

Implications of Climate Change for Migration and Armed Conflict

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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)

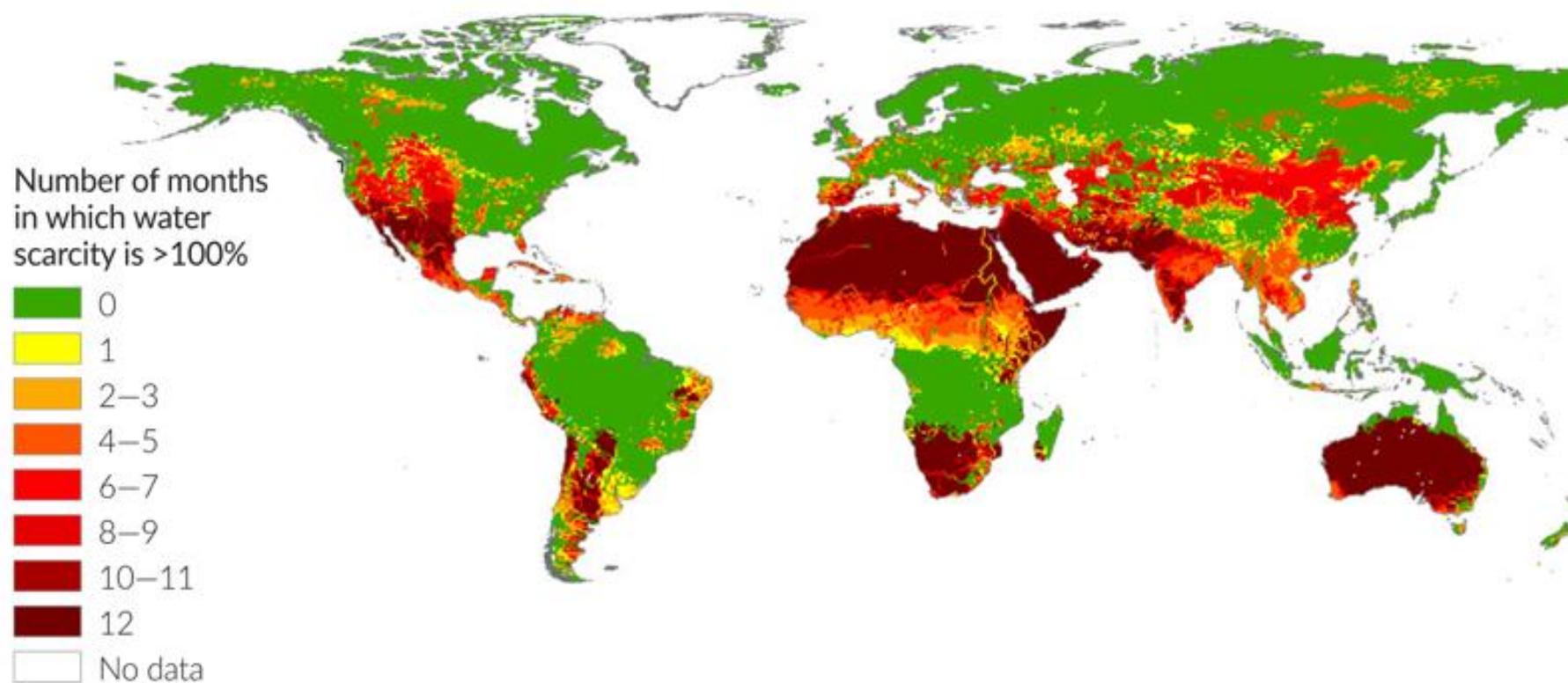
THIRSTING FOR A FUTURE: WATER AND CHILDREN IN A CHANGING CLIMATE



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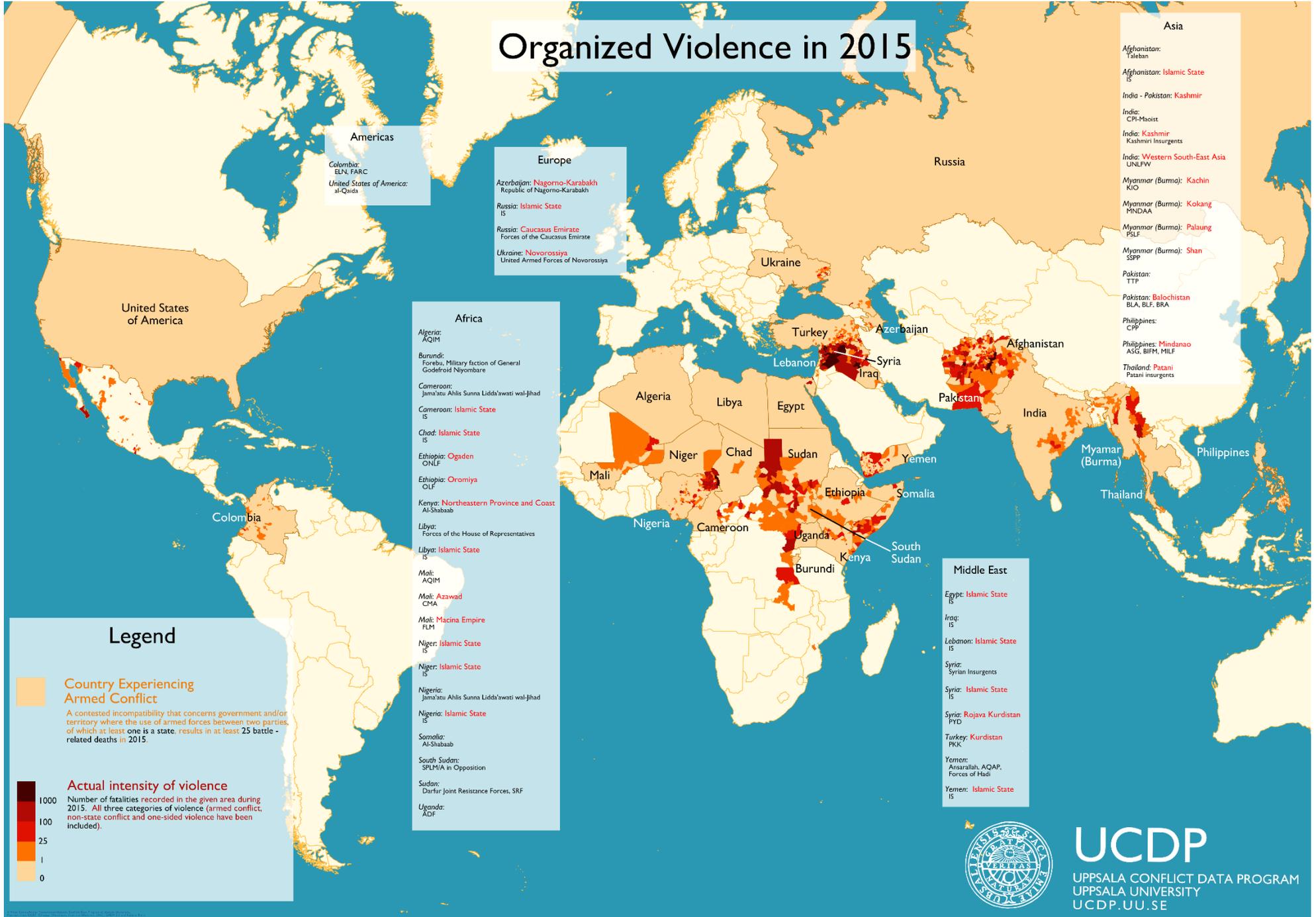
UNICEF 2017 report *Thirsting for a Future* warns that 600 million children – one in four worldwide – will be living in areas with extremely scarce water by 2040

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 30×30 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.

Organized Violence in 2015



Americas

Colombia: ELN, FARC
 United States of America: al-Qaida

Europe

Azerbaijan: Nagorno-Karabakh Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh
 Russia: Islamic State IS
 Russia: Caucasus Emirate Forces of the Caucasus Emirate
 Ukraine: Navorossiya United Armed Forces of Navorossiya

Asia

Afghanistan: Taliban
 Afghanistan: Islamic State IS
 India - Pakistan: Kashmir
 India: CPI-Maoist
 India: Kashmir Kashmiri Insurgents
 India: Western South-East Asia UNLFW
 Myanmar (Burma): Kachin KIO
 Myanmar (Burma): Kokang MNDAA
 Myanmar (Burma): Palauing PSLF
 Myanmar (Burma): Shan SSP
 Pakistan: TTP
 Pakistan: Balochistan BLA, BLF, BRA
 Philippines: CPP
 Philippines: Mindanao ASG, BIFM, MILF
 Thailand: Patani Patani insurgents

Africa

Algeria: AQIM
 Burundi: Forebu, Military faction of General Godefroid Niyombare
 Cameroon: Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad
 Cameroon: Islamic State IS
 Chad: Islamic State IS
 Ethiopia: Ogaden ONLF
 Ethiopia: Oromiya OLF
 Kenya: Northeastern Province and Coast Al-Shabaab
 Libya: Forces of the House of Representatives
 Libya: Islamic State IS
 Mali: AQIM
 Mali: Azawad CMA
 Mali: Macina Empire FLM
 Niger: Islamic State IS
 Niger: Islamic State IS
 Nigeria: Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad
 Nigeria: Islamic State IS
 Somalia: Al-Shabaab
 South Sudan: SPLM/A in Opposition
 Sudan: Darfur Joint Resistance Forces, SRF
 Uganda: ADF

Middle East

Egypt: Islamic State IS
 Iraq: IS
 Lebanon: Islamic State IS
 Syria: Syrian Insurgents
 Syria: Islamic State IS
 Syria: Rojava Kurdistan PYD
 Turkey: Kurdistan PKK
 Yemen: Ansarallah, AQAP, Forces of Hadi
 Yemen: Islamic State IS

Legend

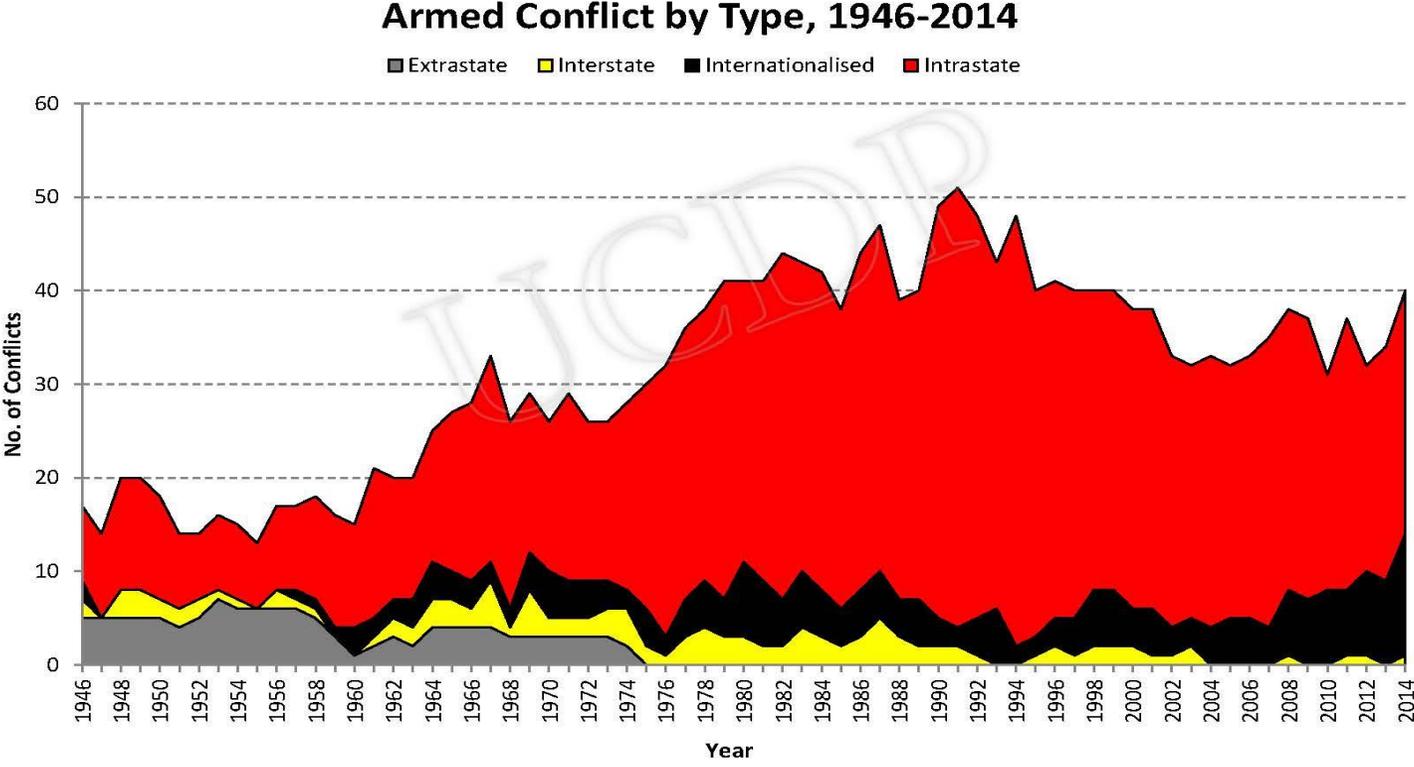
Country Experiencing Armed Conflict
 A contested incompatibility that concerns government and/or territory where the use of armed forces between two parties, of which at least one is a state, results in at least 25 battle-related deaths in 2015.

Actual intensity of violence
 Number of fatalities recorded in the given area during 2015. All three categories of violence (armed conflict, non-state conflict and one-sided violence have been included).

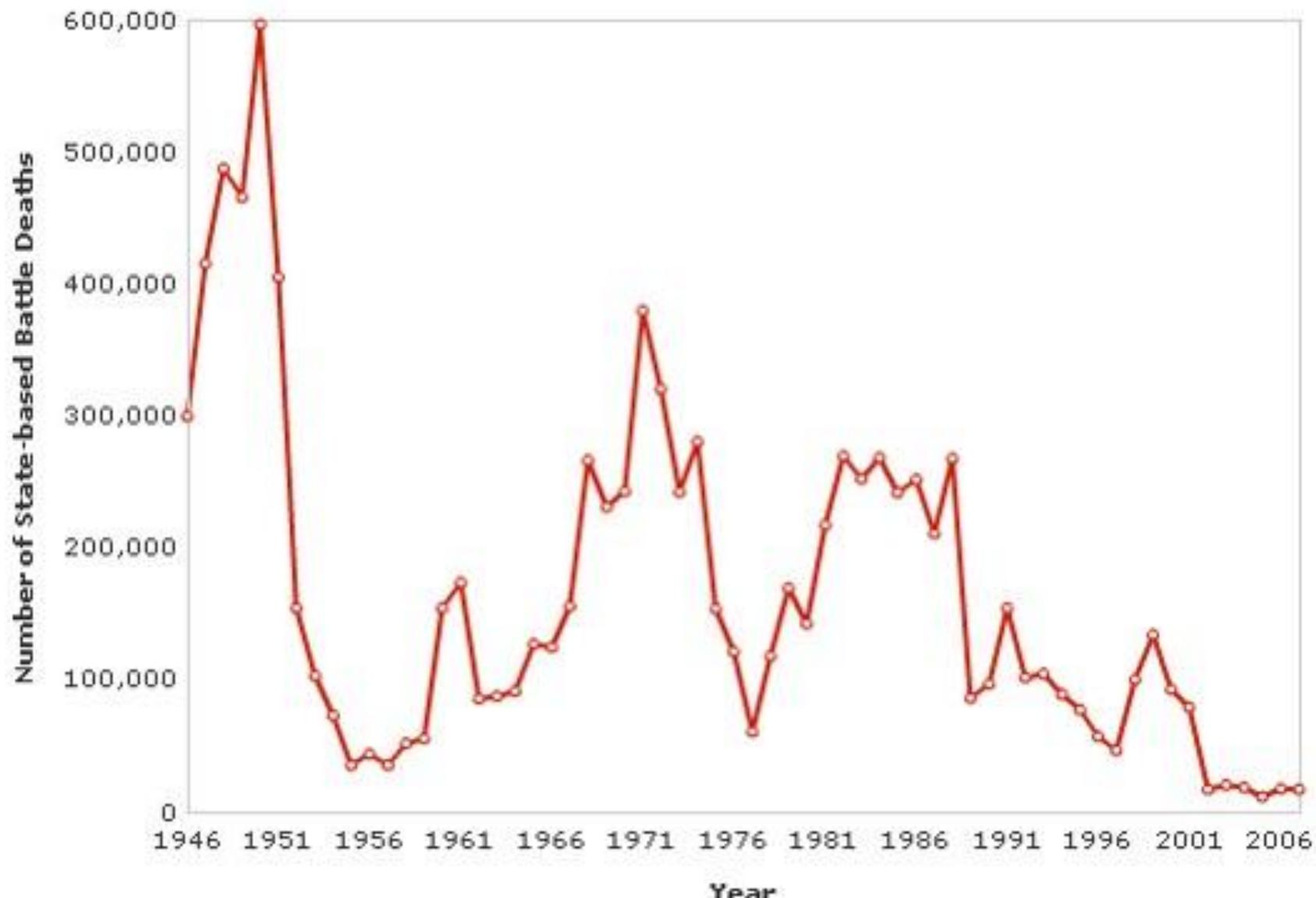
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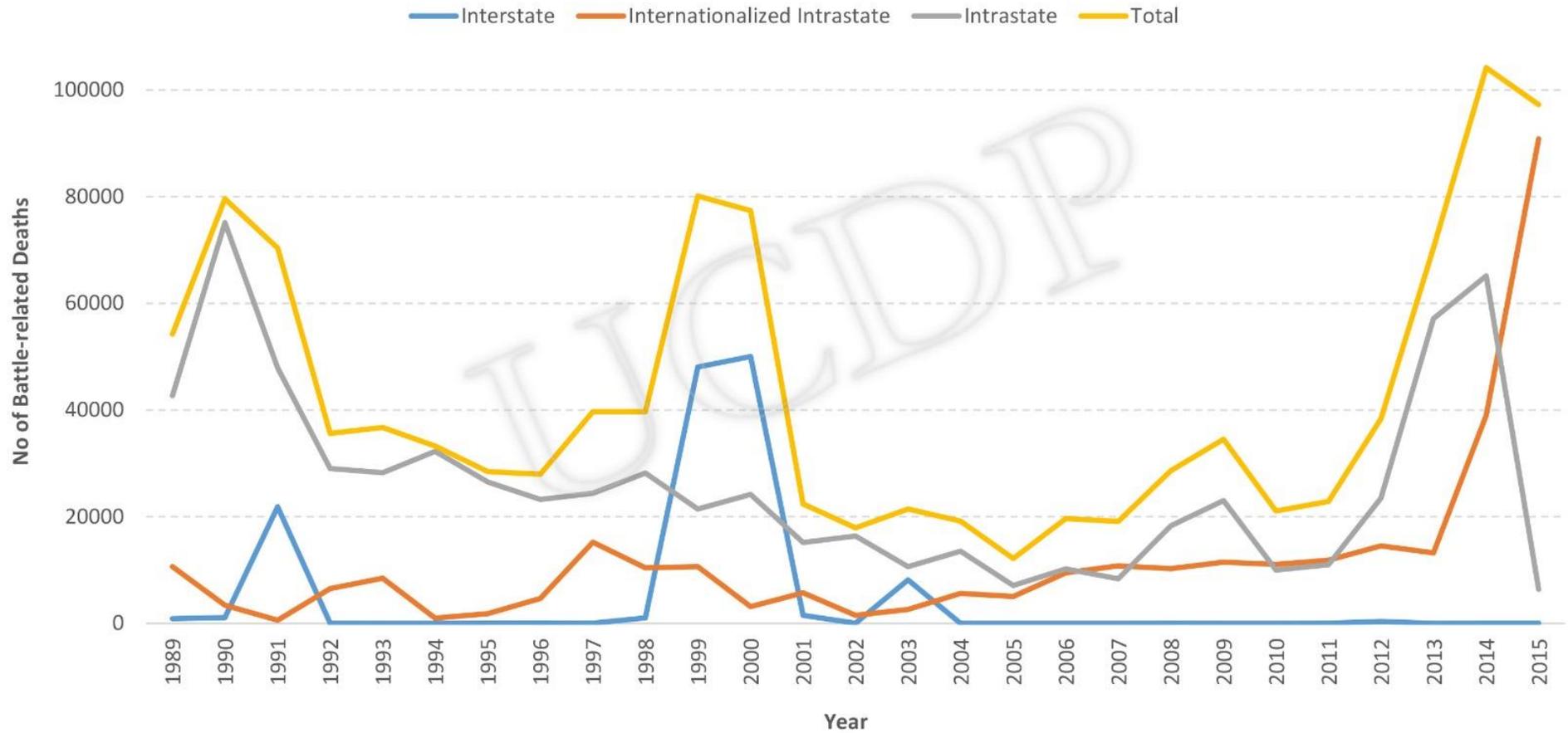
However, no robust empirical evidence that shows direct causation between climate change and violent conflict



Number of Battle Deaths from State-Based Armed Conflicts, 1946-2007



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



Thank you

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