

INTERNATIONALISM IN THE 21ST CENTURY: THE USE OF INTERNATIONALISM IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL SPEECH DATABASE

MUSTAFA CEM GEZİCİ

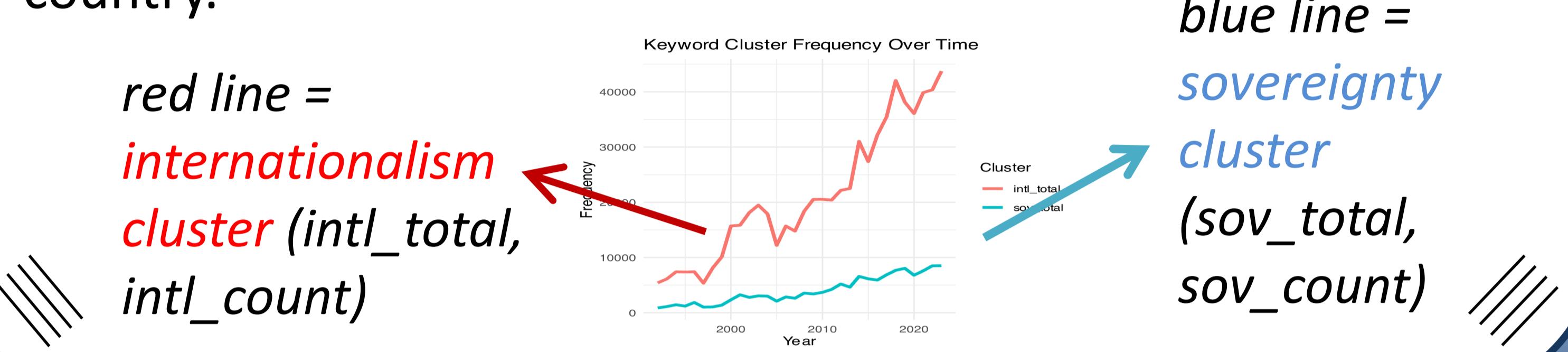
HISTORY & ECONOMICS, GLOBAL HISTORY, UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH, BAYREUTH, GERMANY

MOTIVATION

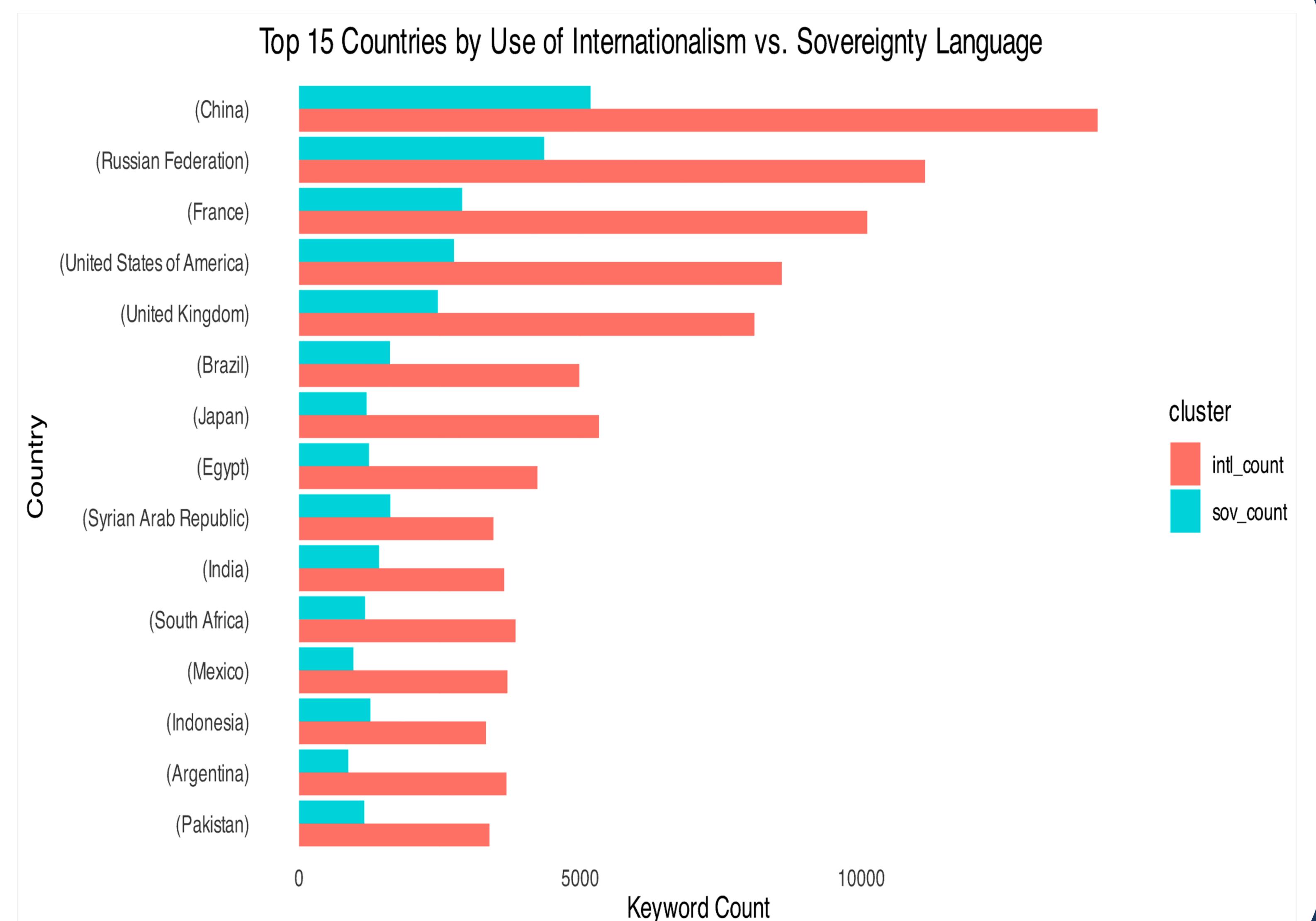
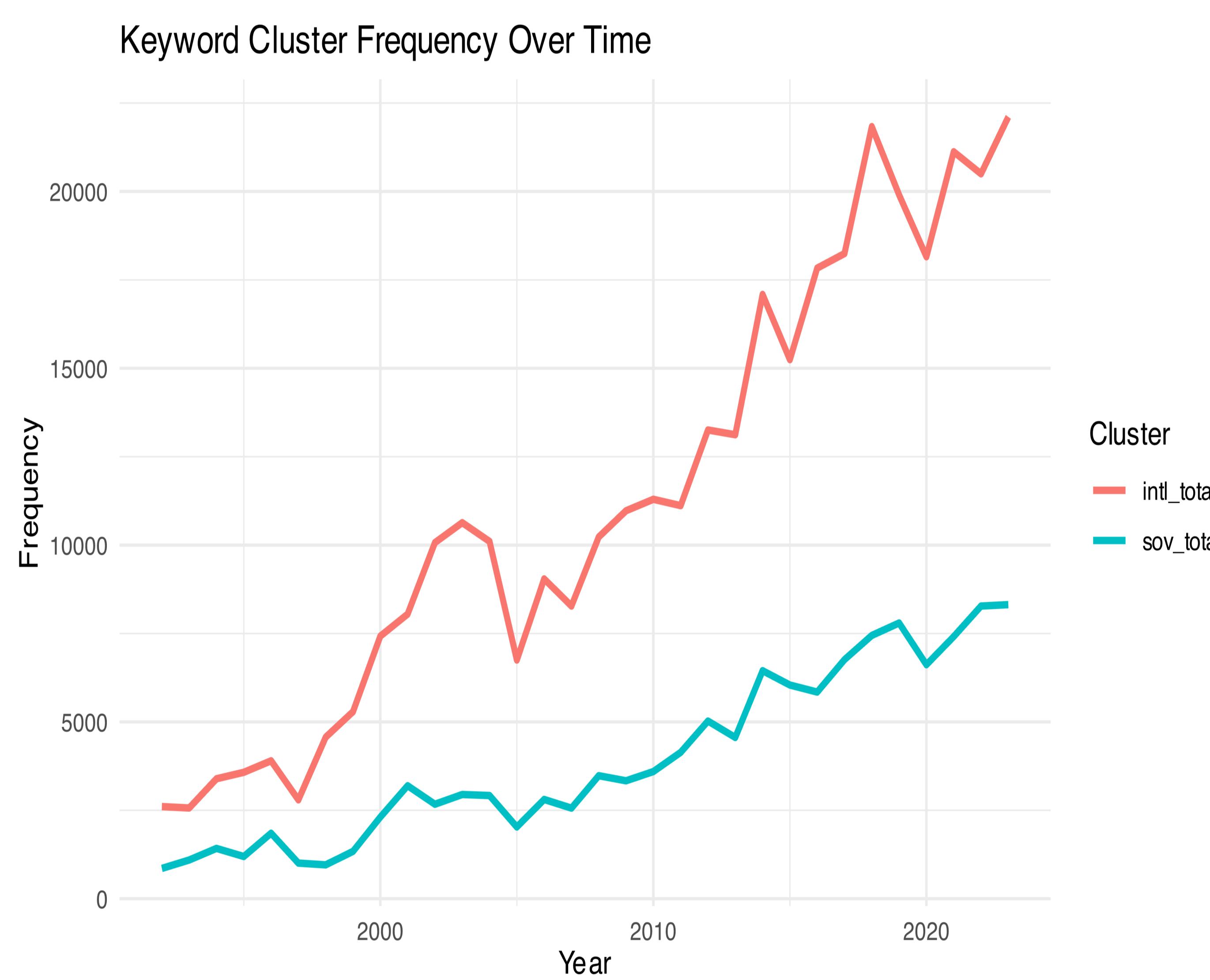
Internationalism has historically developed in tension with *nationalism*, often coexisting yet competing. Glenda Sluga outlines this ambivalent relationship throughout the 20th century but leaves the 21st century largely unexamined. That's where I step in! Today's global crises — climate change, pandemics, etc.— raise urgent questions about the role of internationalism in multilateral diplomacy. Has sovereignty overshadowed it, or are new hybrid discourses emerging?

APPROACH

This project analyzes UN Security Council speeches (1990–2023) to explore how these ideas are framed and whether this historic dualism persists in contemporary rhetoric. I created two keyword clusters—internationalism and sovereignty—and tracked their frequency over time and by country.



OUTCOMES



MAIN RESULTS

Although the absolute number of internationalist keywords in speeches has increased, their relative proportion remains largely consistent. This indicates that the use of internationalist terms has not grown significantly; instead, speeches have become longer, while the percentage of internationalist keywords remains unchanged (even became less apparent)!

```
intl_cluster <- ("internationalism",
"international", "internationalised", "cooperate",
"cooperation", "multilateral", "solidarity",
"partnership", "collaboration", "interdependence")
)
sov_cluster <- ( "sovereignty", "independence",
"territorial", "non-interference", "national", "self-determination",
"autonomy", "statehood",
"integrity", "non-intervention", "domestic")
```

Keyword Cluster Usage in UNSC Speeches (1990–2023)

Percentage of total words per year

