

GV217 - Conflict Analysis

University of Essex - Department of Government

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Week 17 – 24 January, 2020

Recap of last seminar

State-based armed conflict:

- Intrastate (within)
 - With foreign involvement (internationalized)
- Interstate (between)
 - Extrastate
- At least one actor is the government
- Incompatibility
 - Government
 - Territory
- Use of armed force between the TWO parties . . .
- . . . at least 25 battle-related deaths in a year

Non-state violence: violent conflict between non-state actors

One-sided violence: targeted killing of civilians (by the state or non-state actors)

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 4. Cosmopolitanism
 5. Education, norms, spread of reason

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- Criticism: has there been such a decline, though?
 1. Western-centric argument (data, authors)
 2. Many wars (WWI, WWII, 18th and 19th century) waged by states, often for commerce
 3. Cultural and material/institutional factors are entangled
 4. Change time scale or statistics: Data tell different stories
 5. What about geographical distribution of conflict?

A few examples of recent conflicts in the news

- Conflict in Darfur (Sudan)
- Rohingya in Myanmar
- Burundi conflict (Hutu and Tutsi)
- Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (Armenia-Azerbaijan)

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Try to classify them!

First assignment

Fist assignment due in week 18

1. List the UCDP recorded conflicts in **2018**
2. Describe the conflicts: What patterns do you see among them?
 - Readings and definitions of last week
 - UCDP data discussed this week

Resources from Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP):

UCDP **definitions**: [click here](#)

UCDP **data**: [click here](#)

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Unit of analysis: conflict-year

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2. Download the Data and open in Microsoft Excel

Questions to consider

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- How many conflicts were there in 2018?
- How many are state-based?
- Can you identify some patterns?
 - Is there an actor that is active in several conflicts?
 - What type of conflict is most common? Intra or inter-state?
 - In which region do most conflicts take place?
 - What are most conflicts about?
 - How many of the conflicts can be classified as war?
 - How many have been internationalized?

Exercise

Exercise of today. Get in groups of two:

1. List the UCDP recorded conflicts in **2016**
2. Describe the conflicts:
 - How many conflicts in 2016?
 - How many are state-based?
 - Can you identify some patterns?
 - Is there an actor that is active in several conflicts?
 - What type of conflict is most common? Intra or inter-state?
 - In which region do most conflicts take place?
 - What are most conflicts about?
 - How many of the conflicts can be classified as war?
 - How many have been internationalized?
3. Present your results (bullet points). Discuss with the class

How many conflicts? What actors?

How many conflicts in 2016? How many are state-based?

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53 conflicts

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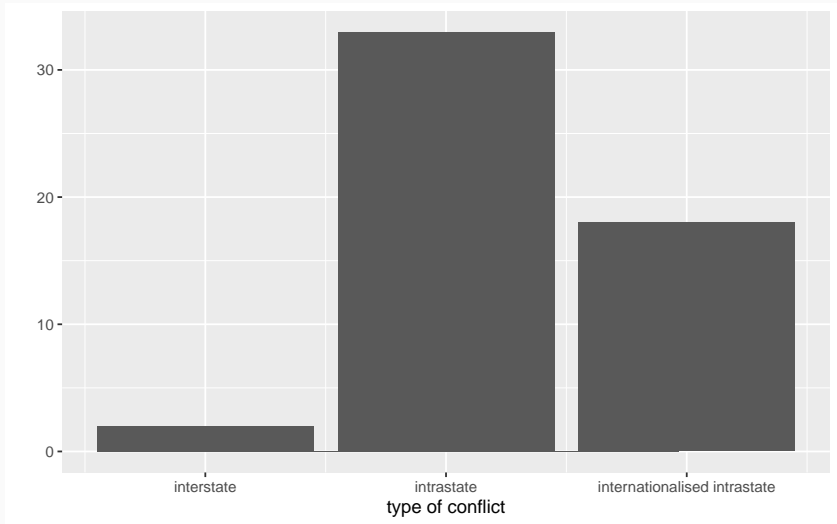
53 conflicts

Is there an actor that is active in several conflicts?

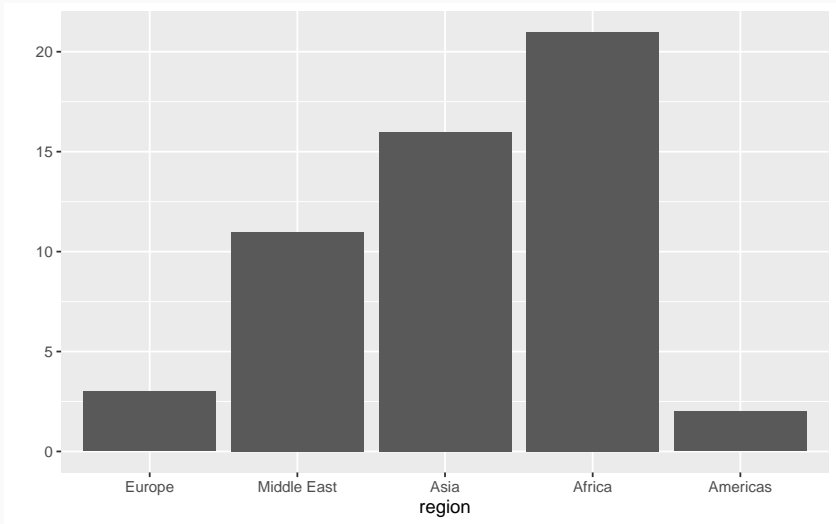
The IS is active in 15 conflicts, most active non-state actor.

Governments of India and Pakistan are active in 4 conflicts each, most active state-actors.

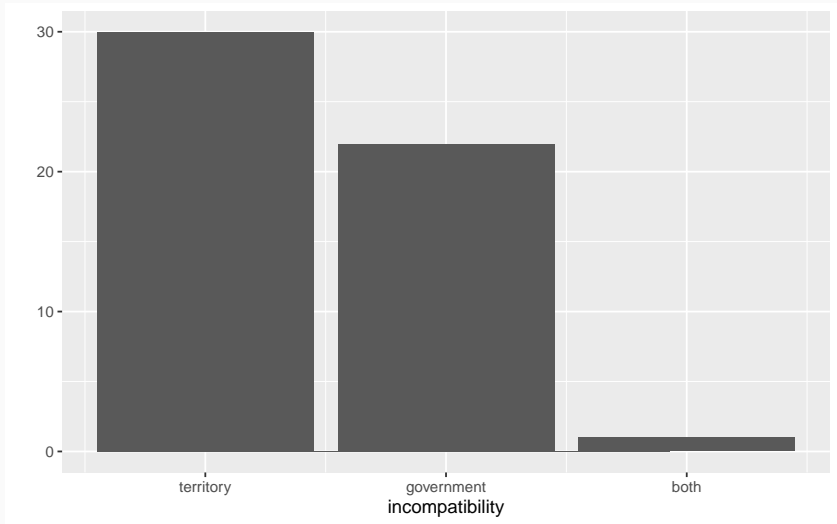
What type of conflict is most common?



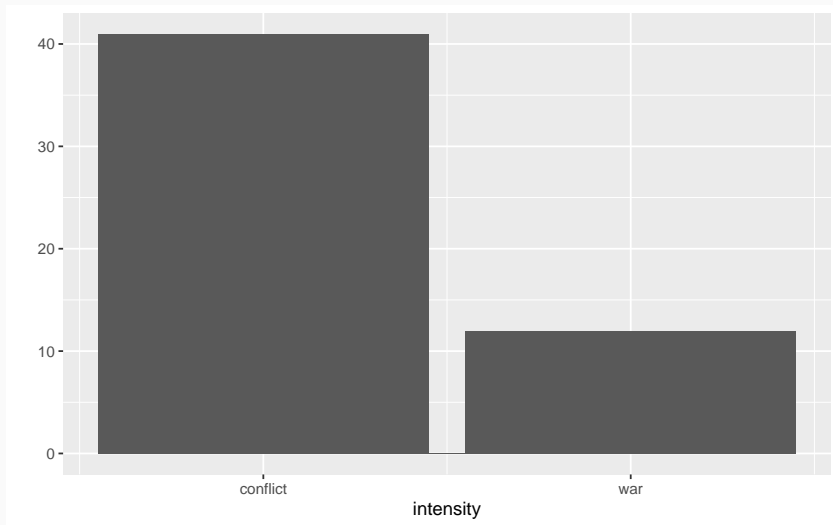
In which region do most conflicts take place?



What are most conflicts about?



How many of the conflicts can be classified as war?



Further resources to study conflicts

- Research Institutions: e.g., UCDP, ACLED
- Think Tanks: e.g., Crisis Group, Chatham House, Carnegie, Council on Foreign Relations
- NGOs: e.g., Amnesty International, International Red Cross
- International news outlets: e.g., BBC, NYT, Aljazeera

Include as many resources as possible to prevent bias!

All clear? More questions?
See you next week!