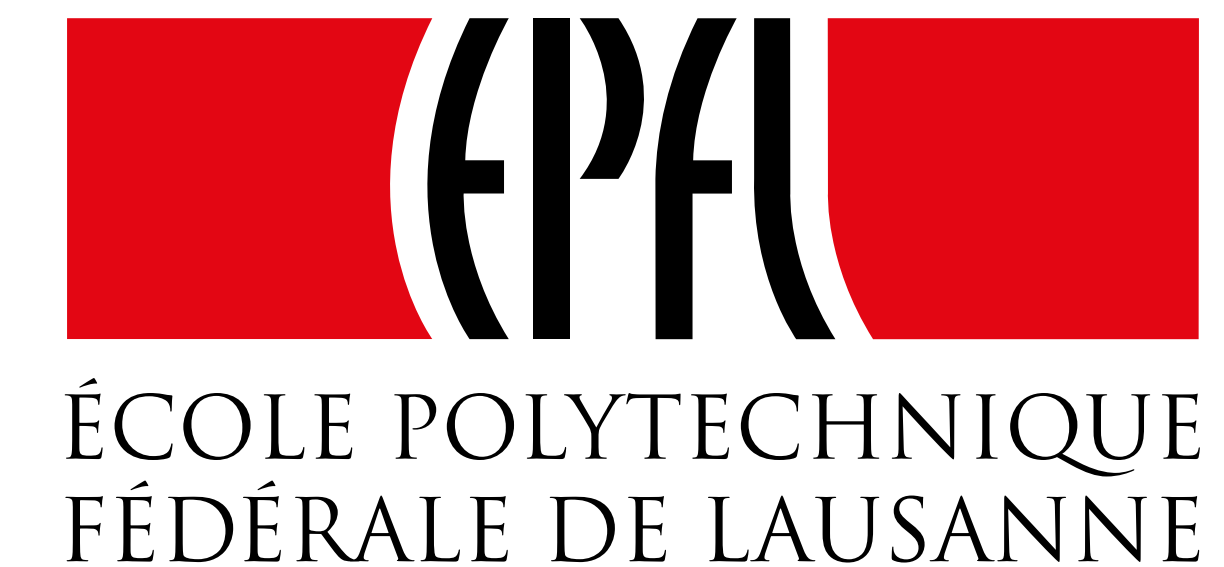


# The Face of Geopolitics

## Visualizing Wars



## Introduction

Historical awareness is a crucial condition to understand nowadays political crises. For example, current migration crises in Europe can be better understood and coped with knowing the African political landscape, which is closely tied to decade-long conflicts. This project's aim was to create an interactive way to get acquainted with the major crises that have taken place in the most recent history, from the end of the Cold War until today. We define a crisis as a collection of events involving armed force and resulting in casualties.

## 1. Data Set

Our work is based on the UCDP data set that lists all the events involving armed force and resulting in at least one death by monitoring the media from a wide variety of regions. It should cover all countries except from Syria and North Korea between 1989 and 2016.

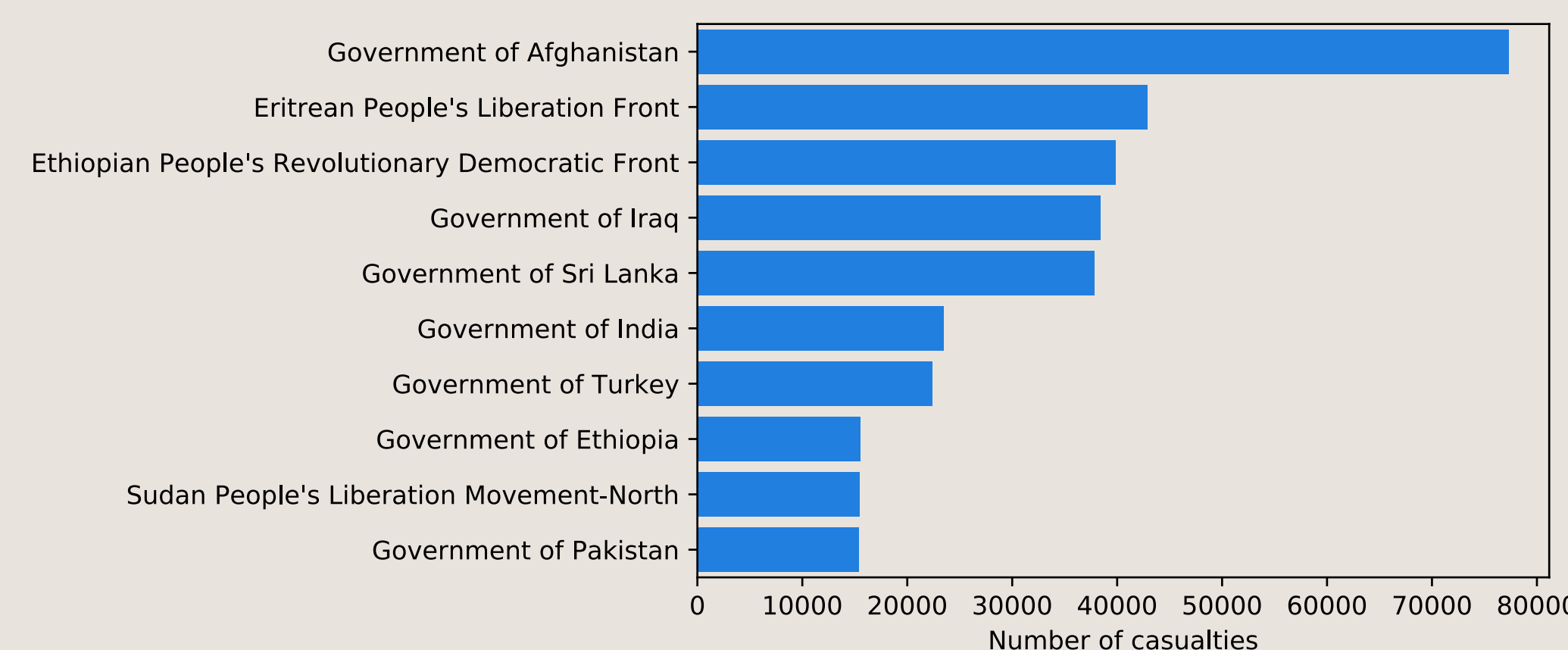
## 2. Data Enrichment

In order to have a more comprehensive understanding of the conflicts, we first classified the involved actors based on their motives. To do so, we scraped various Wikipedia pages (e.g. "List of designated terrorists") to obtain a new dataset on the geographical area, ideology (communism, islamism, nationalism ...) and other characteristics concerning armed actors. Then we merged this new data with our original data set by using a string distance measure matching the actors' names.

In addition, we considered the GDP data set from the World Bank, in order to unravel correlations between the economy and wars.

## 3. Data Analysis

Following questions were analyzed in the project and can be visualized using the website:  
*What were the major crisis in the last 30 years?*  
Aggregate events by conflict and sum of deaths.



*What countries underwent the most important crises ?*

Make a yearly count of deaths on national soil for each country and then select the countries which have a year count 1000 times higher than the median of all counts. This data can be visualized using the website.

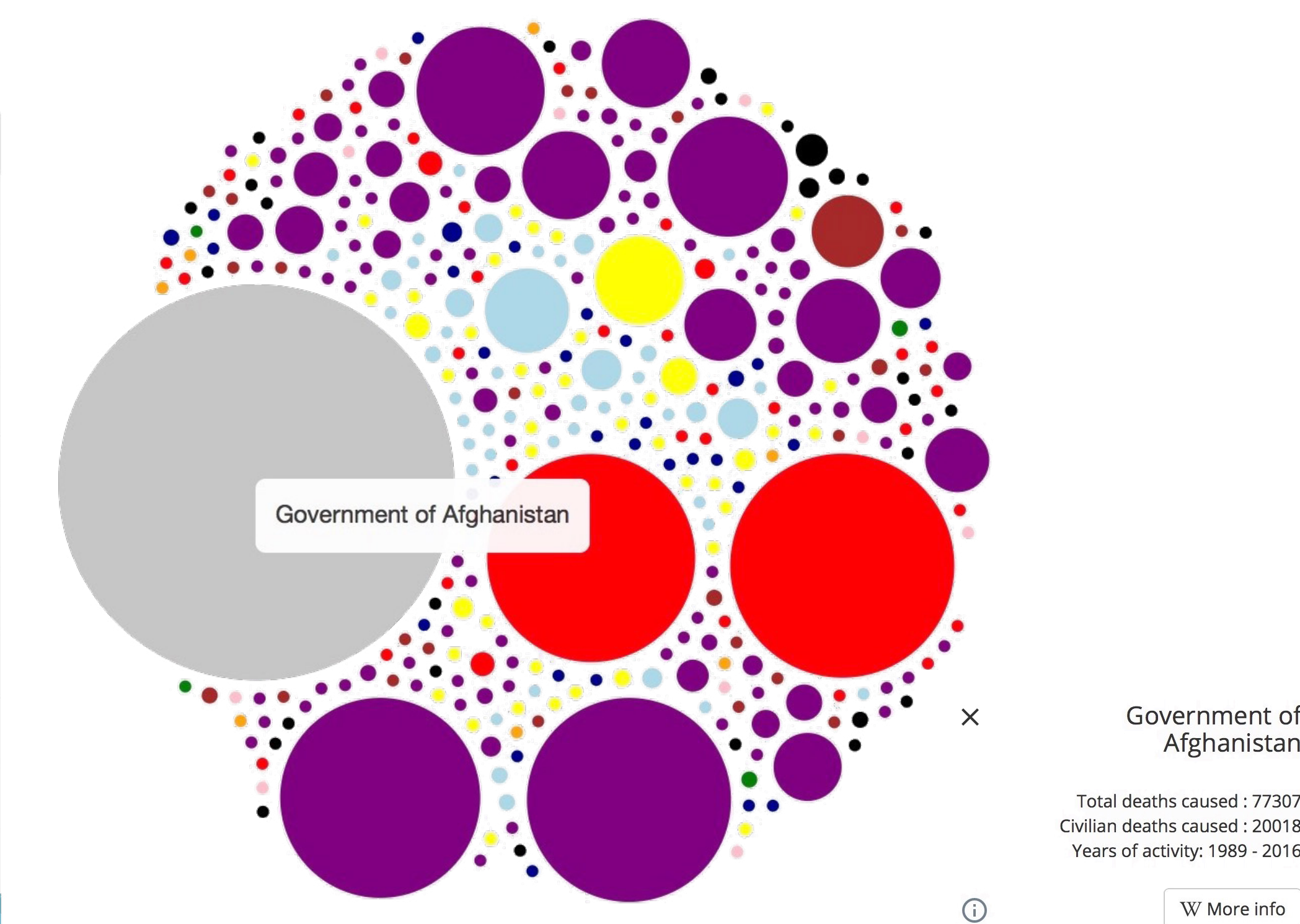
*Which are the most lethal organisations ?*

Compute all actors' scores (number of death on the other side. Again, this data can be visualized using the website.

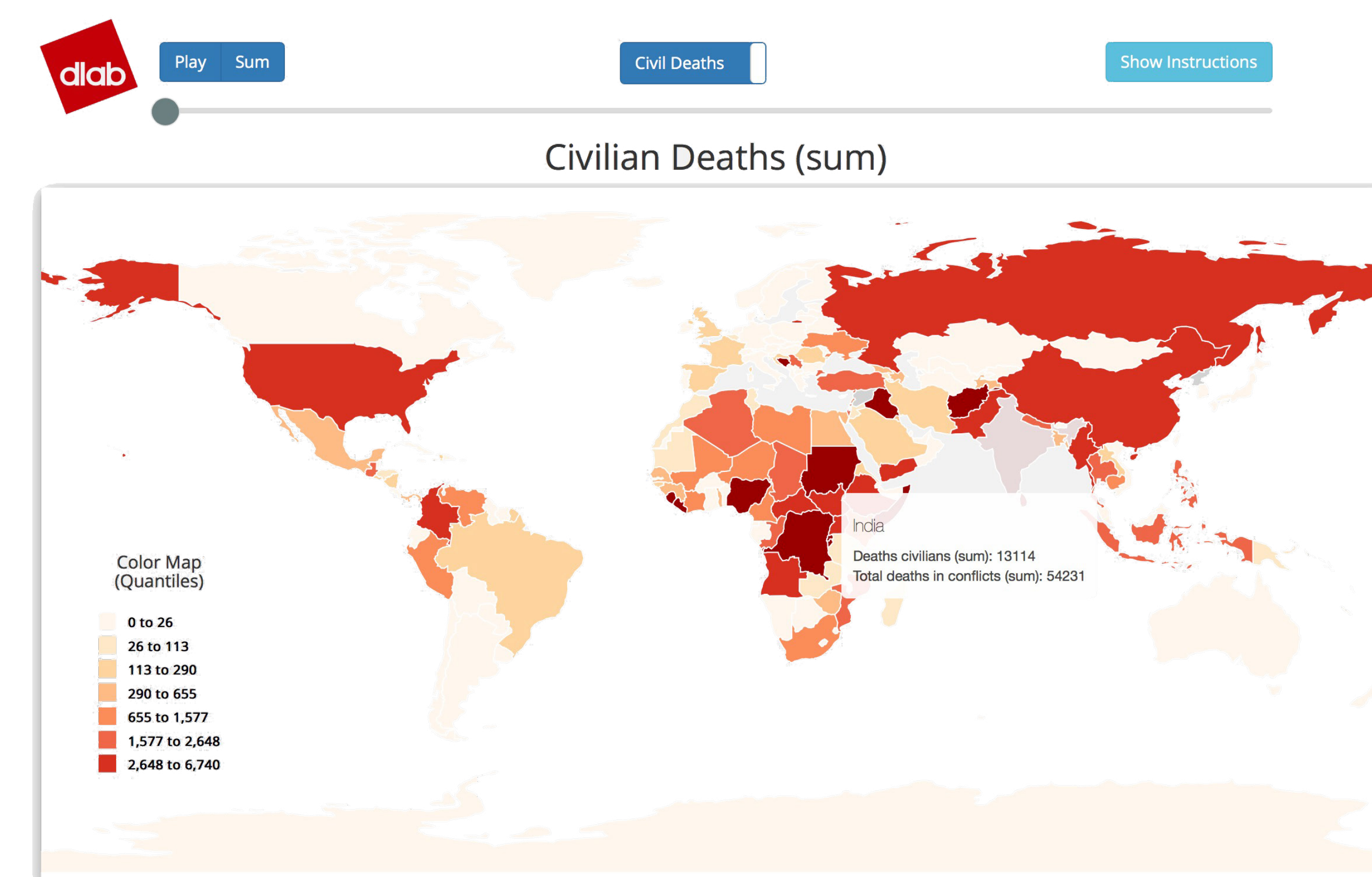
## 4. Visualization

The website allows...

### Actor Type



*Which are the most lethal organisations ? Website Visualization*



[the-face-of-geopolitics.github.io](https://github.com/the-face-of-geopolitics)

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