

# Implications of Climate Change for Migration and Armed Conflict

Dr Cecilia Jacob

The Australian National University

# Growing Consensus: Climate Change exacerbates the risk factors underlying the 'conflict trap'

- Climate change can indirectly increase risks of violent conflict by amplifying well-documented drivers of these conflicts, such as poverty and economic shocks (medium confidence). Multiple lines of evidence relate climate variability to some forms of conflict. (IPCC, 2014)
- Violent conflict increases vulnerability to climate change (medium evidence, high agreement). Large-scale violent conflict harms assets that facilitate adaptation, including infrastructure, institutions, natural resources, social capital and livelihood opportunities. (IPCC, 2014)

# Security Implications of Climate Change

- **Vulnerability** (threat to food security, human health and exposure to extreme events)
- **Development:** possible slowing down or reversing of the development process could exacerbate vulnerability and could undermine the capacity of states to maintain stability.
- **Coping and security:** migrations, competition over natural resources and other coping responses of households and communities faced with climate-related threats could increase the risk of domestic conflict as well as have international repercussions;
- **Statelessness** there are implications for rights, security, and sovereignty of the loss of statehood because of the disappearance of territory
- **International Conflict:** there may be implications for international cooperation from climate change's impact on shared or undemarcated international resources.

(Report of the UN Secretary-General 'Climate Change and its possible security implications', 2009)

# United States Department of Defence

“These rapid changes in the climate are already exacerbating natural disasters, water, food, energy and health insecurities, contributing to conditions **that can lead to conflict, state instability, and state failure, straining military readiness, operations and strategy, and making existing security threats worse.**” (The Climate and Security Advisory Group 2016, P7)

# THIRSTING FOR A FUTURE: WATER AND CHILDREN IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

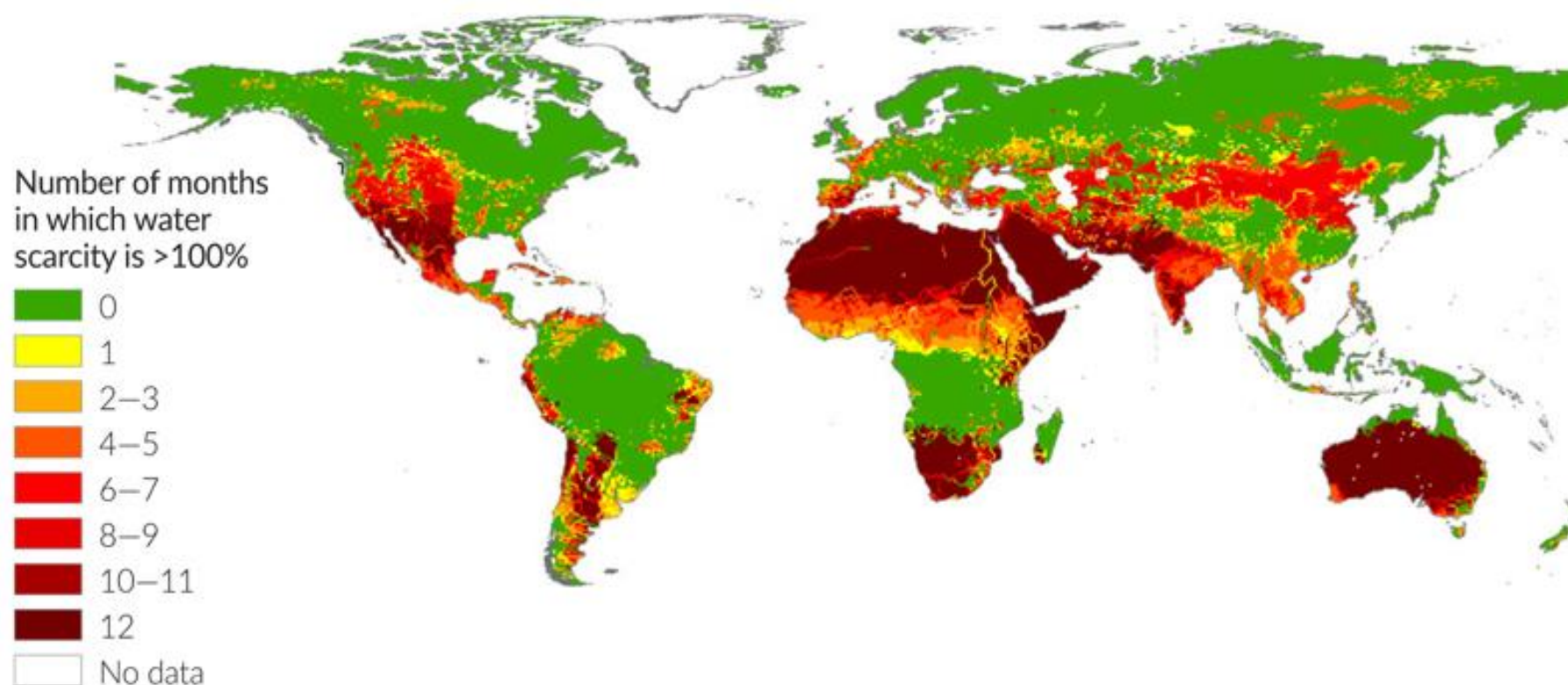


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UNICEF 2017 report *Thirsting for a Future* warns that 600 million children – one in four worldwide – will be living in areas with extremely scarce water by 2040



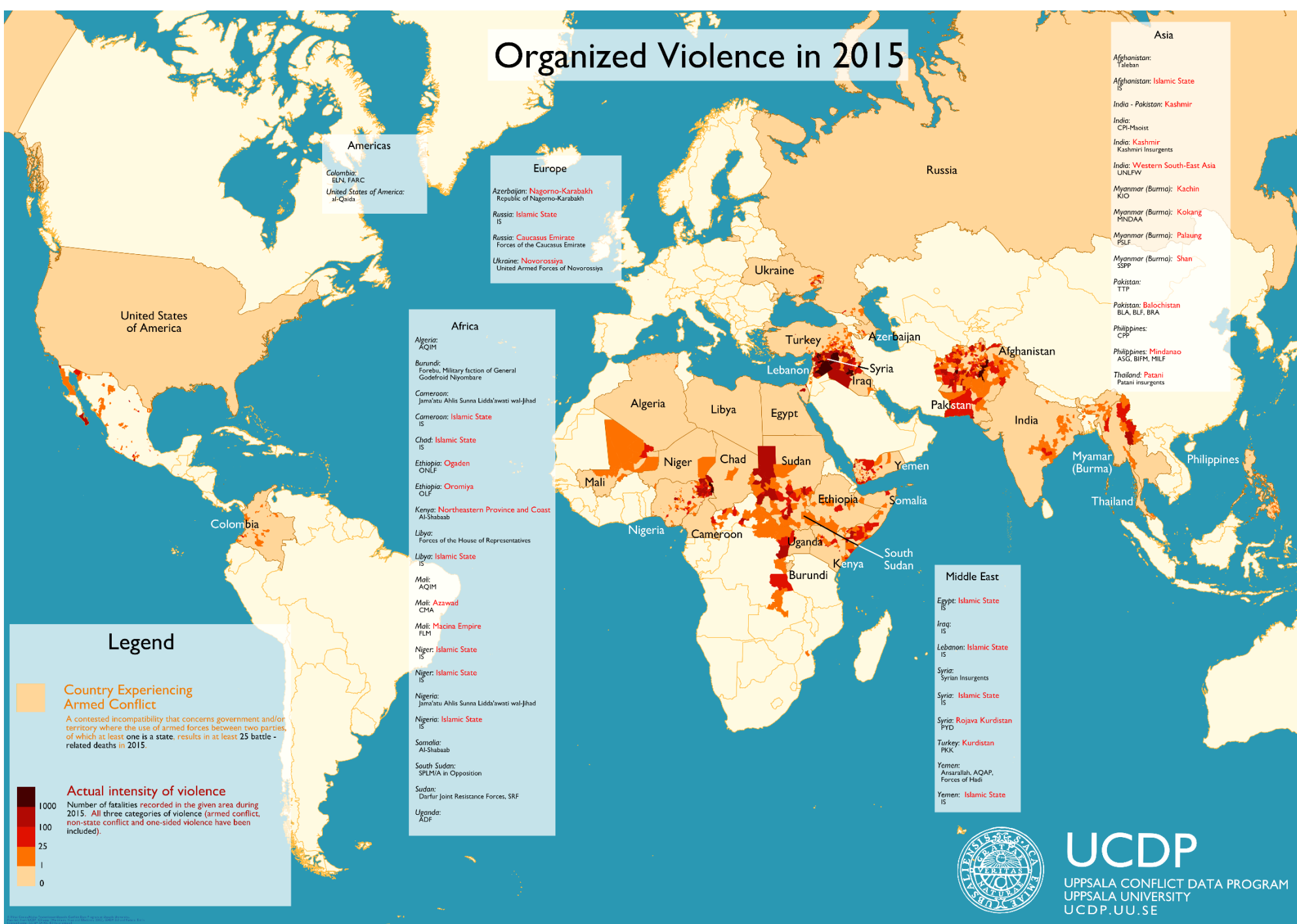
Number of months per year in which the volume of surface water and groundwater that is withdrawn and not returned exceeds 1.0 at 30 x 30 arc min resolution (1996–2005)\*



\*Quarterly averaged monthly blue water scarcity at  $30 \times 30$  arc min resolution. Water scarcity at the grid cell level is defined as the ratio of the blue water footprint within the grid cell to the sum of the blue water generated within the cell and the blue water inflow from upstream cells. Period: 1996–2005.

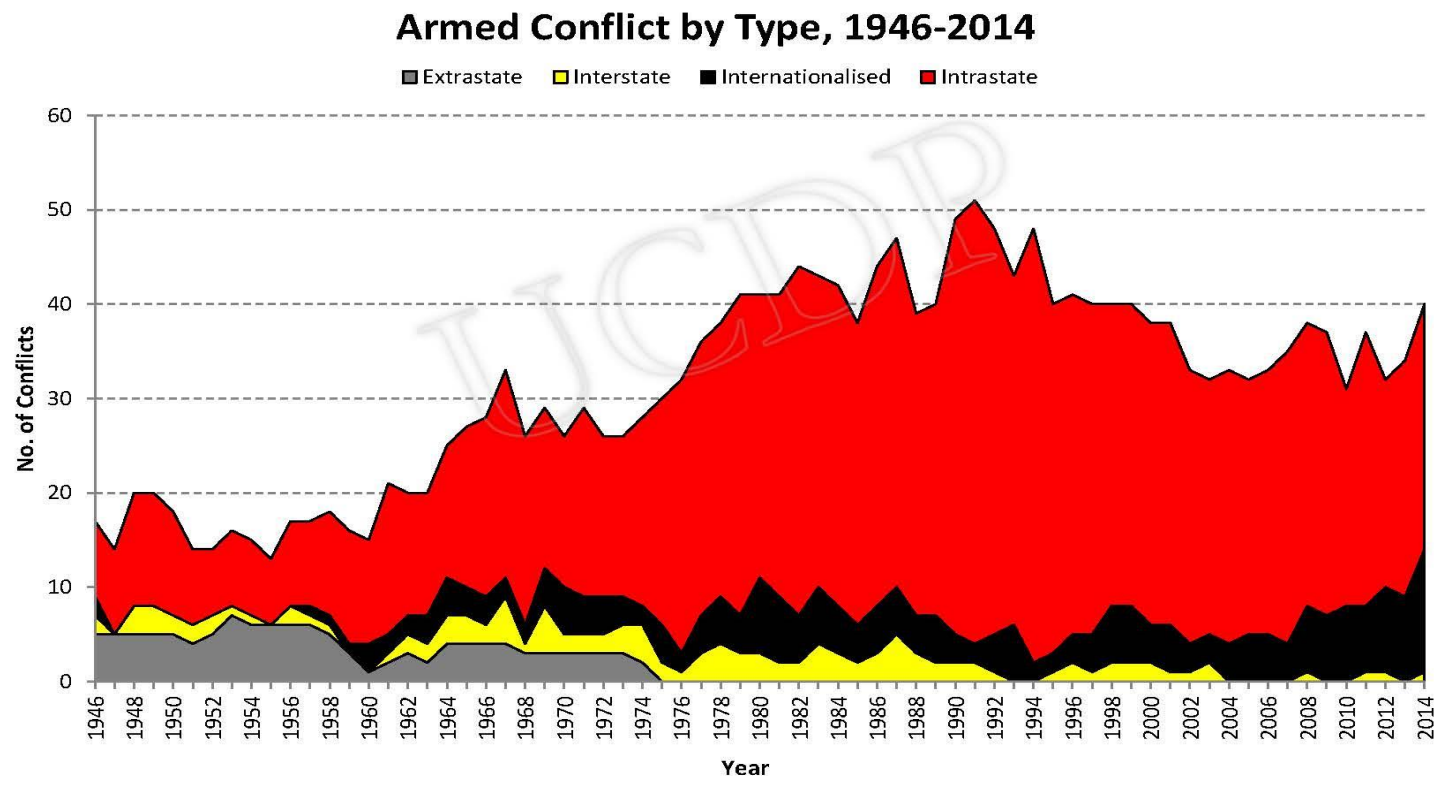
Source: World Water Development Report 2017

# Organized Violence in 2015

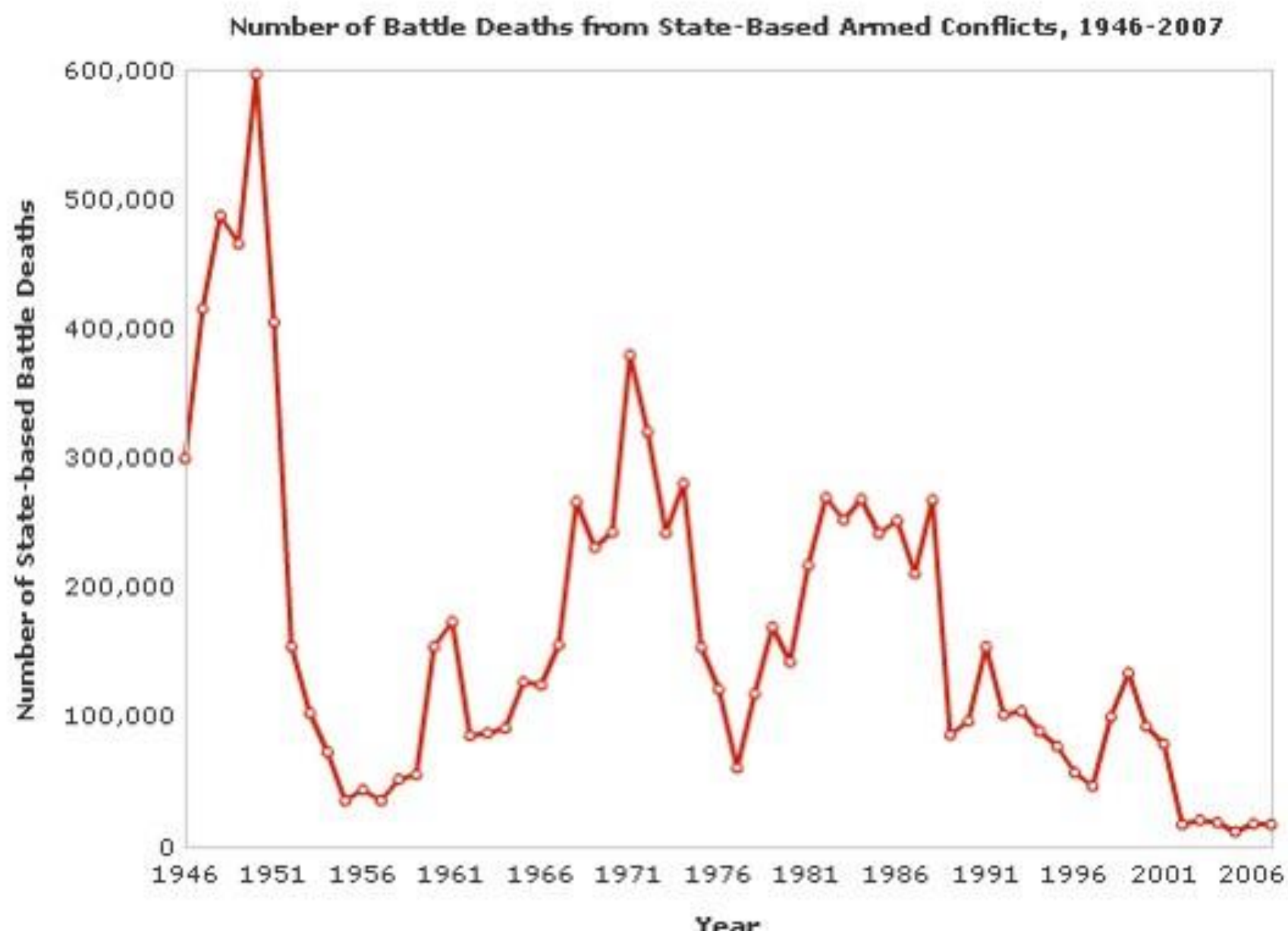


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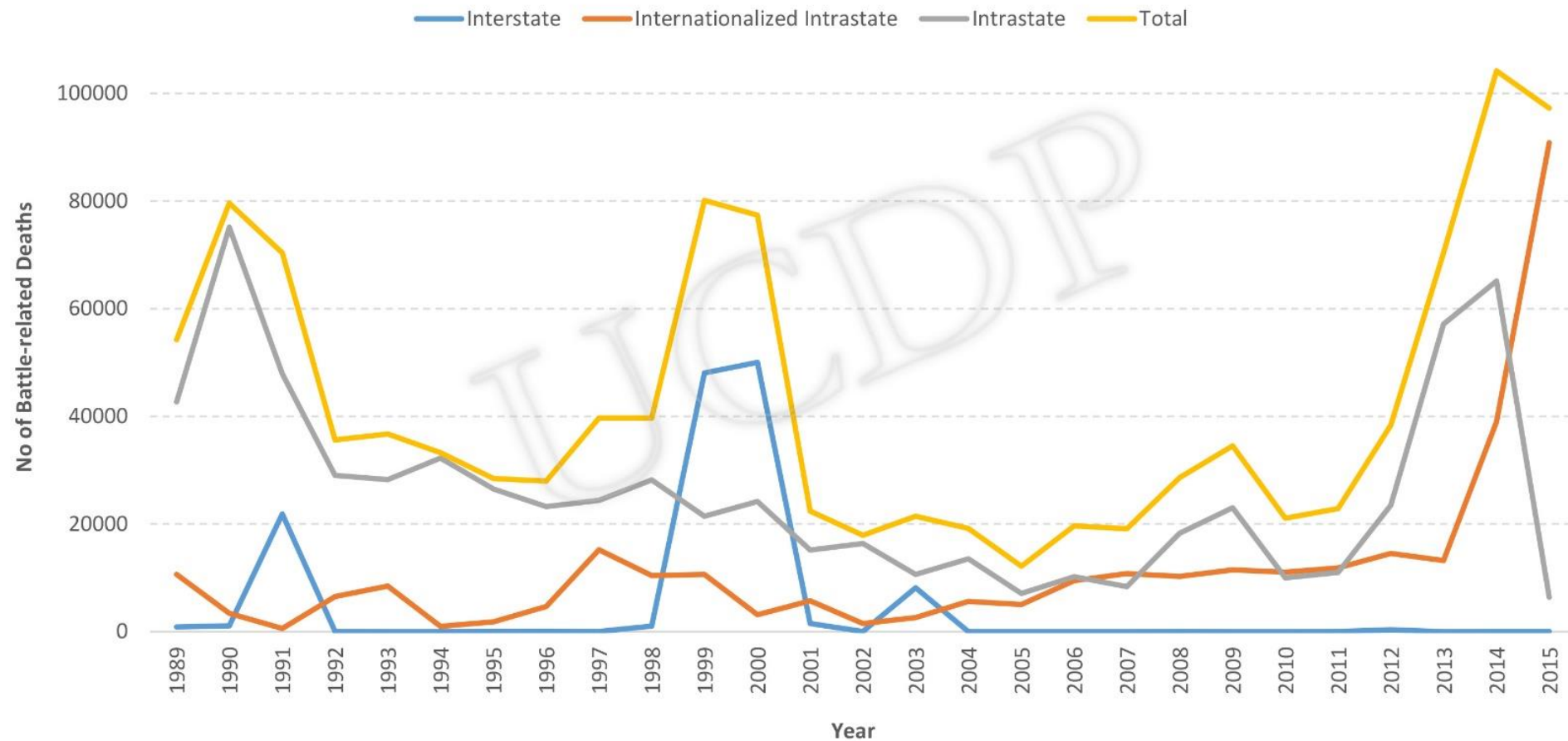
However, no robust empirical evidence that shows direct causation between climate change and violent conflict







Battle-related Deaths by Type of Conflict, 1989-2015



Thank you

[cecilia.jacob@anu.edu.au](mailto:cecilia.jacob@anu.edu.au)