



What is civil war?

POL 126

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TODAY

What is civil war?

The cold war

New and old wars

What is a civil war?

Definition wars

coded as having started in that year only if cumulative deaths in the next 3 years reach

- (j) A cease-fire, truce, or simply an end to fighting can also mark the end of a civil war if they result in at least 2 years of peace.⁴⁶ The period of peace must be longer than what is required in the case of a peace agreement because we do not have clear signals of the parties' intent to negotiate an agreement in the case of a truce/cease-fire.⁴⁷
- (k) If new parties enter the war over new issues, a new war onset should be coded, subject to the same operational criteria.⁴⁸ If the same parties return to war over the same issues, we generally code the continuation of the old war, unless any of the above criteria for coding a war's end apply for the period before the resurgence of fighting.

of the war.⁴⁴ Because civil war is understood as an armed conflict against the government, continuing armed conflict against a new government implies a new civil war.⁴⁵ If the government wins the war, a period of peace longer than 6 months must persist before we code a new war (see also criterion k).

TABLE 3
Summary of Parameter Estimates from Table 2

<i>Model 1 Variables</i>	<i>Observations</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Standard Deviation</i>	<i>Minimum</i>	<i>Maximum</i>
GDP coefficient	12	-0.084	0.024	-0.114	-0.039
GDP <i>SE</i>	12	0.029	0.006	0.018	0.040
Growth coefficient	12	-0.031	0.550	-1.218	0.816
Growth <i>SE</i>	12	0.776	0.152	0.542	1.026
Instability coefficient	12	0.273	0.066	0.131	0.382
Instability <i>SE</i>	12	0.136	0.016	0.104	0.154
Anocracy coefficient	12	0.217	0.048	0.082	0.287
Anocracy <i>SE</i>	12	0.127	0.014	0.089	0.147
Oil coefficient	12	0.177	0.104	-0.060	0.371

Depending on definition
of civil war...

 ->
less
war

 ->
more
war

For us...

Organized violence,
where at least one actor is *not a state*

Rebel(s) = the non-state actor(s)

The state = government/military

Technology of war

TABLE 1. Technologies of Rebellion in Civil War



Military Technologies of the State

High Low

Military Technologies of the Rebels

High Conventional [Successful military coup]

Low Irregular Symmetric nonconventional



Type of war =
relative capacity of rebels and state

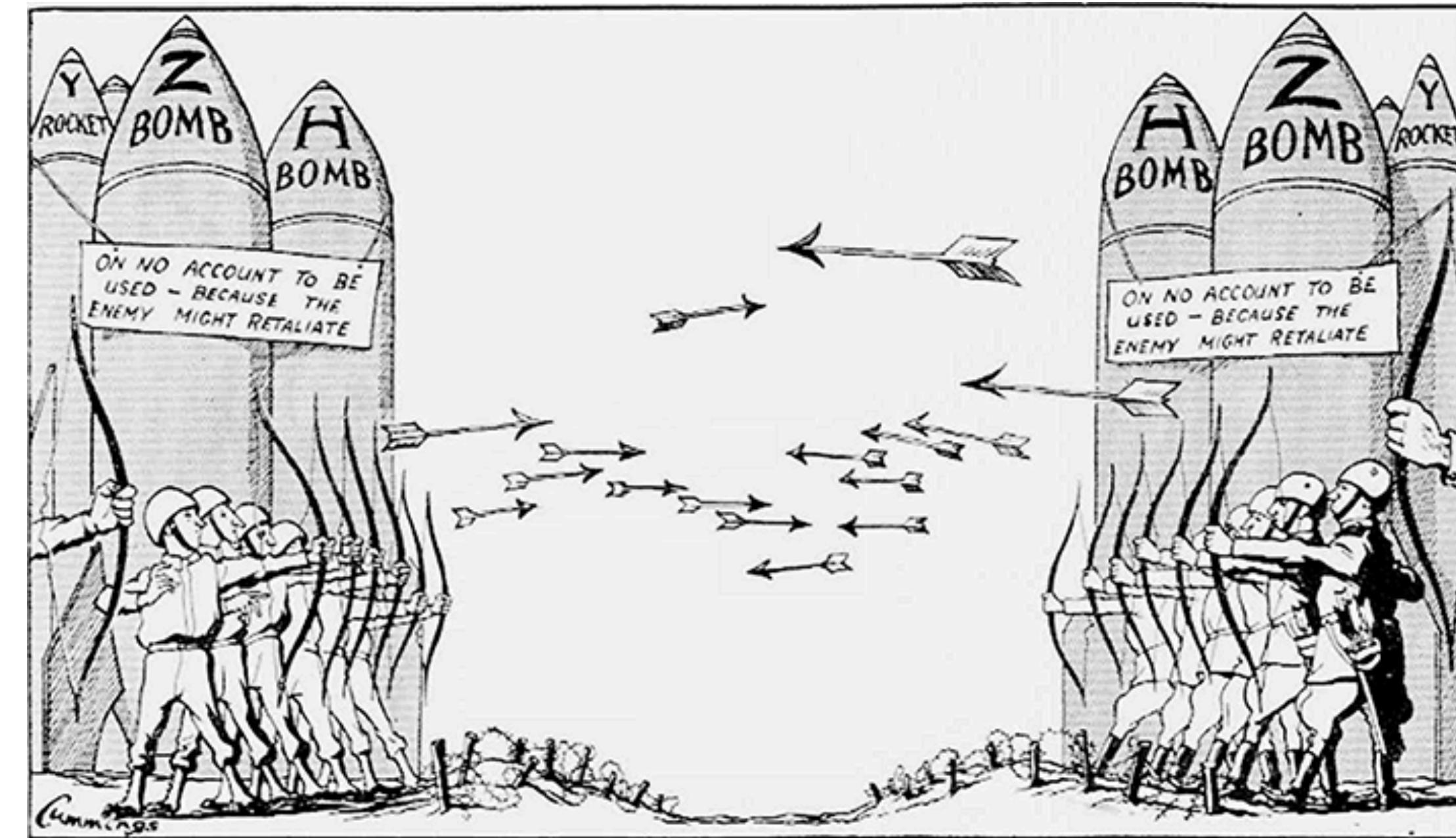
The cold war

Che intermission

The Cold War

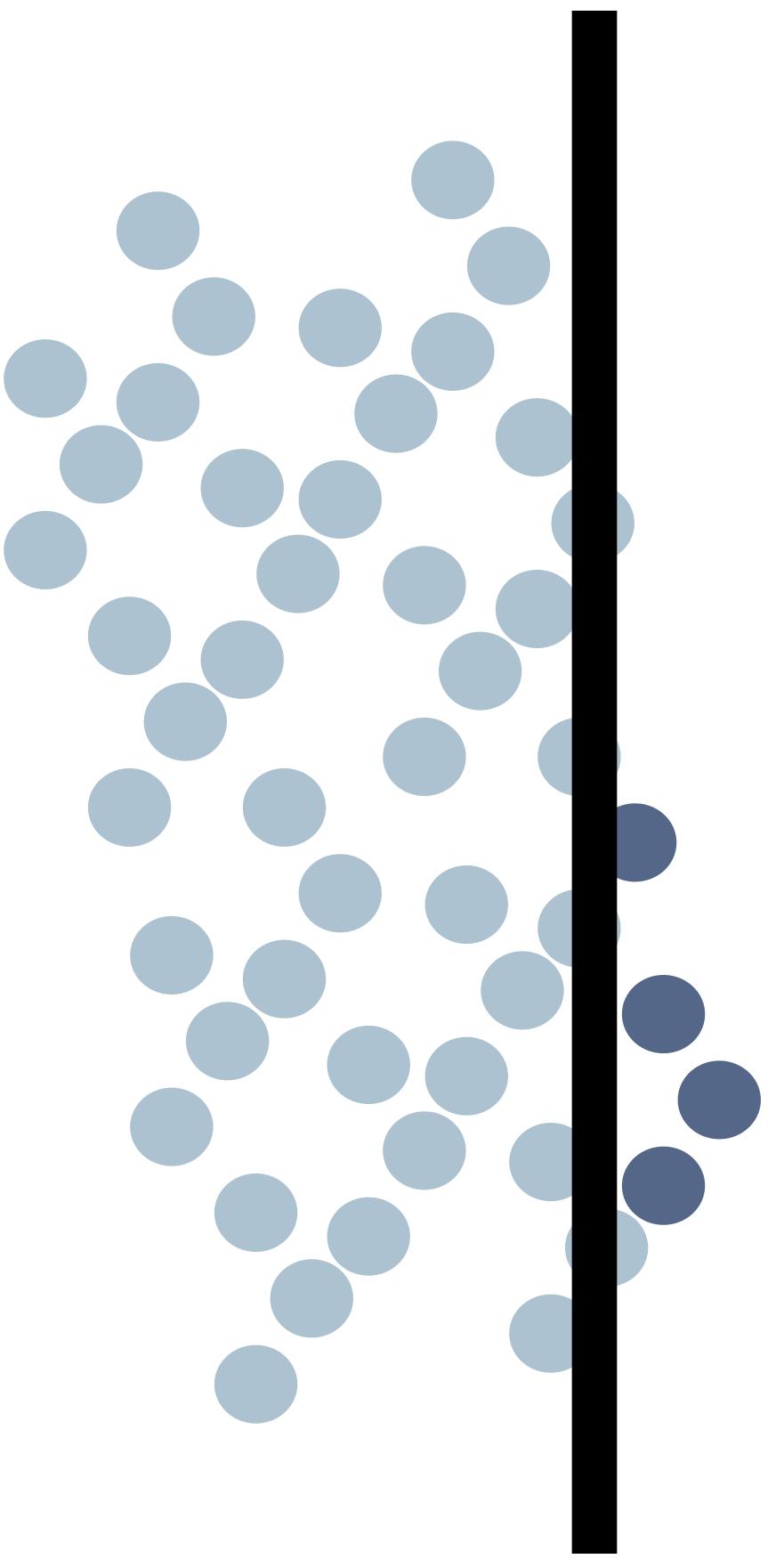
US and USSR proxy wars: boost capacity of states and rebels

Material support, revolutionary beliefs, military doctrine

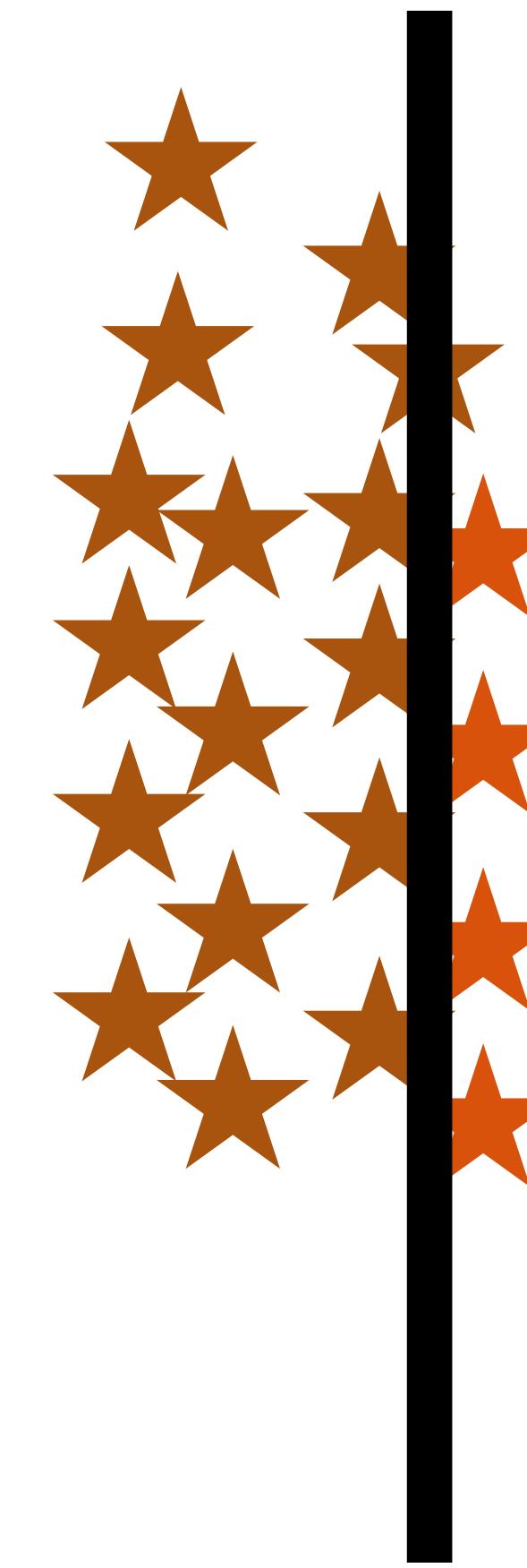


Result: *Increased* insurgency;
but why?

Before the Cold War

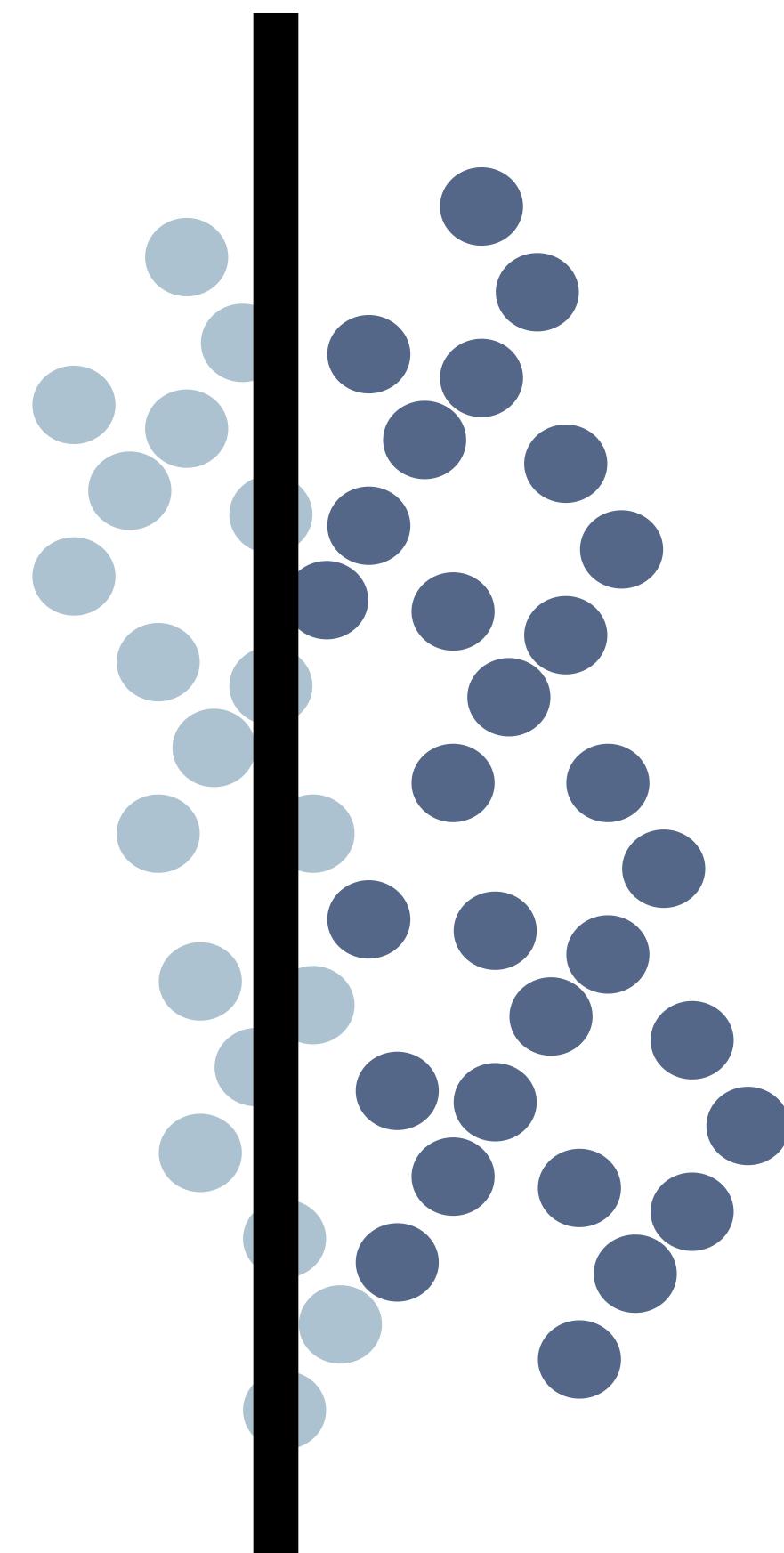


Threshold to
wage war



Threshold to
maintain order

During the Cold War

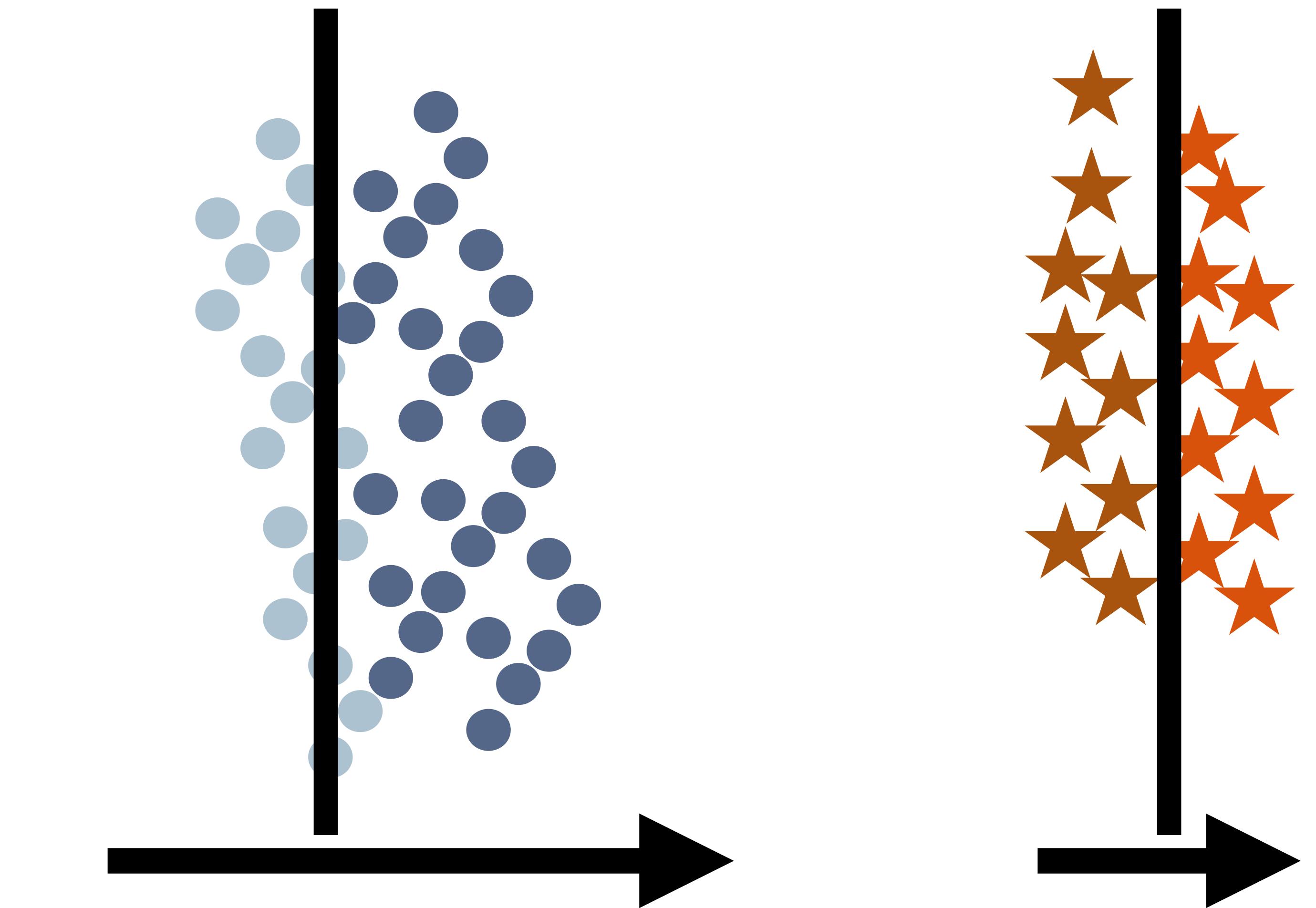


Threshold to
wage war



Threshold to
maintain order

Offensive advantage



CW effect on rebels **bigger**; why?

Irregular war is cheap

Moving would-be rebels over the threshold **much easier** than getting states to maintain order

'Toyotas of War' is the photo archive we never knew we needed

By [Sarah Sicard](#)

Dec 2, 2021



End of the Cold War

Sharp drop in superpower support for both rebels and states

Leads to **diversification** of war,
away from *insurgency*



Reagan and Gorbachev

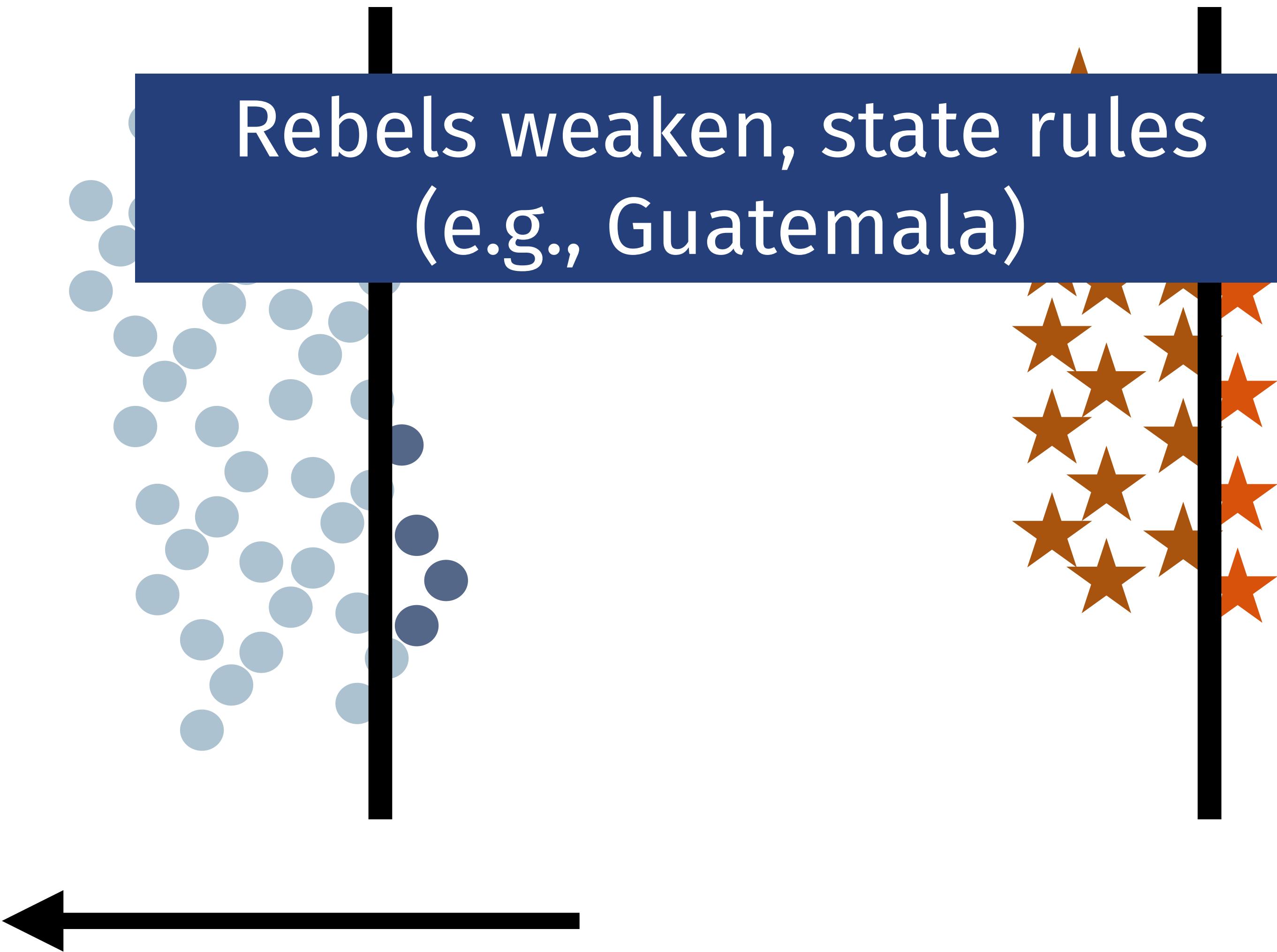
Changing patterns of war

TABLE 2. Civil War Onsets, by Technology of Rebellion (1944–2004)

Technology of Rebellion	Cold War		Post–Cold War	
	N (1944–90)	% (1944–90)	N (1991–2004)	% (1991–2004)
Conventional	28	27.72	22	47.83
Irregular	67	66.34	12	26.09
Symmetric nonconventional	6	5.94	12	26.09
Total	101	100	46	100

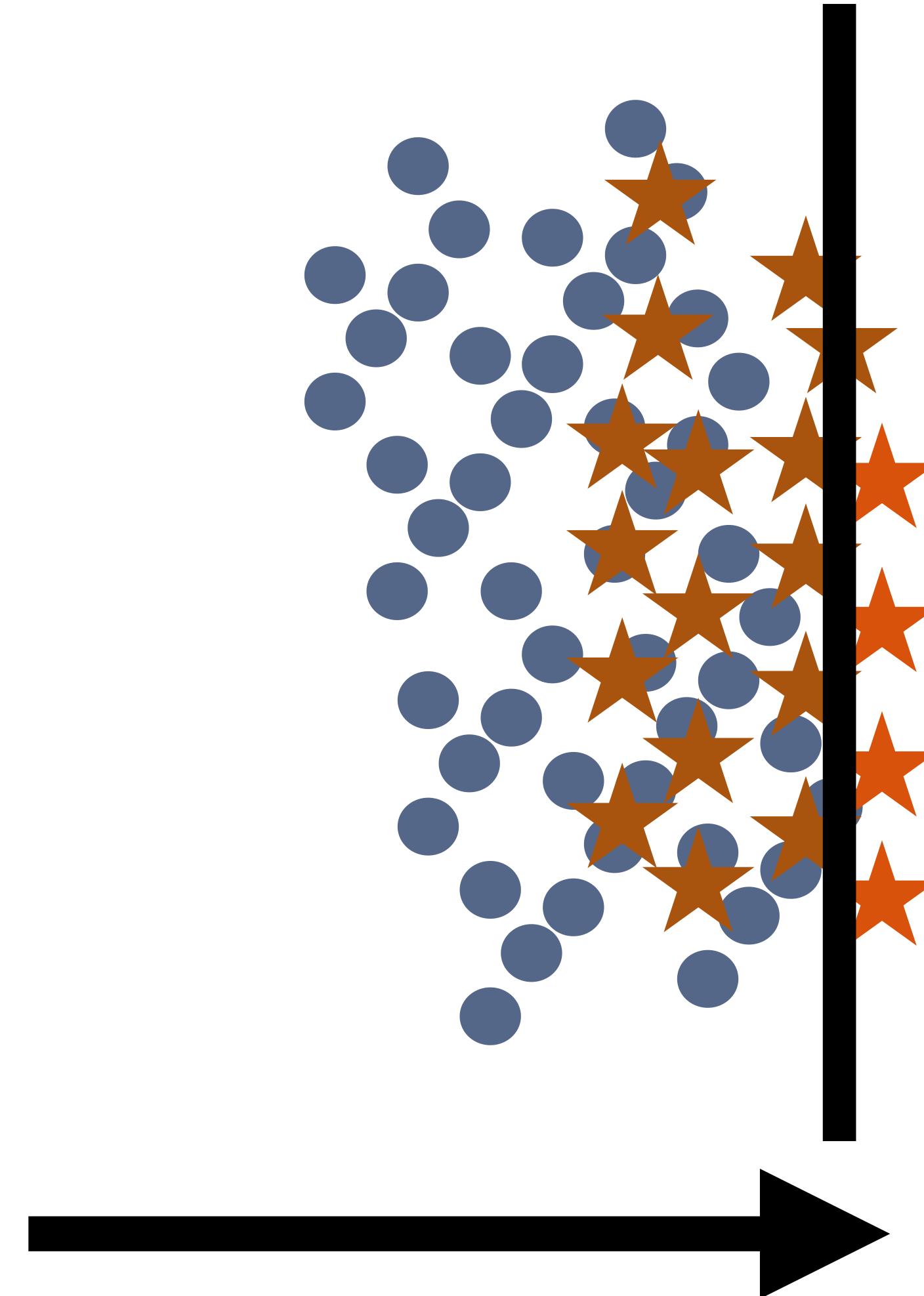
Why diversification? Why not just less war?

Three scenarios: State rule



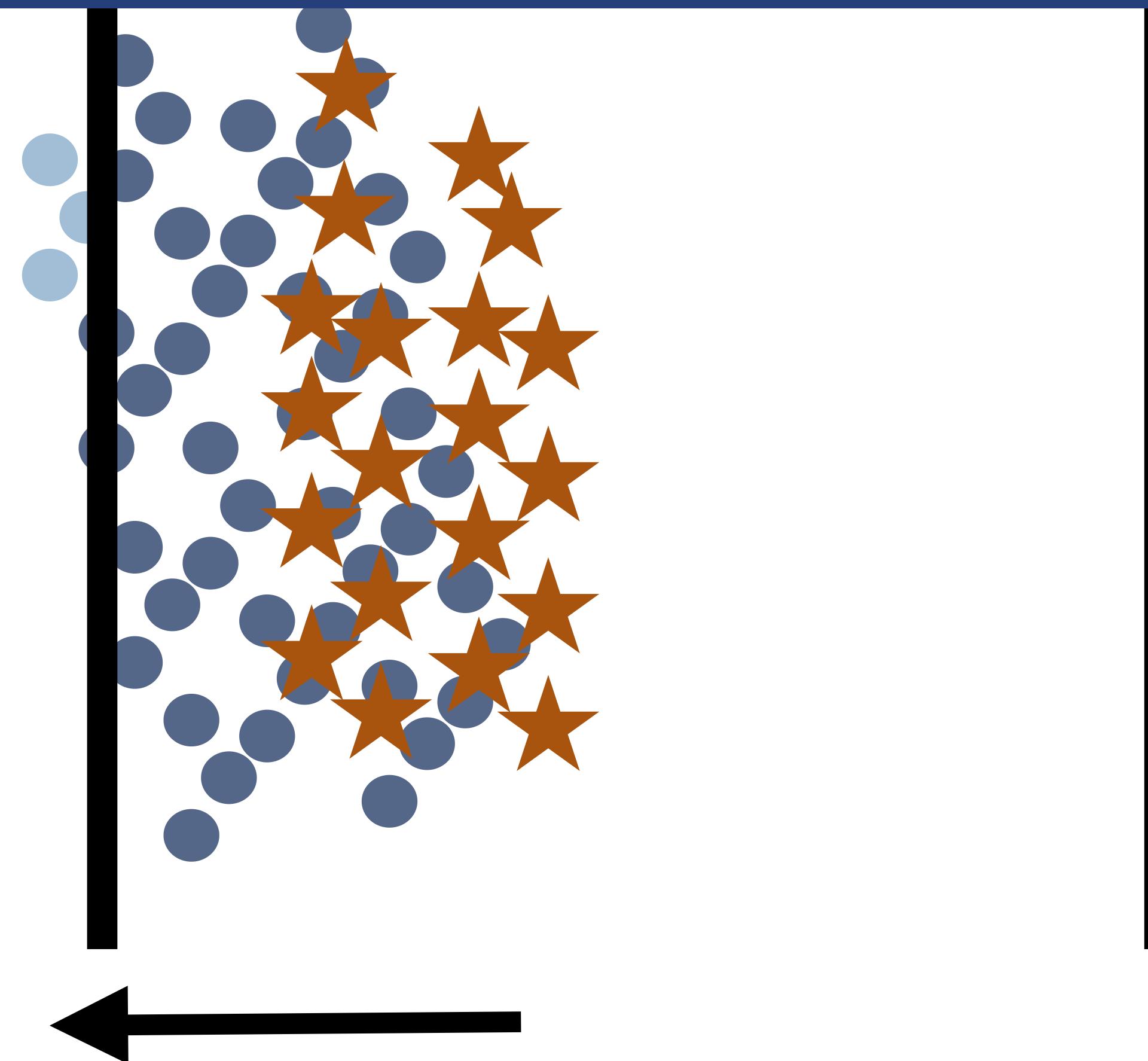
Three scenarios: Conventional

Weakening of **strong** states
= rebel strength
(e.g., Yugoslavia, Rwanda)



Three scenarios: SNC

Collapse of **weak states** (e.g., Haiti, Somalia)



Do we buy this?

Is the Cold War so unique? How might the international system be influencing warfare today?

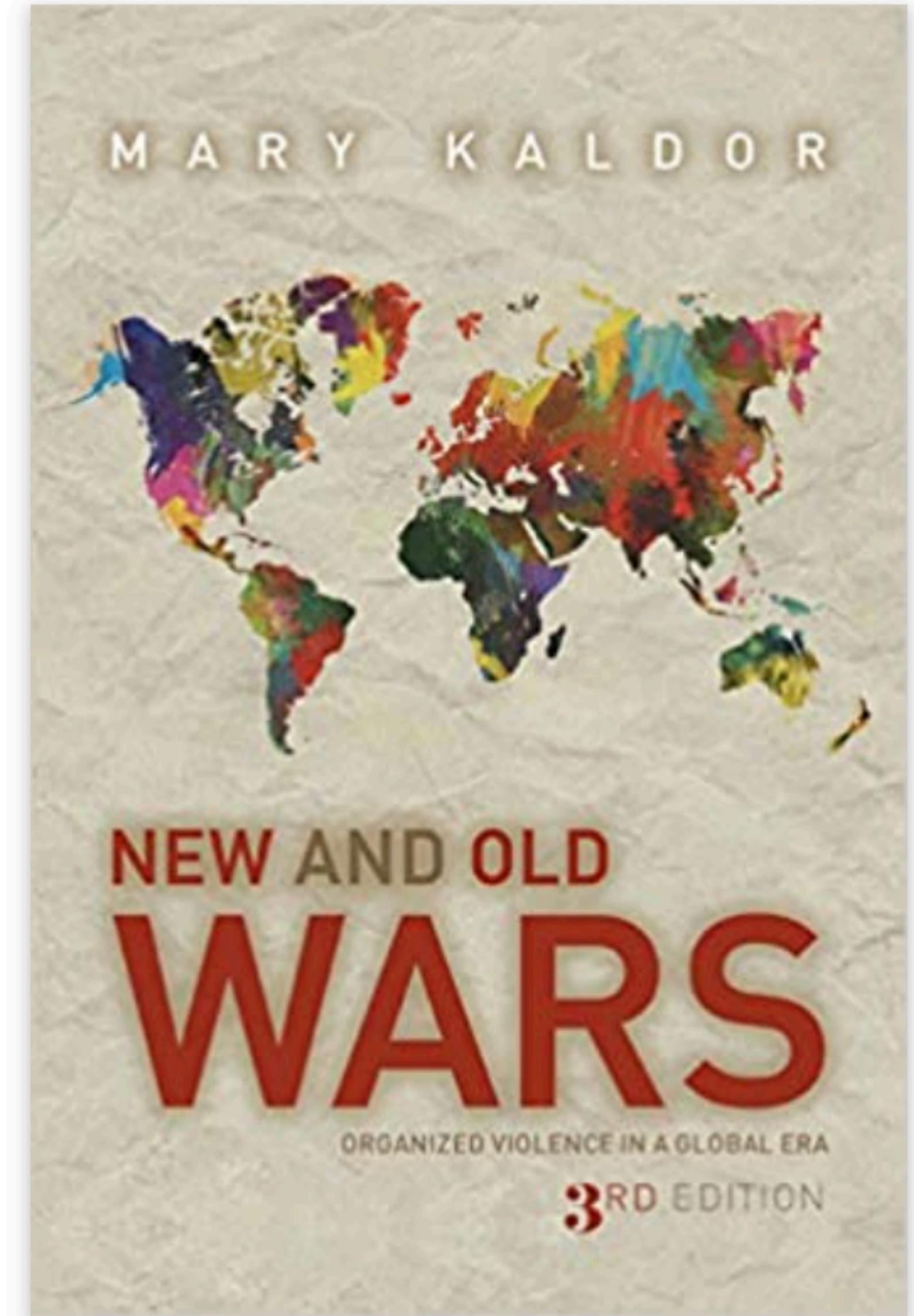
New and old wars

New wars?

Diversification of warfare led some to declare an era of “new wars”

Old wars = ideological, popular support, controlled violence

New wars = senseless, “primitive” 😞, gratuitous violence



Violent jihadism

9/11 and advent of “War on Terror” shifts focus to violent islamists/jihadists

Shift in language: “rebels” /“militants”
—> “terrorists”, often “Islamic terrorists”

But are “terrorists” so different from the CW rebels?



Al-Zarqawi
Al Qaeda in Iraq

Similarities?

Kalyvas argues for these similarities:

Ideology (utopian, anti-colonial)

Revolutionary vanguard

Safe havens

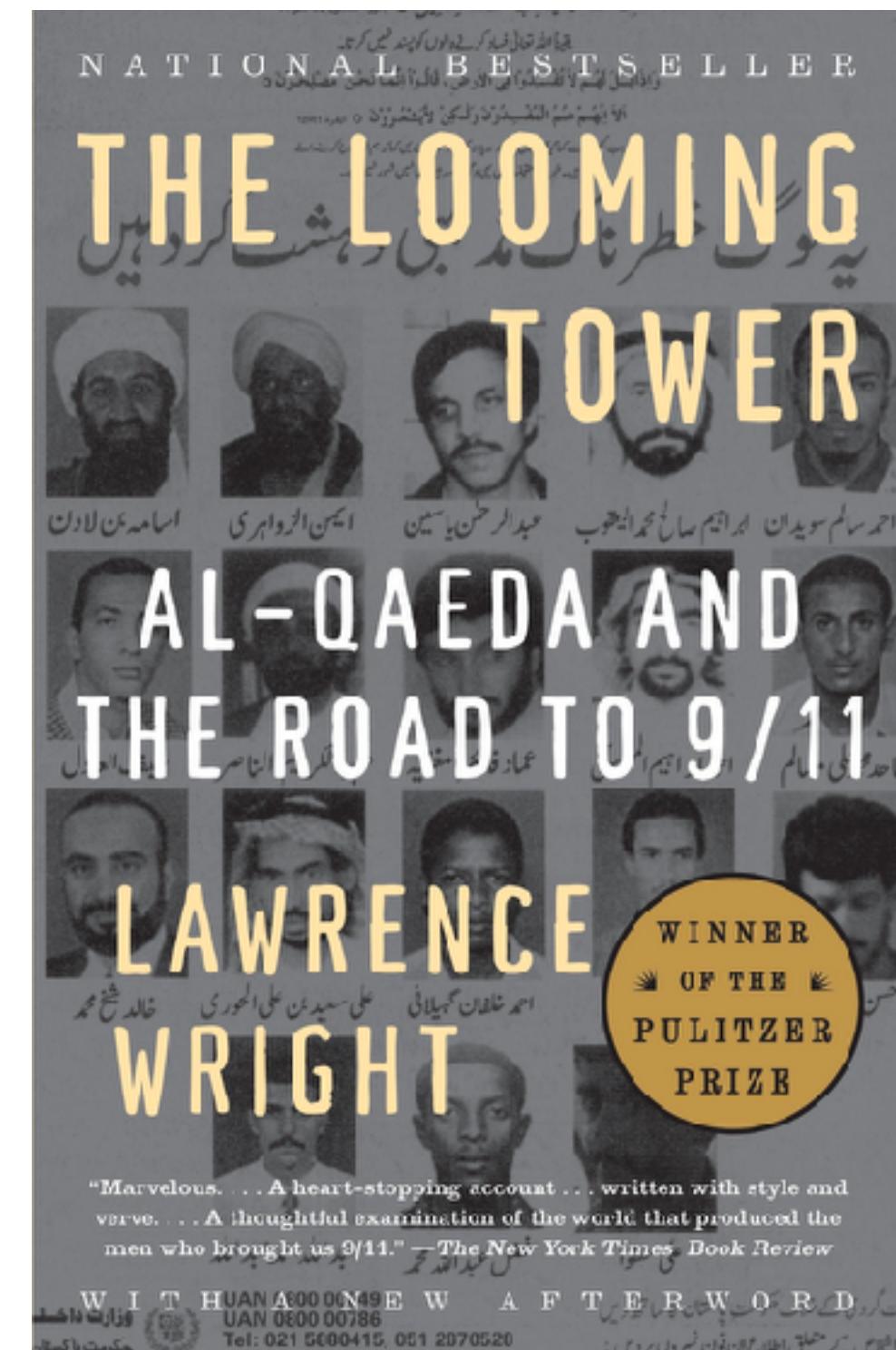
Weak/bad counterinsurgents

Ideology

[The West's] social theories, foremost among which is Marxism, in the beginning attracted a large number of people from the East...But now **Marxism is defeated on the plane of thought**, and if it is stated that not a single nation in the world is truly Marxist, it will not be an exaggeration. On the whole **this theory conflicts with man's nature and its needs**. This ideology prospers only in a degenerate society or in a society which has become cowed as a result of some form of **prolonged dictatorship**...
Russia, which is the leader of the communist countries, is itself suffering from **shortages of food**...The main reason for this is the failure...of a **system which is against human nature**



Sayyid Qutb
(1906 - 1966), Egyptian author and theorist



Differences?

Geography

Cold War

Transnational

Closest kin?



Do we buy this?

The ideologies (Marxist vs. jihadi) are so different; shouldn't this matter for group behavior?

Jihadi groups *do* receive external support (e.g., Saudi Arabia, USA in Syria)

The data



Your turn



Using the Balcells and Kalyvas dataset:

How many conflicts began **in 1992**?

What was the ***longest*** war? The ***shortest***?

How many of conflicts have there been in each **region**?

🔥 fire challenge 🔥

How many conflicts in each region by **technology**?