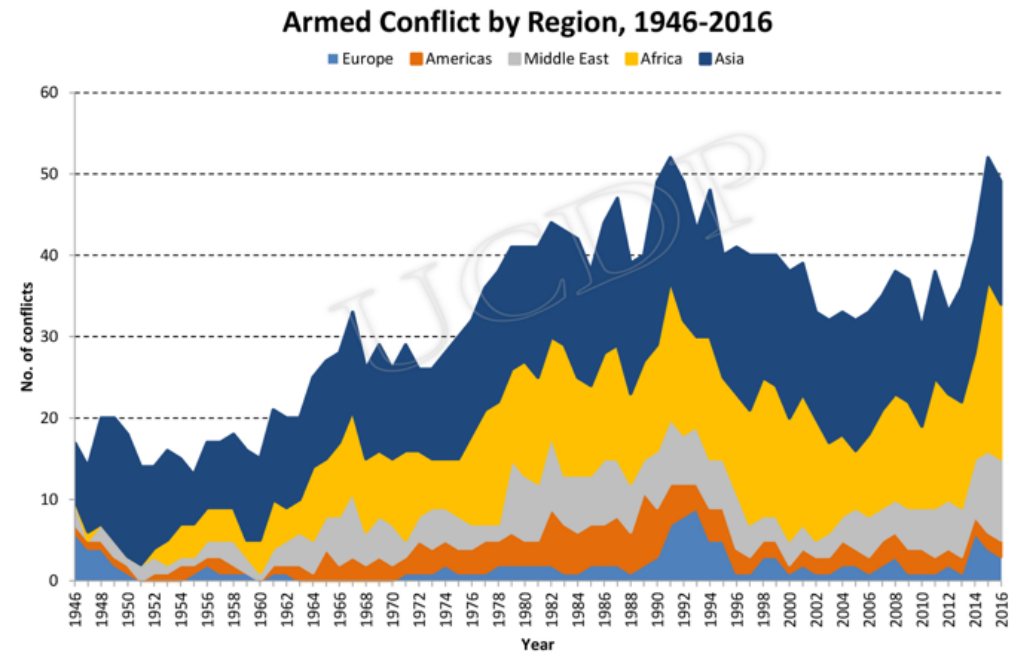
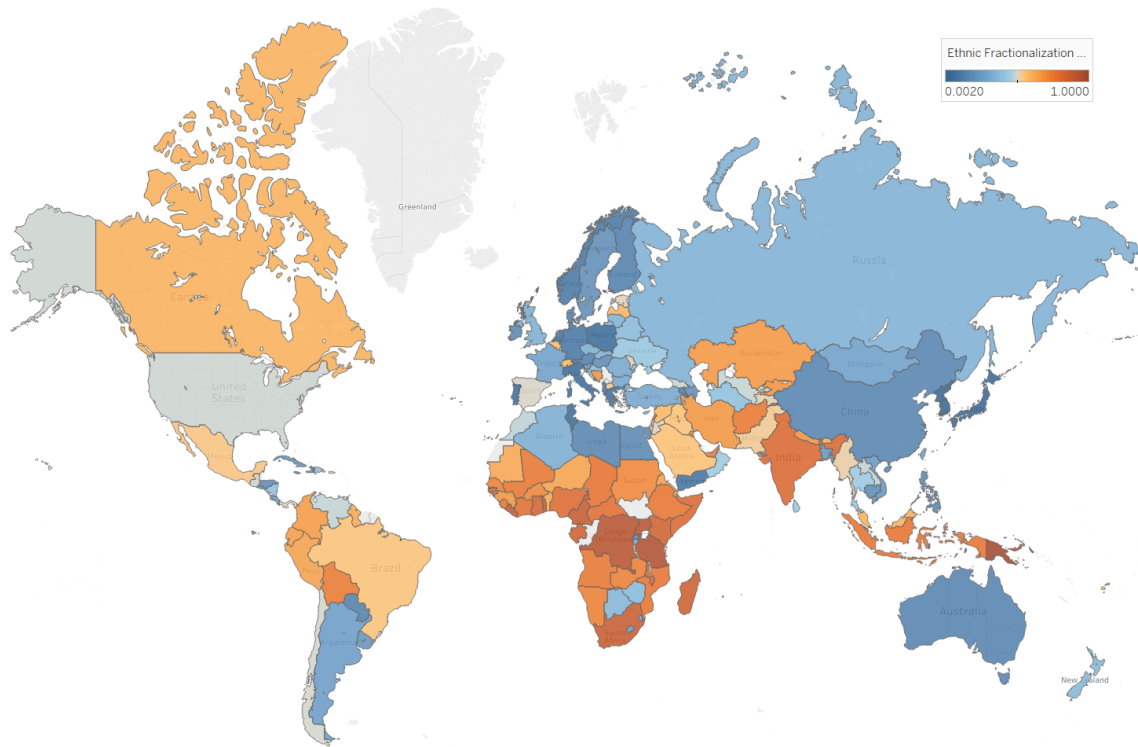


Ethnic Fractionalization vs GDP Per Capita



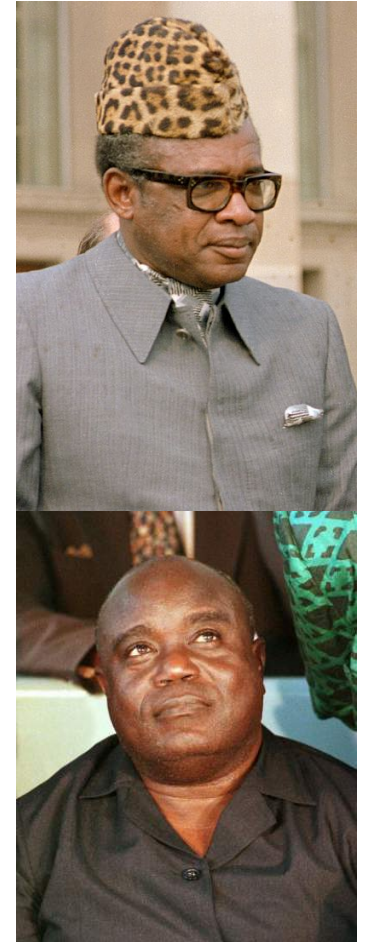
Source: Alesina et al. (2003)

Ethnic diversity and conflict



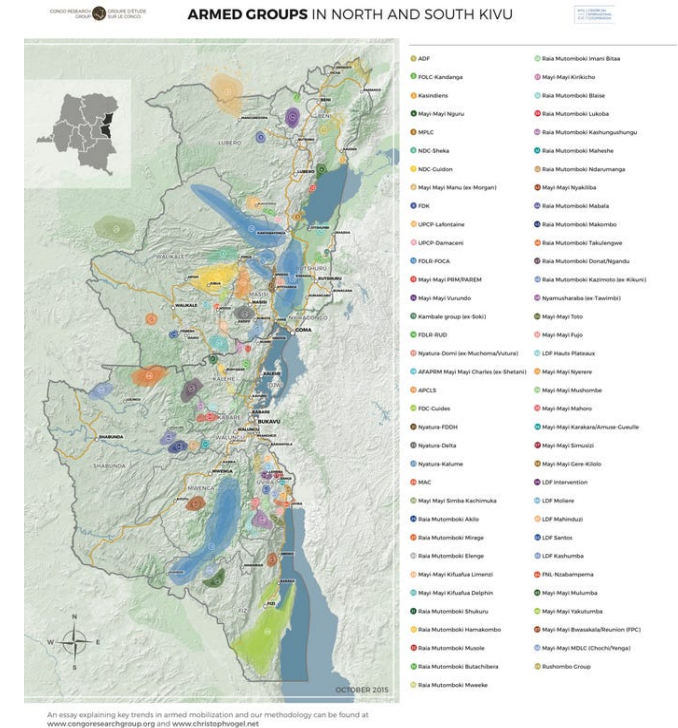
Correlates of conflict: the case of the DRC

- Mobutu Sese Seko's regime (1965-1997) and its decay
- Genocide in Rwanda and Rwandan invasion of Zaire, 1996 →
- First Congo War, 1996-1997, 250-800,000 dead + ~220,000 missing Rwandan refugees
- Laurent-Désiré Kabila, the DRC, and alienation of his Rwandan and Ugandan allies →
- Second Congo War, 1998-2003, 350,000+ dead
- Ongoing violence, 2003-, 2.7-5.4 million excess deaths by 2008



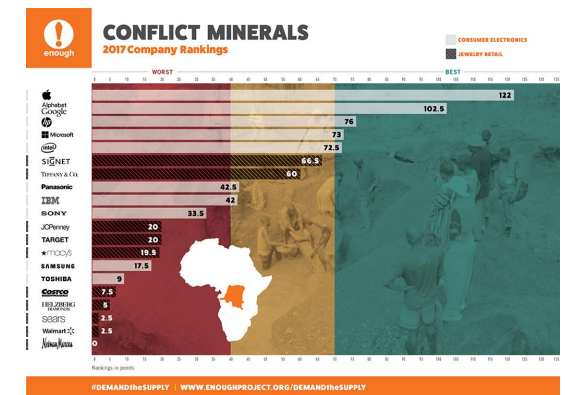
Correlates of conflict: the case of the DRC

- Strategies:
 - Alliances with foreign governments
 - Alliances with international corporations
 - Exploitation of economic resources, esp. through mineral mining
 - Political mobilization of ethnicity and religion—and corresponding cleavages
 - Territorial control
 - Population displacement



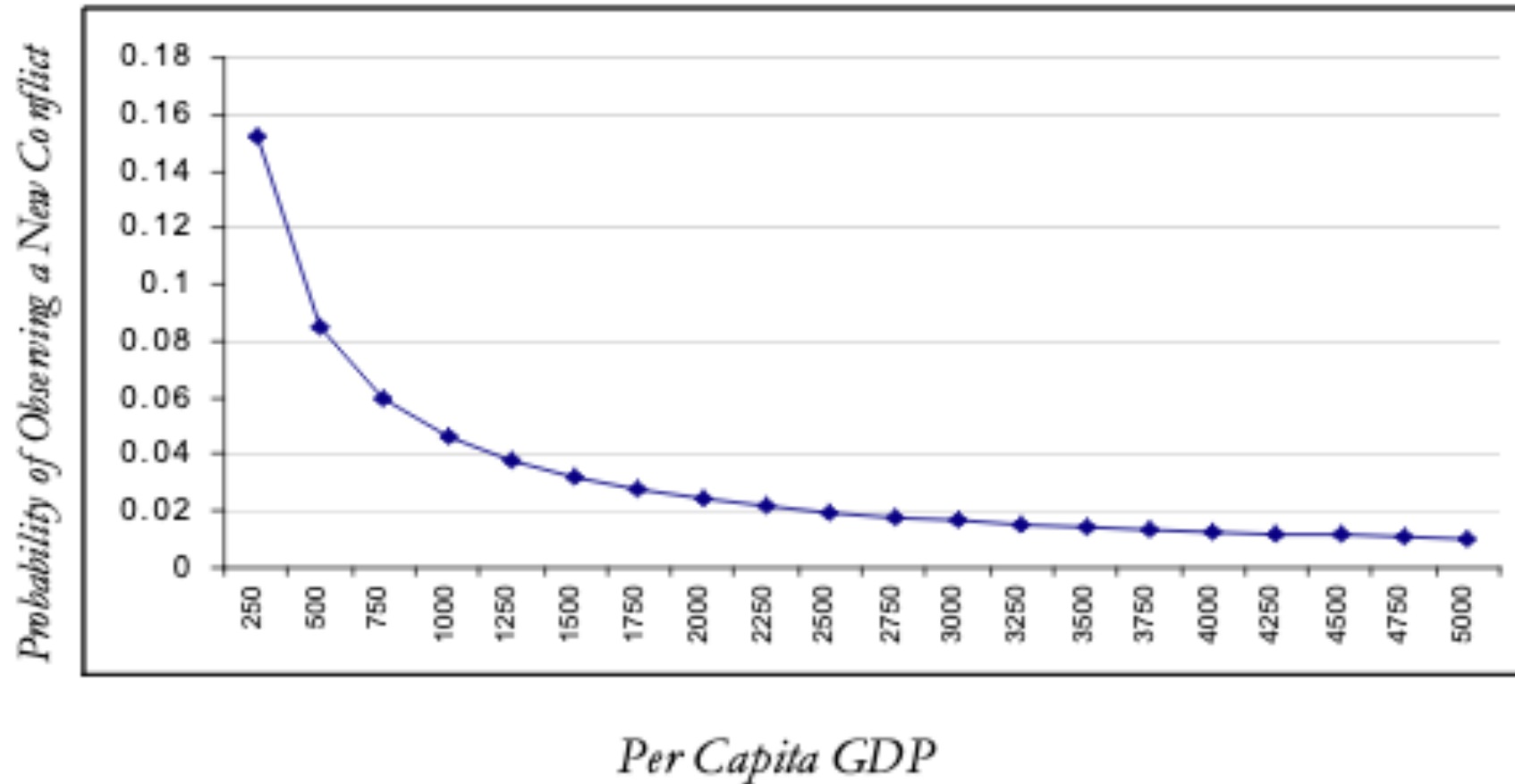
Correlates of conflict: the case of the DRC

- Drivers of conflict:
 - State weakness
 - History of inequitable access to state resources + intergroup tensions
 - Disaffection with private and public goods access
 - Political ambition
 - Mining and trade in conflict minerals
 - Conflict trap + decentralization of predation



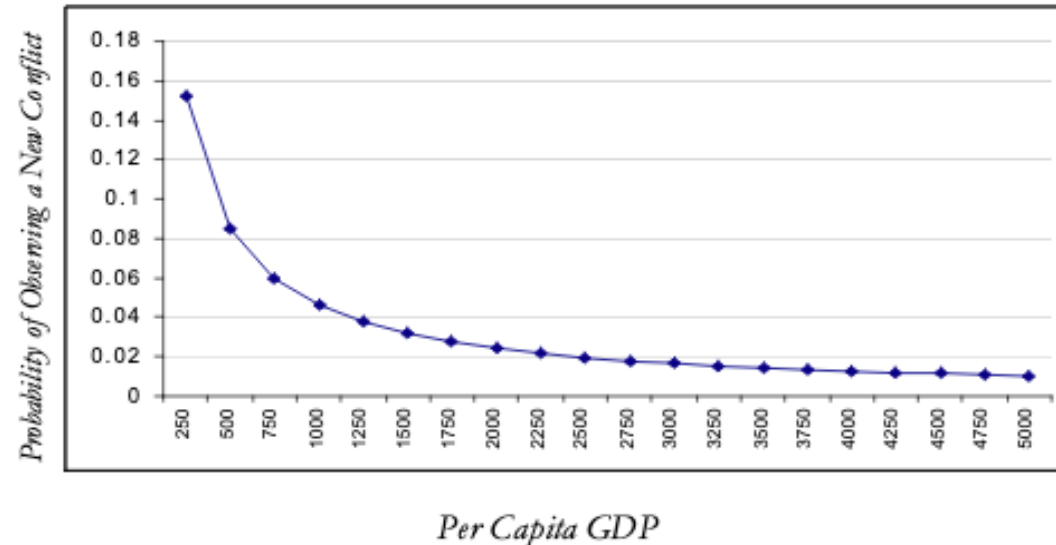
What causes conflict?

Causes of conflict



Causes of conflict

- Greed
- Grievance (relative deprivation)
- 'Beyond greed and grievance'



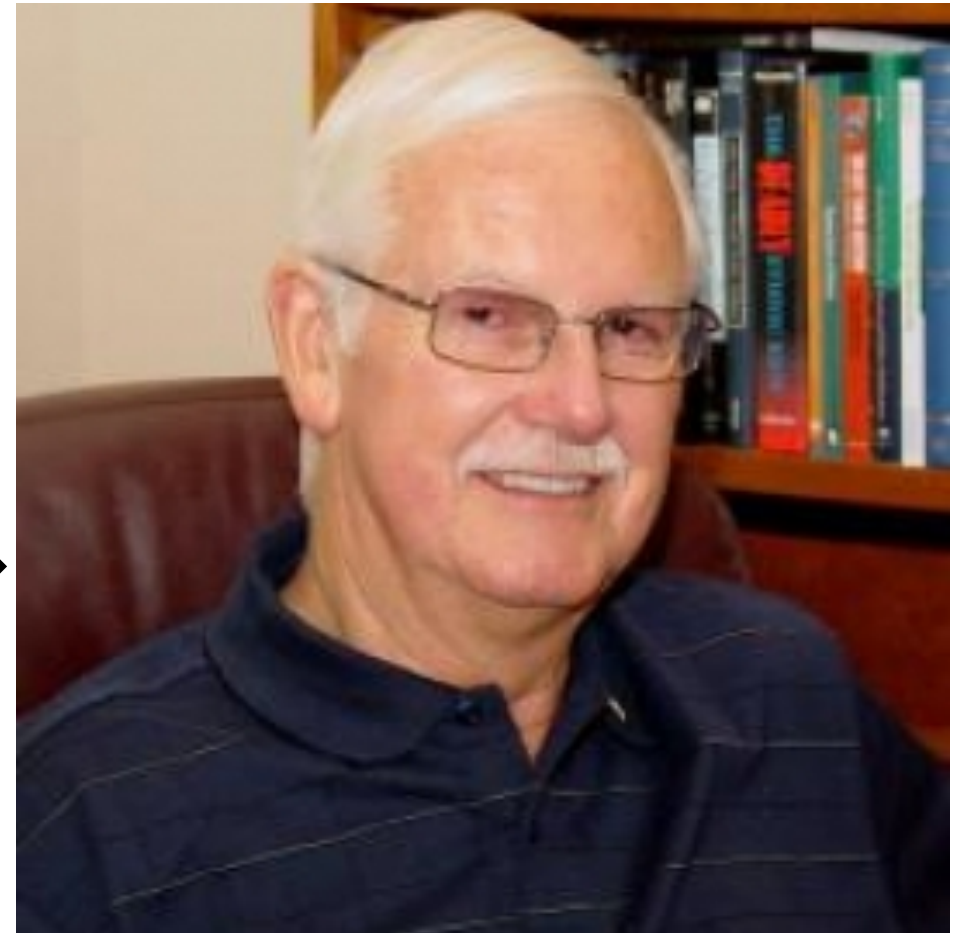
Causes of conflict according to Grossman

- Rebellion as an industry that generates profits from looting
- “Insurgents are indistinguishable from bandits or pirates.”
 - Grossman, H.I. 1999. “Kleptocracy and revolutions.” *Oxford Economic Papers* 51: 267–83.



Causes of conflict according to Gurr

- Ted Gurr
- Relative deprivation: discrepancy between:
 - Goods and conditions to which people believe they are entitled and
 - Perception of frustrating circumstances
- Relative deprivation → frustration → anger → violence
 - Gurr, Ted. 1968. "Psychological Factors in Civil Violence." *World Politics* 20 (2): 245-78.



Causes of conflict according to Collier and Hoeffler

- Feasibility hypothesis:
“[r]ebels will conduct a civil war if the perceived benefits outweigh the costs of rebellion”
- Key variables:
 - Availability of finance
 - Cost of rebellion
 - Military advantage



- Collier Paul, and Anke Hoeffler. 1998. “On economic causes of civil war.” *Oxford Economic Papers* 50:563–73.
- Collier, Paul and Anke Hoeffler. 2004. “Greed and Grievance in Civil War.” *Oxford Economic Papers* 56 (4): 563-595.
- Collier, Paul, Anke Hoeffler, and Dominic Rohner. 2009. “Beyond Greed and Grievance: Feasibility and Civil War.” *Oxford Economic Papers* 61 (1): 1–27.

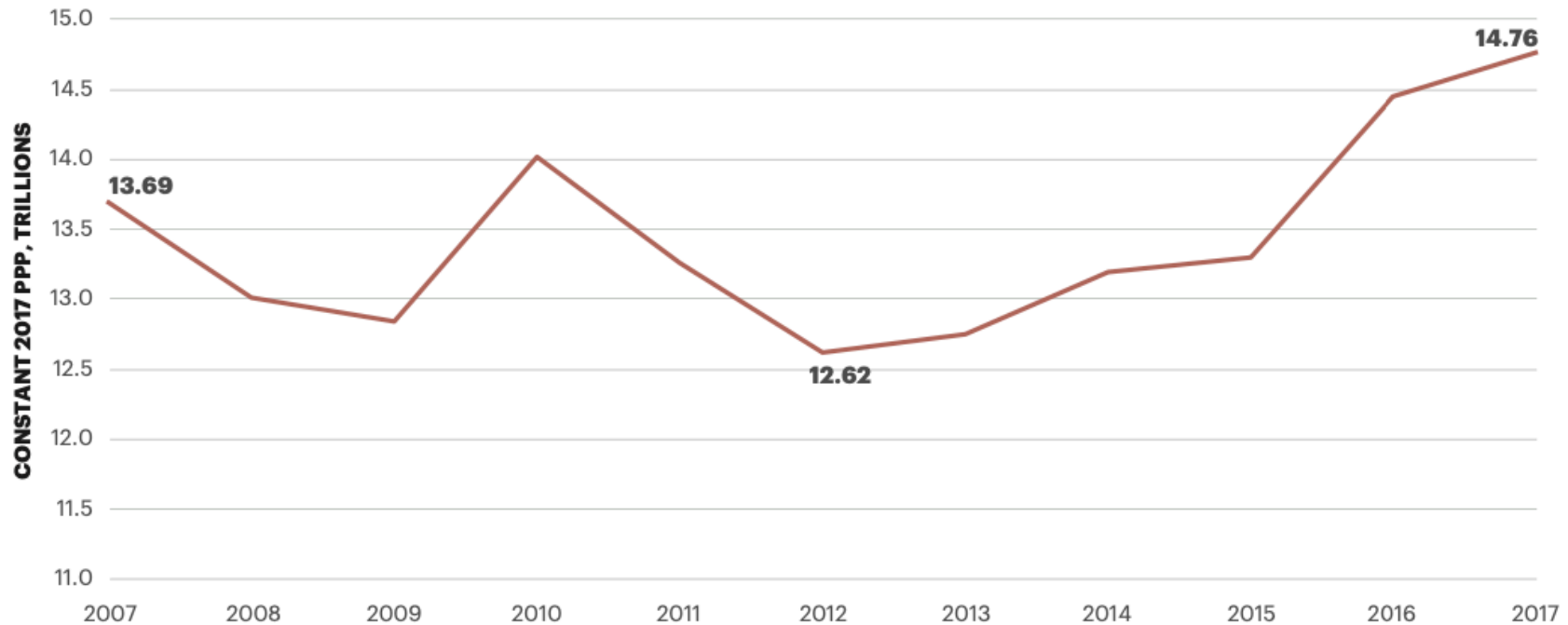
What do you think causes
conflict?

Conflict and (economic) development

FIGURE 2.1

Trend in the global economic impact of violence, trillions PPP, 2007 – 2017

The total economic impact of violence was higher in 2017 than at any point in the last decade.

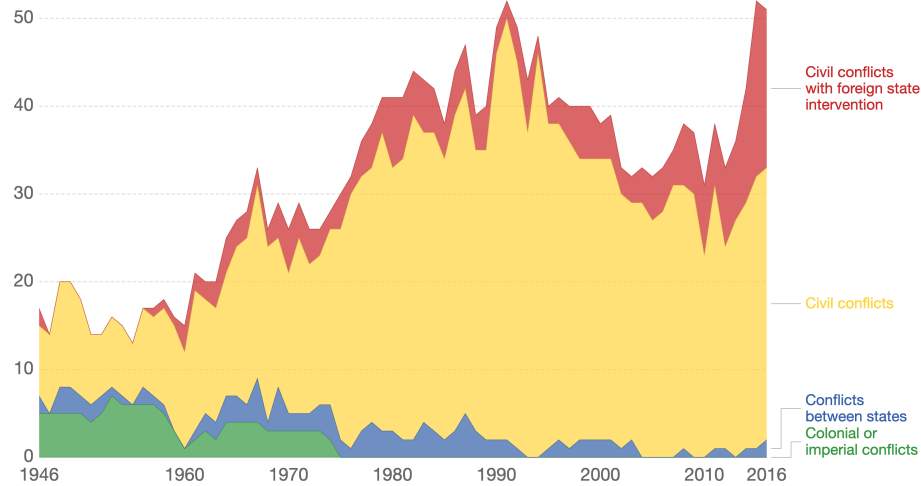


Source: IEP

Conflict and (economic) development

State-based conflicts since 1946

Only conflicts in which at least one party was the government of a state are included. Ongoing conflicts are represented for every year in which they resulted in at least 25 battle-related deaths.



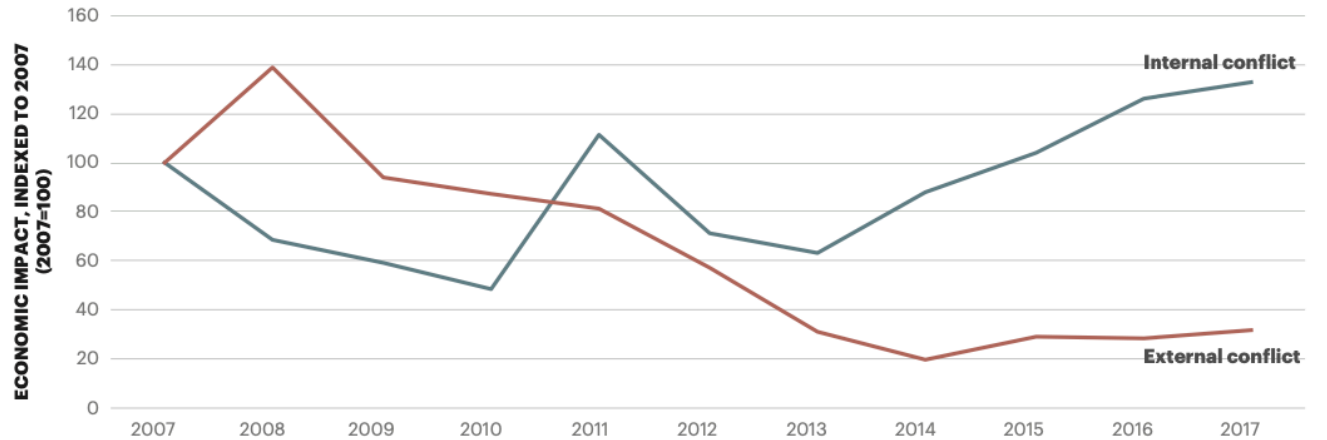
Source: UCDP/PRIО Armed Conflict Dataset
 Note: The war categories paraphrase UCDP/PRIО's technical definitions of 'Extrasystemic', 'Internal', 'Internationalised internal' and 'Interstate' respectively.



FIGURE 2.4

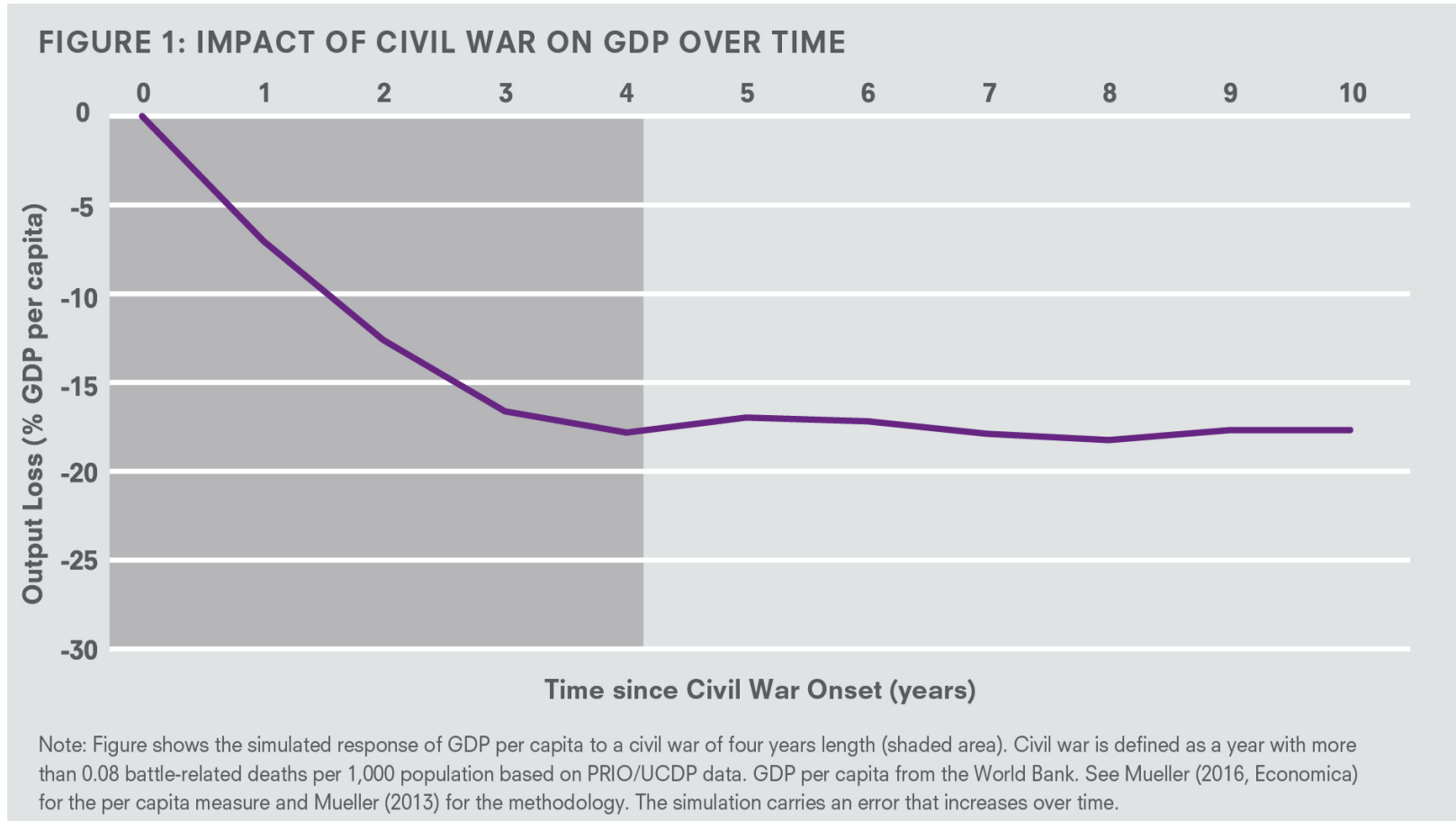
Diverging trend in the costs associated with internal and external conflict, 2007-2017

The rise in the cost of the conflict is driven by internal conflicts, which have increased since 2013. By contrast external conflicts have declined since 2008.



Source: IEP

Conflict and (economic) development

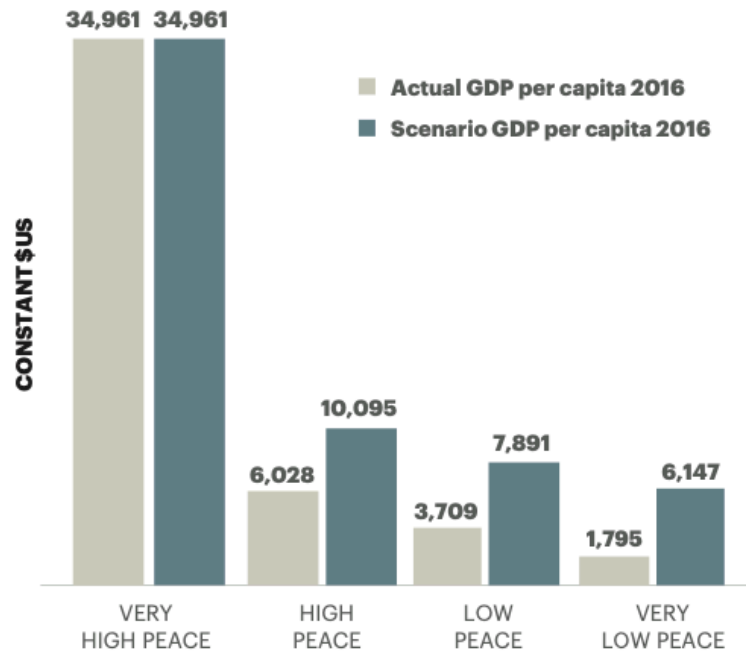


Conflict and (economic) development

FIGURE 4.3

Prosperity gap by level of peacefulness, 2016

If low and very low peace countries had achieved an average growth rate equivalent to high peace countries, their per capita income would have been two to three times higher than what it was in 2016.

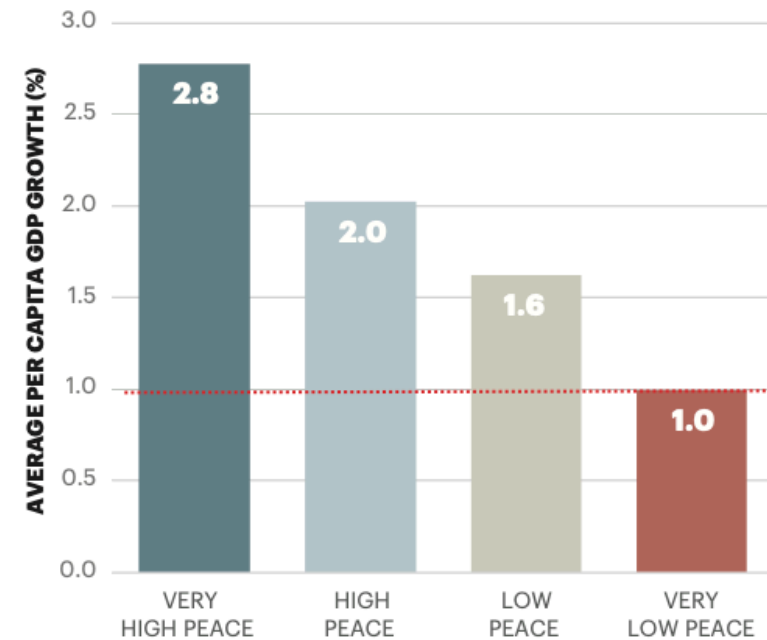


Source: WDI, IEP

FIGURE 4.2

Per capita GDP growth by level of peacefulness, 1960–2016

Countries with a very high level of peace achieved, on average, over three times higher per capita GDP growth compared to the least peaceful countries.



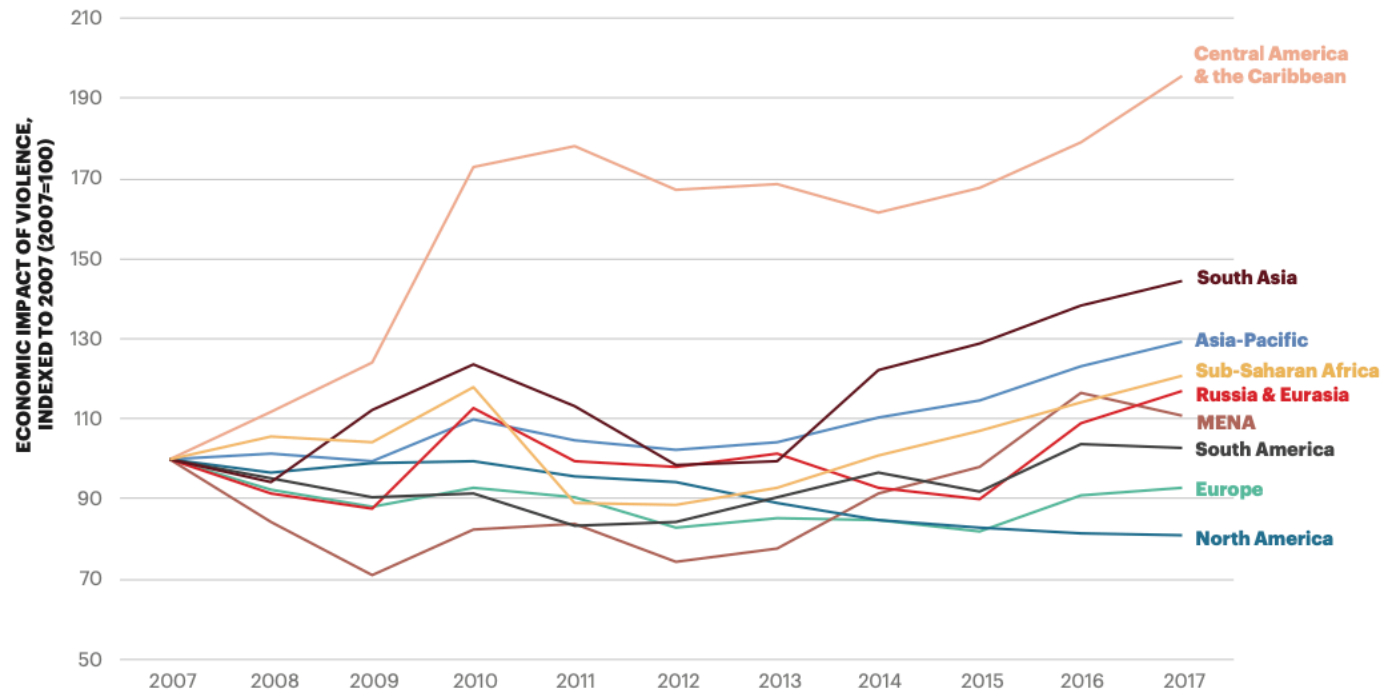
Source: WDI, IEP

Conflict and (economic) development

FIGURE 2.10

Trend in the regional economic impact of violence, 2007-2017

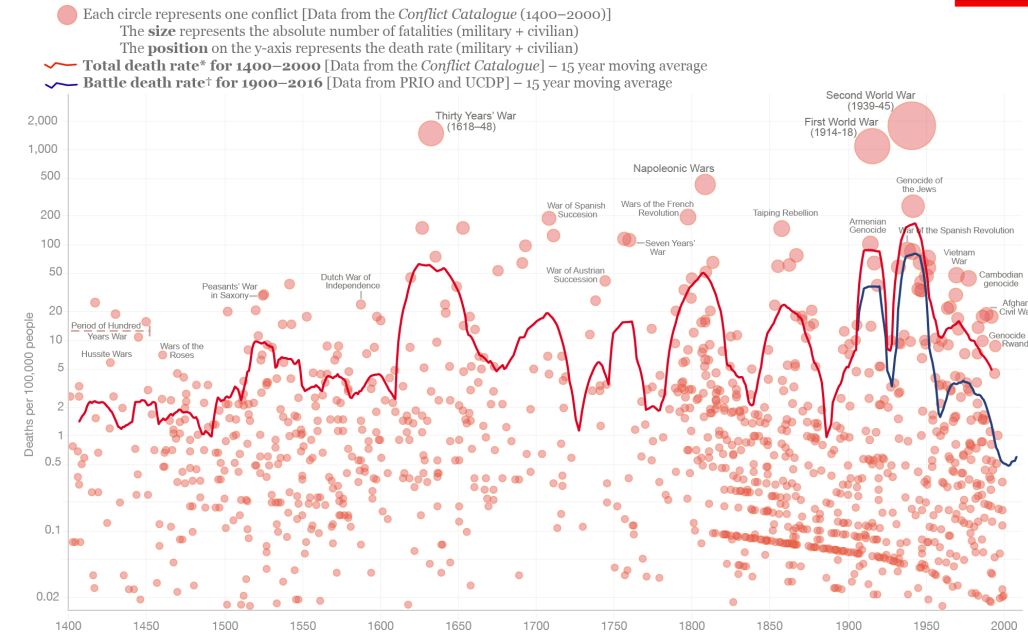
Between 2007 and 2017, the economic impact of violence increased the most in Central America and the Caribbean, at 96 per cent, followed by 44.4 per cent in South Asia.



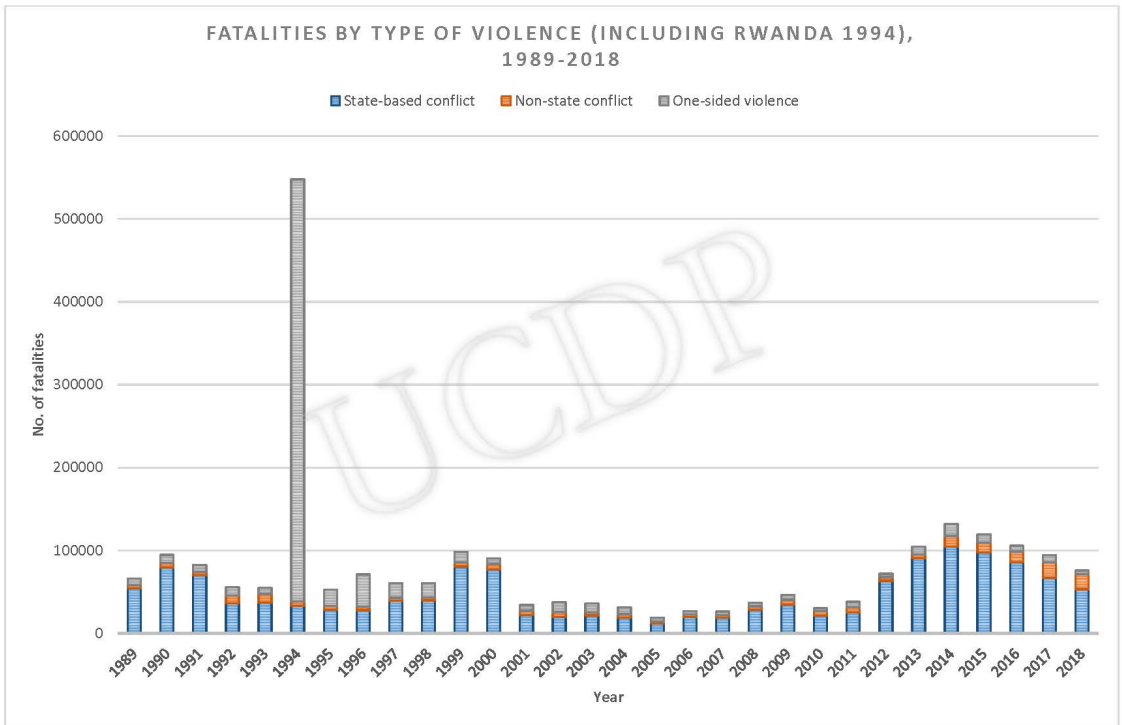
Source: IEP

Conflict and (human) development

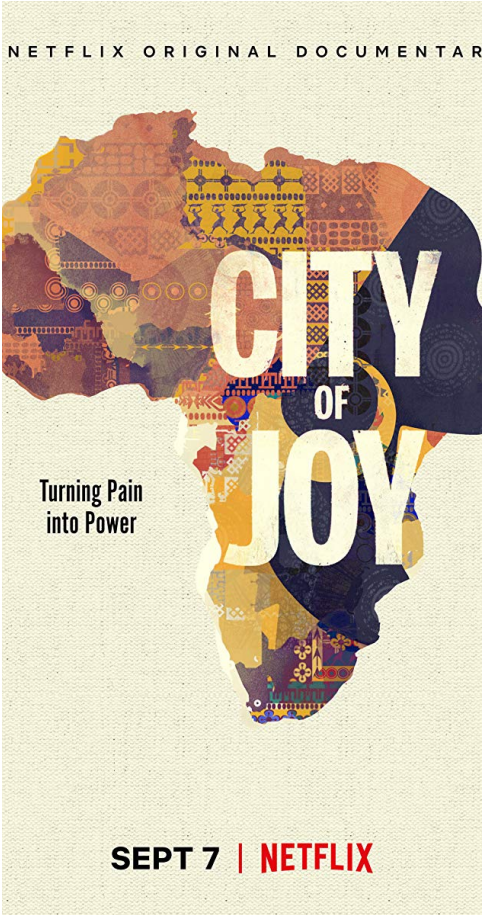
Global deaths in conflicts since 1400



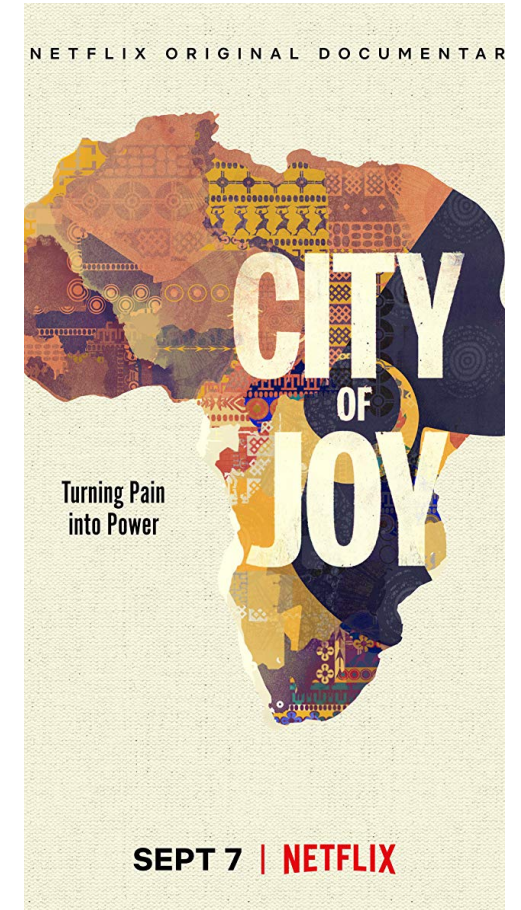
Data sources: Conflict Catalogue by Peter Brecke, PRIO Battle Deaths Dataset (v3.1 after 1945 and v2.0 prior), and UCDP v17.2. World population data from HYDE and UN.
 Notes: All death rates are calculated as the number of deaths relative to world population at the time (deaths per 100,000).
 * The Conflict Catalogue figures includes civilian and military deaths. In many instances it counts deaths occurring indirectly – from starvation, disease etc. However, the extent to which these are included will vary significantly between conflicts, due to uncertainty in the underlying historical sources.
 † The PRIO/UCDP definition of battle deaths refers to those caused directly by armed violent conflict (they exclude deaths from disease, starvation, and also executions of prisoners). The figures include civilian deaths occurring in battles, but not where civilian populations were intentionally and specifically targeted (i.e. deaths of civilians caught in crossfire are included, but deaths in genocides are excluded).
 This visualization is available at OurWorldinData.org. There you find more research and visualizations on conflict and global development. Licensed under CC-BY-SA



Conflict and human development



What effects has the war in the DRC had on the protagonists of City of Joy?



Takeaway

- Low level of development → conflict → low level of development = conflict traps