

# Is There a Correlation Between Terrorism and Economic Development?

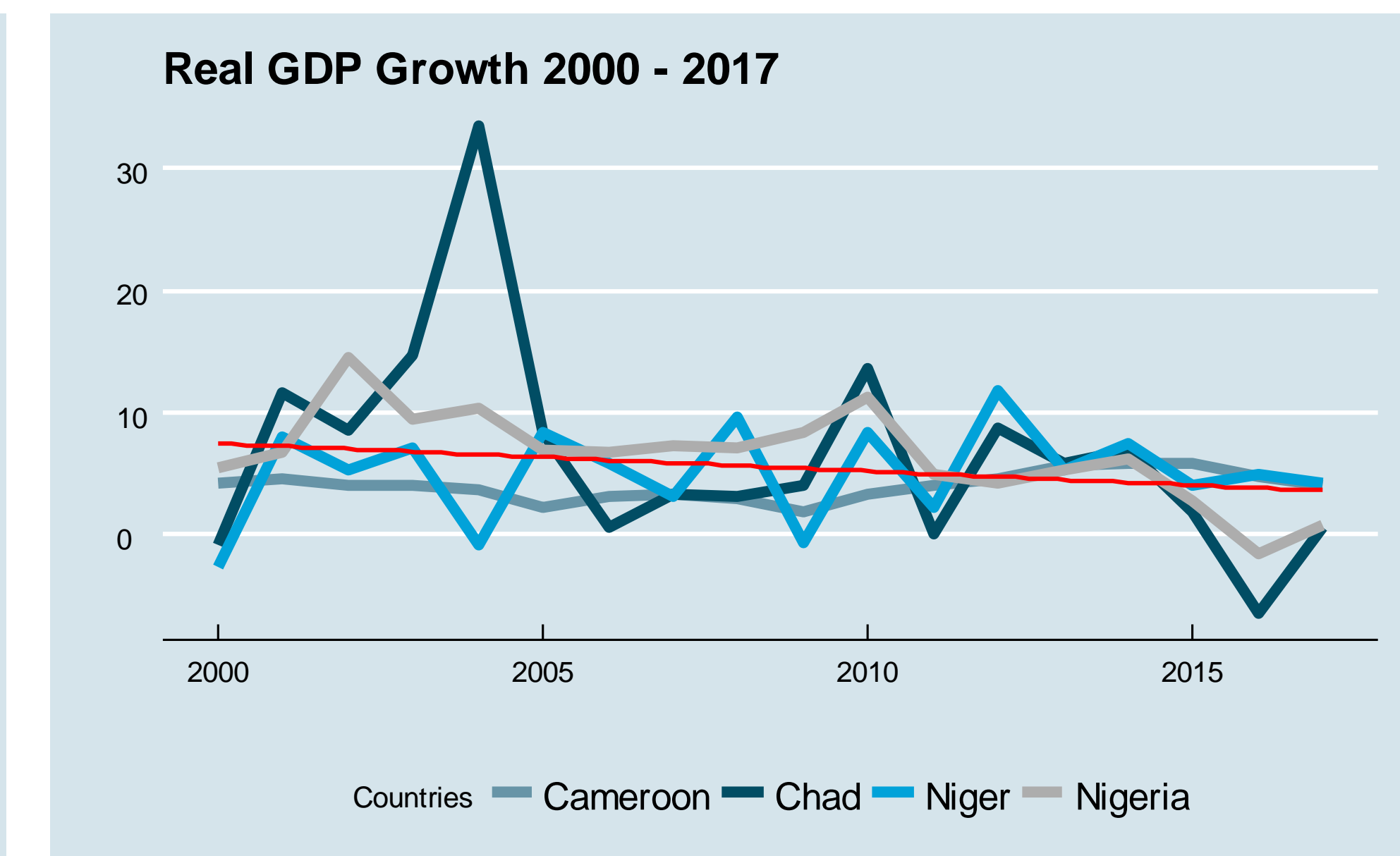
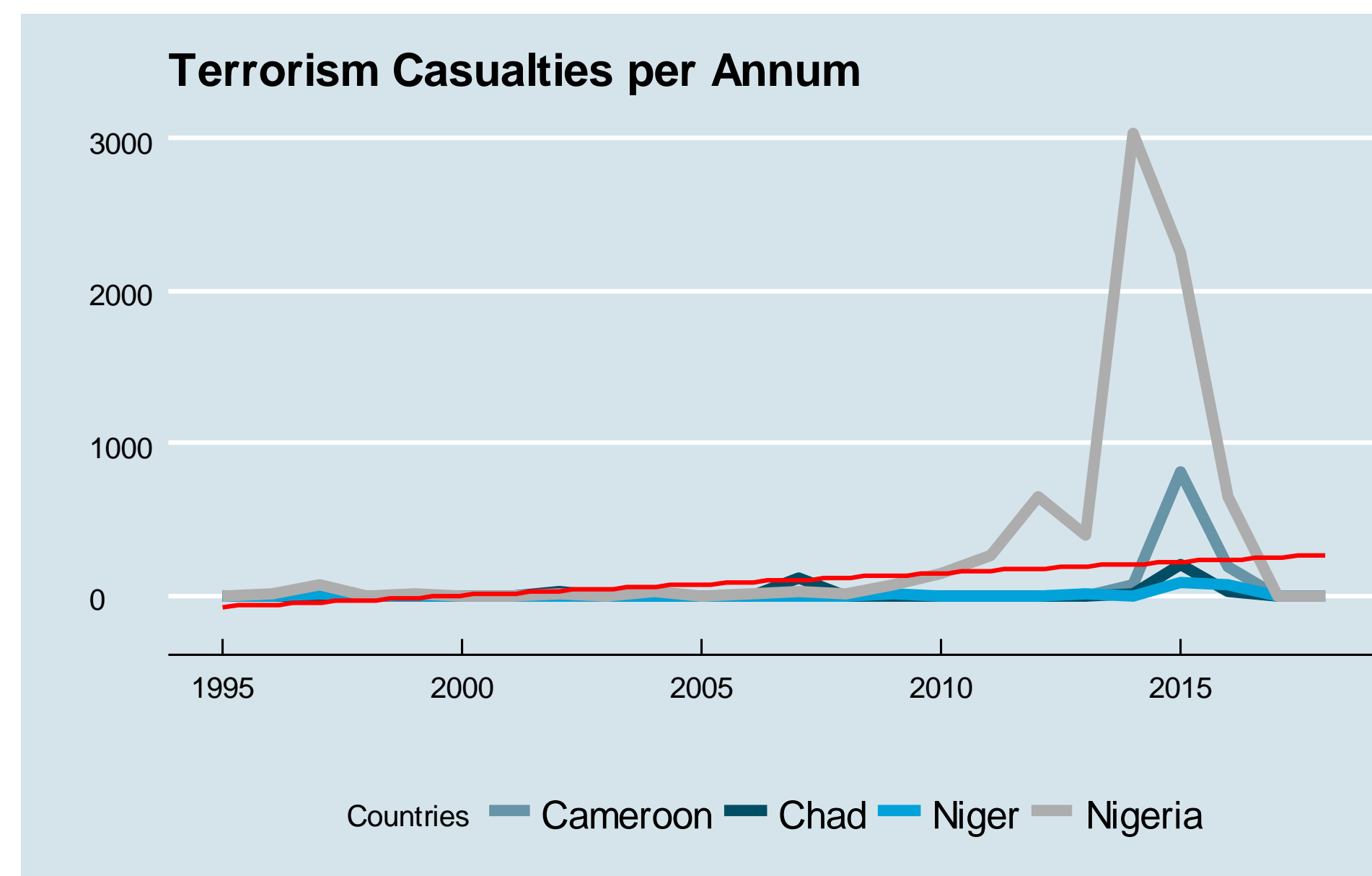
## Sixteen Years in the Lake Chad Basin

### Introduction

The purpose of this study is to search for a correlation between an increase in casualties caused by terrorists and decrease in economic growth. The region of focus is the Lake Chad Basin which lies at the meeting point of the borders of 4 countries: Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria. This region was chosen because it has been under siege by the terrorist group Boko Haram since the summer of 2009. Since their initial attacks, they have continued to grow and build power in the region, despite the efforts of the Nigerian government to contain them. More than just being responsible for mass-death and destruction, they are also responsible for the displacement of two million people. The latest numbers reported by the United Nations show Boko Haram has killed at least 35,000 people in total.

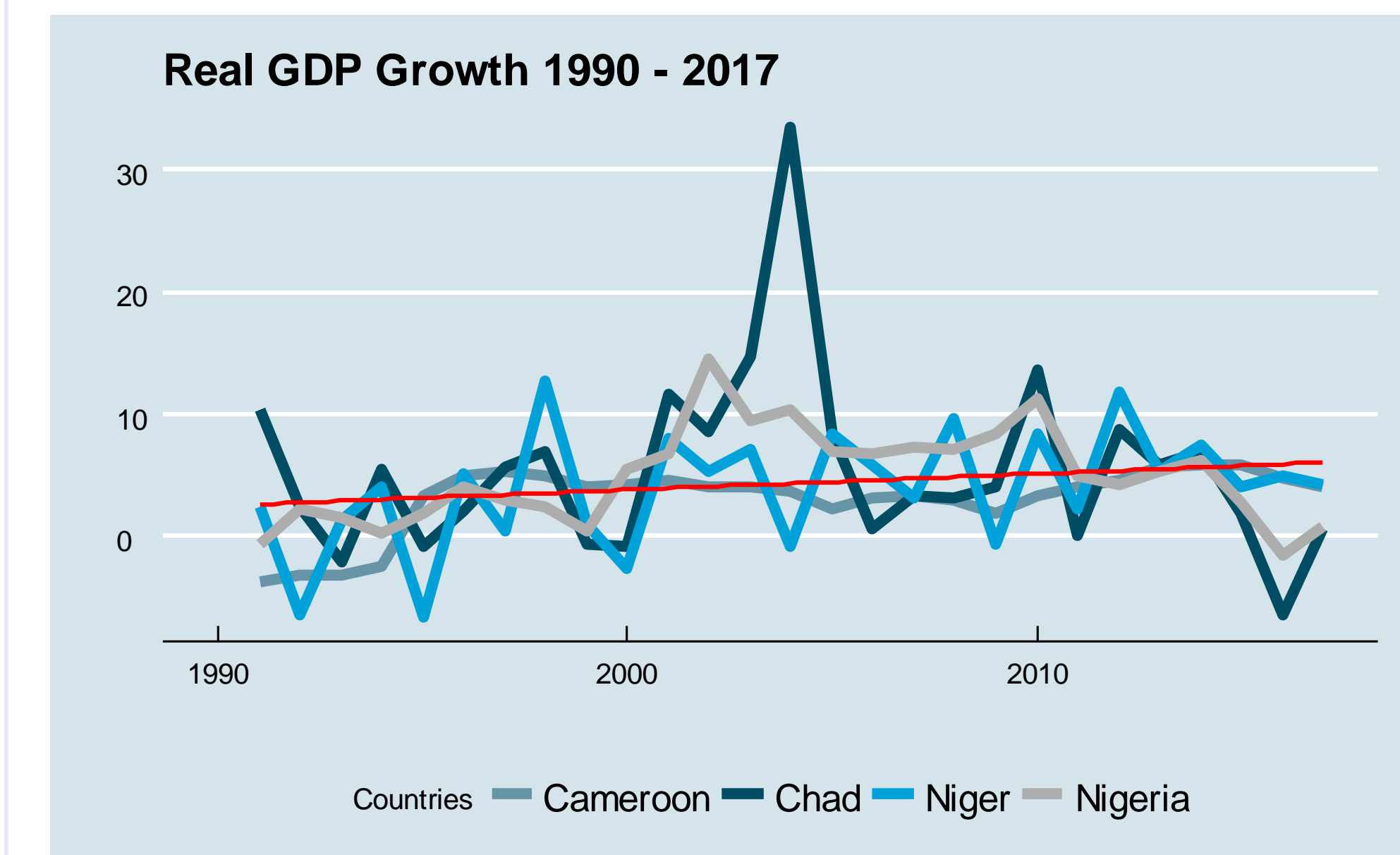
### Methods

To accurately capture the intensity of terrorist impact in the region, data from the Global Terrorism Database maintained by the Study of Terrorism and Response to Terrorism (START) at the University of Maryland was used. The total casualty number used is derived from the sum of victims who were killed and those wounded by terrorist attacks between the years 2000 and 2018. The economic indicator used is the real gross domestic product (RGDP) for each country in the time period taken from the International Monetary Fund's October 2017 World Economic Outlook. A linear regression was used to explore the relationship between the total number of casualties per annum and the change in RGDP of each country in the study.



### Conclusions

Analysis of both datasets showed that while the RGDP growth in the region has been negative during a major increase in terror-related casualties, there is no statistically significant correlation between the two. The study found that while the number of total casualties for the time period was over 9,000, eighty percent of the casualties came from just one country. Other confounding factors that may explain the findings are that the two separate trends are being measured over a continuous variable. To further explain why this is important, when the RGDP data is expanded to include the years 1990 through 2017, a positive RGDP growth is shown in the region.



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