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Challenges to International Peace and Major Trends in Armed Conflict

Arnaut Moreira

ELSA - Coimbra – Jul 2022



Agenda

1. Peace, Conflict and Security
2. The Dynamics of a Conflict
3. Major Trends in Conflicts
4. Final Remarks



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Concepts of Conflict and Peace

Conflict



Peace



Confrontation of divergent interests and in which the possibility of eruption of violence is not negligible.

Arnaut Moreira

Peace is not merely the absence of War, but the presence of Justice, of Law, of Order – in short, of Government

Albert Einstein

How Conflict and Peace relates to Security

You need Security to achieve Peace



You may need Conflict to achieve Security



Security should be our focal point of concern

Security is state of mind, not a guarantee

You feel secure if you think you are prepared for potential challenges

At State Level it may lead to the existence of multiple instruments of response to different levels and forms of threat (natural disaster, social crisis, foreign aggression etc)

Build Security if you need to build Peace

Security cannot be improvised



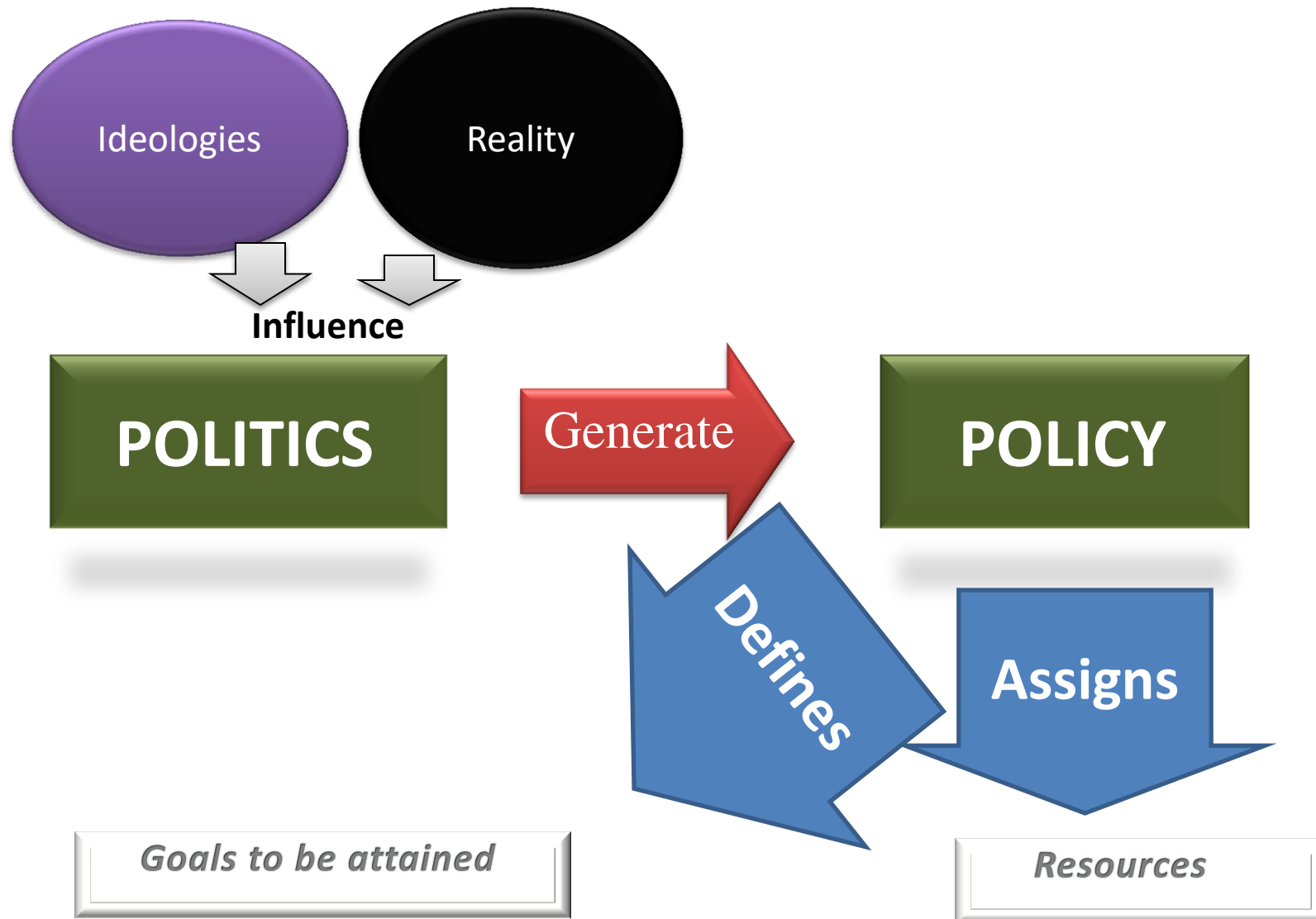
It needs to be studied, organized, funded and trained in advance



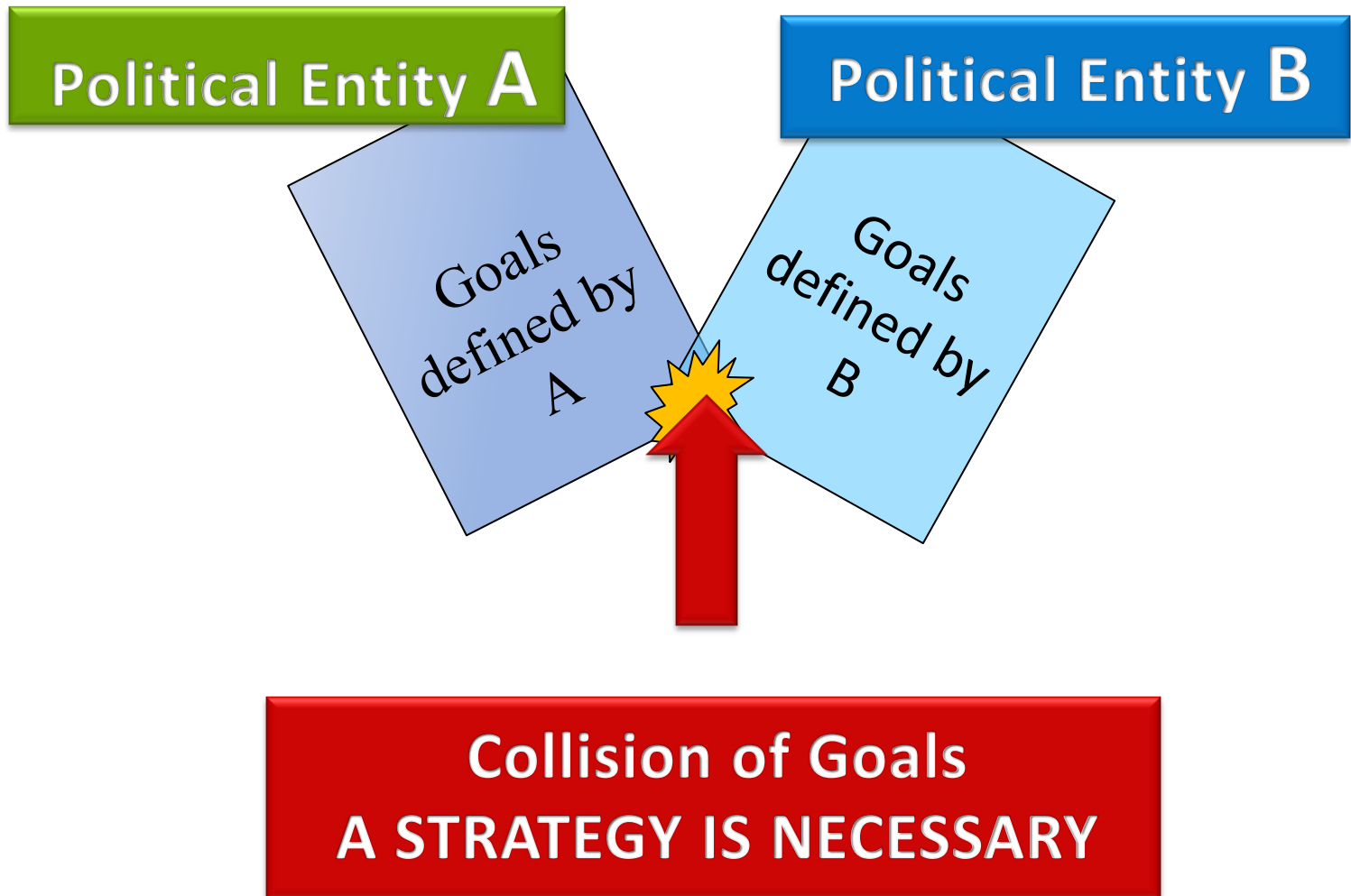
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How Goals are defined by Political Entities



How a Conflict emerges





From Accommodation to War

Collision of Goals How decisions are taken

My Goal is not important : I can accommodate the adversary's goal

My Goal is important : I will negotiate it

My Goal is very important : I will fight for it

My Goal is vital : I will die for it if necessary



Some reasons that may originate conflicts

History

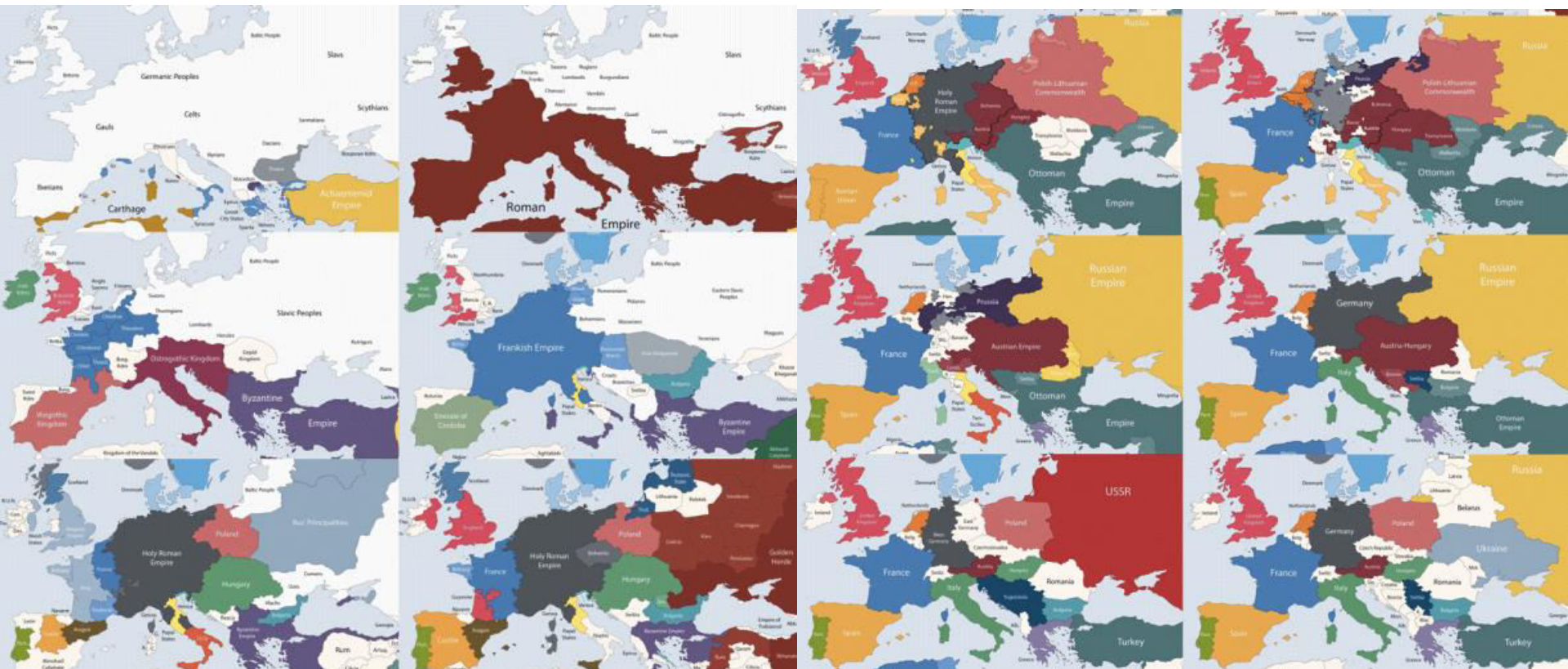
Resources

Security

Identity

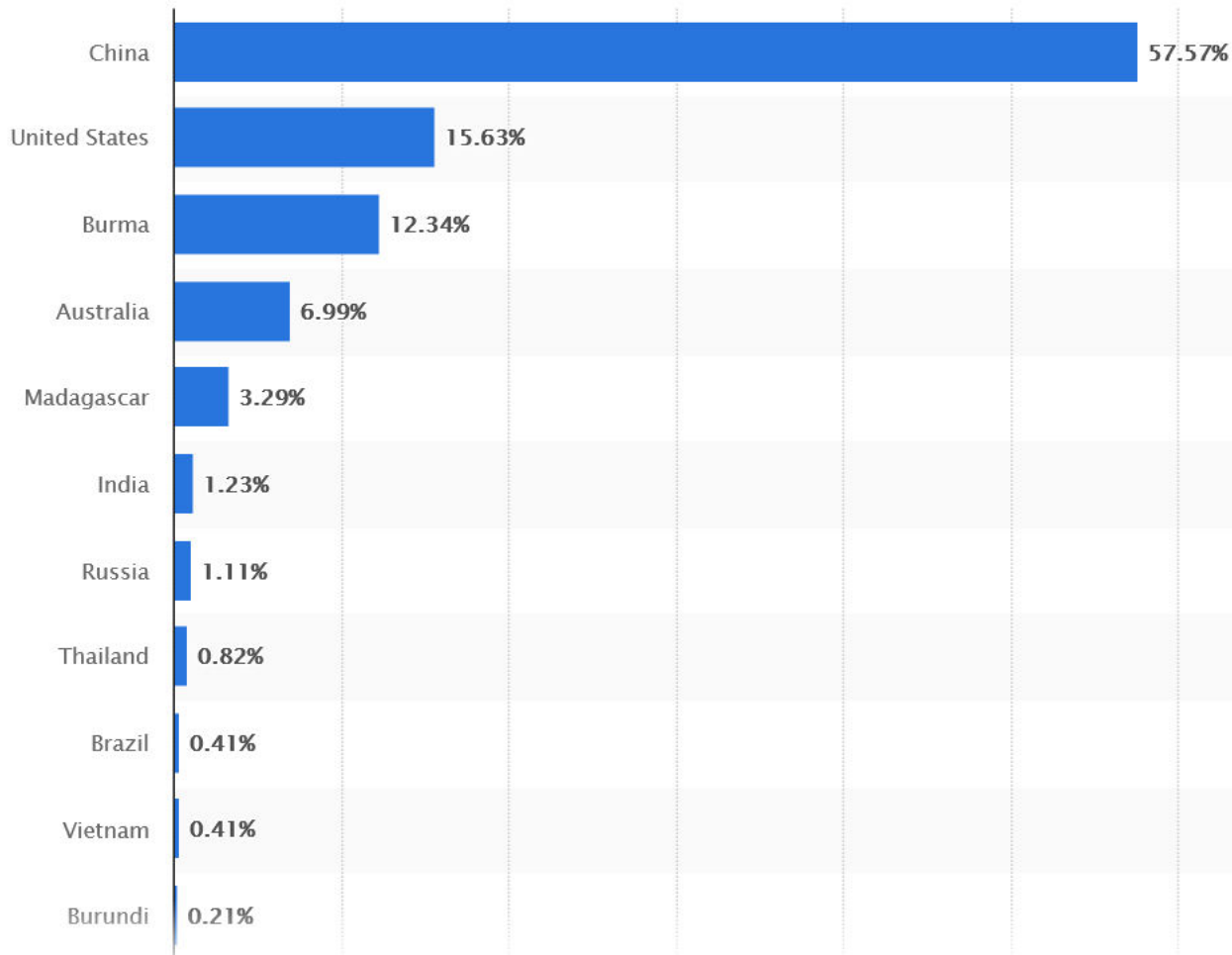
History: Evolution of Borders in Europe

If we begin to question borders war is unavoidable



Resources: Rare Earths Minerals

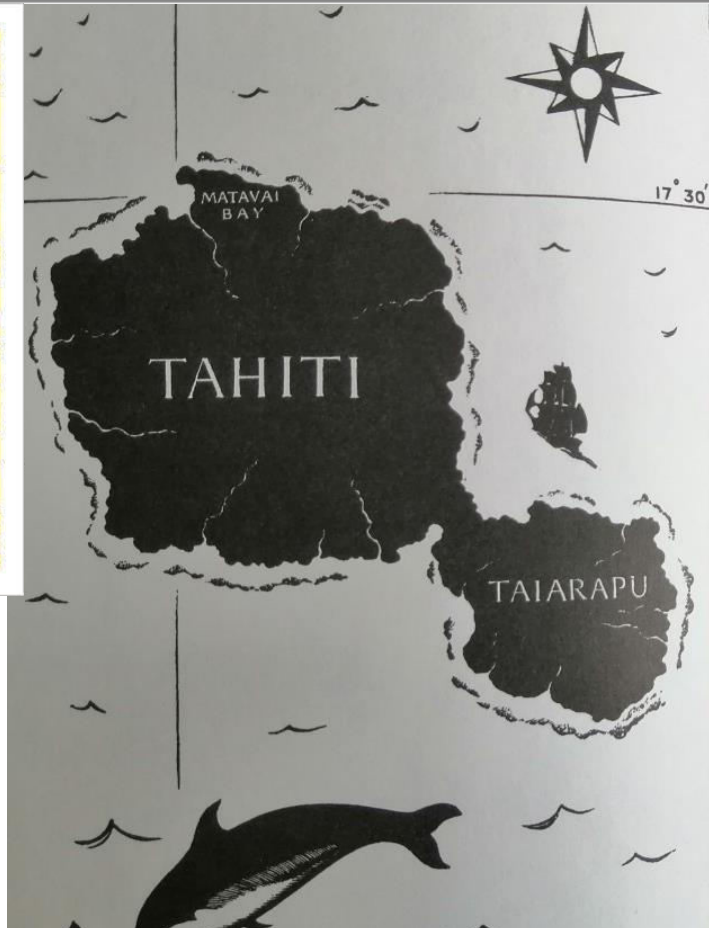
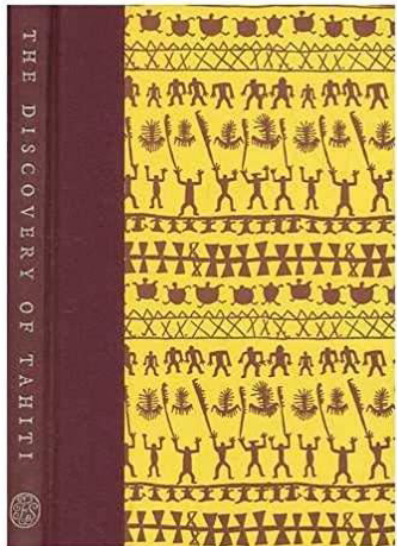
Distribution of rare earths production worldwide as of 2020,



Insecurity: What are the others' intentions ?

June 1767: HMS Dolphin discovers Tahiti

It was received with stones and arrows and responded with gunnery



AN ACCOUNT OF THE DISCOVERY OF TAHITI

From the Journal of
GEORGE ROBERTSON
Master of H.M.S. Dolphin

Edited, with an Introduction by
OLIVER WARNER



With Wood Engravings by
ROBERT GIBBINGS

Printed for Members Only
THE FOLIO SOCIETY 1955

Insecurity and may lead to Conflict as a preventive measure

Identity: Religion, ethnicity, ...

Rwanda 1994: In 100 days Hutus killed 800 000 Tutsis



<https://abcnews.go.com/US/rwanda-genocide-remembered-25-years/story?id=62140174>

“the entire Hutu population was called upon to kill the entire Tutsi population.”
Philip Gourevitch - journalist



How Armed Conflicts End

Military Victory

Resource Exhaustion

Third Party Mediation

Political Collapse



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Some Major Trends in Conflicts

Hybrid Warfare

Stateless territories

Private Military Companies

Artificial Intelligence

UN fading into Irrelevance

Hybrid Warfare, the new face of War

Conventional Warfare:

Soldiers, tanks, artillery, airplanes, ships ...

Hybrid Warfare

Conventional Warfare, Irregular Warfare,
Political Warfare and Cyberwarfare

*Hoffman, Frank (2007). Conflict in the 21st
Century: The Rise of Hybrid Wars.*

Somalia: Stateless Territories

Government of Somalia only controls Mogadishu



Since the year 2000 Piracy became a profitable activity off the coast of Somalia (Operation Atalanta, CTF 150)



PMC: Private Military Companies

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/private-military-firm>

Not new: East India Company had a private Army during the 18th – 19th centuries

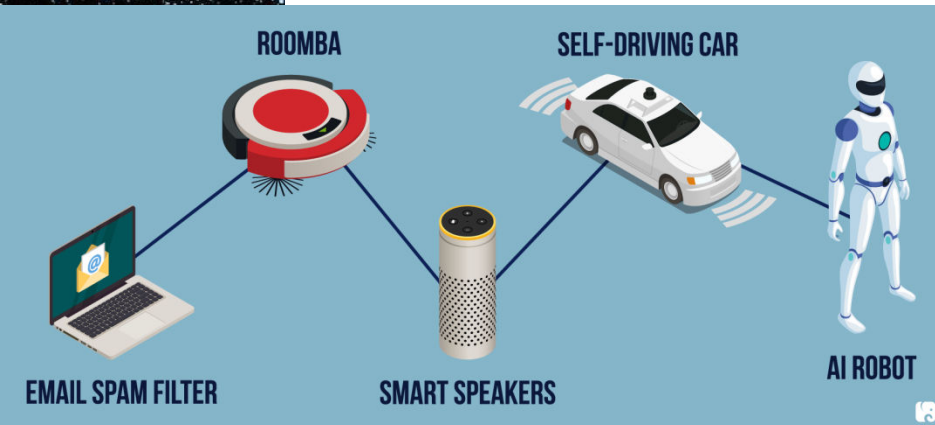
End of Cold War: Surplus of military personnel not needed anymore

USA, Russia and China did not ratify UN Mercenary Convention (2001)

Huge security market in Africa

Artificial Intelligence

Ability of an object to take adequate decisions taking into account its changing environment. May involve “learning”.



The ability of a machine to perceive, evaluate, and act more quickly and accurately than a human represents a competitive advantage in any field. AI will enable new levels of performance and autonomy for weapon systems. It will raise Ethical and Legal questions.

UN fading into irrelevance

Unable to prevent Conflicts



Freezing instead of Solving

- [MINURSO, Western Sahara](#)
- [MINUSCA, Central African Republic](#)
- [MINUSMA, Mali](#)
- [MONUSCO, D.R. of the Congo](#)
- [UNDOF, Golan](#)
- [UNFICYP, Cyprus](#)
- [UNIFIL, Lebanon](#)
- [UNISFA, Abyei](#)
- [UNMIK, Kosovo](#)
- [UNMISS, South Sudan](#)
- [UNMOGIP, India and Pakistan](#)
- [UNTSO, Middle East](#) (since 1948)



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Social media accelerates social fragmentation

In traditional Newspapers you are confronted with different opinions moderated by journalists



You get a broader vision

In Cyberspace media you filter what you want to read, no moderation exists and anonymous entities proliferate.



You may get polarized

Disruptive Entities



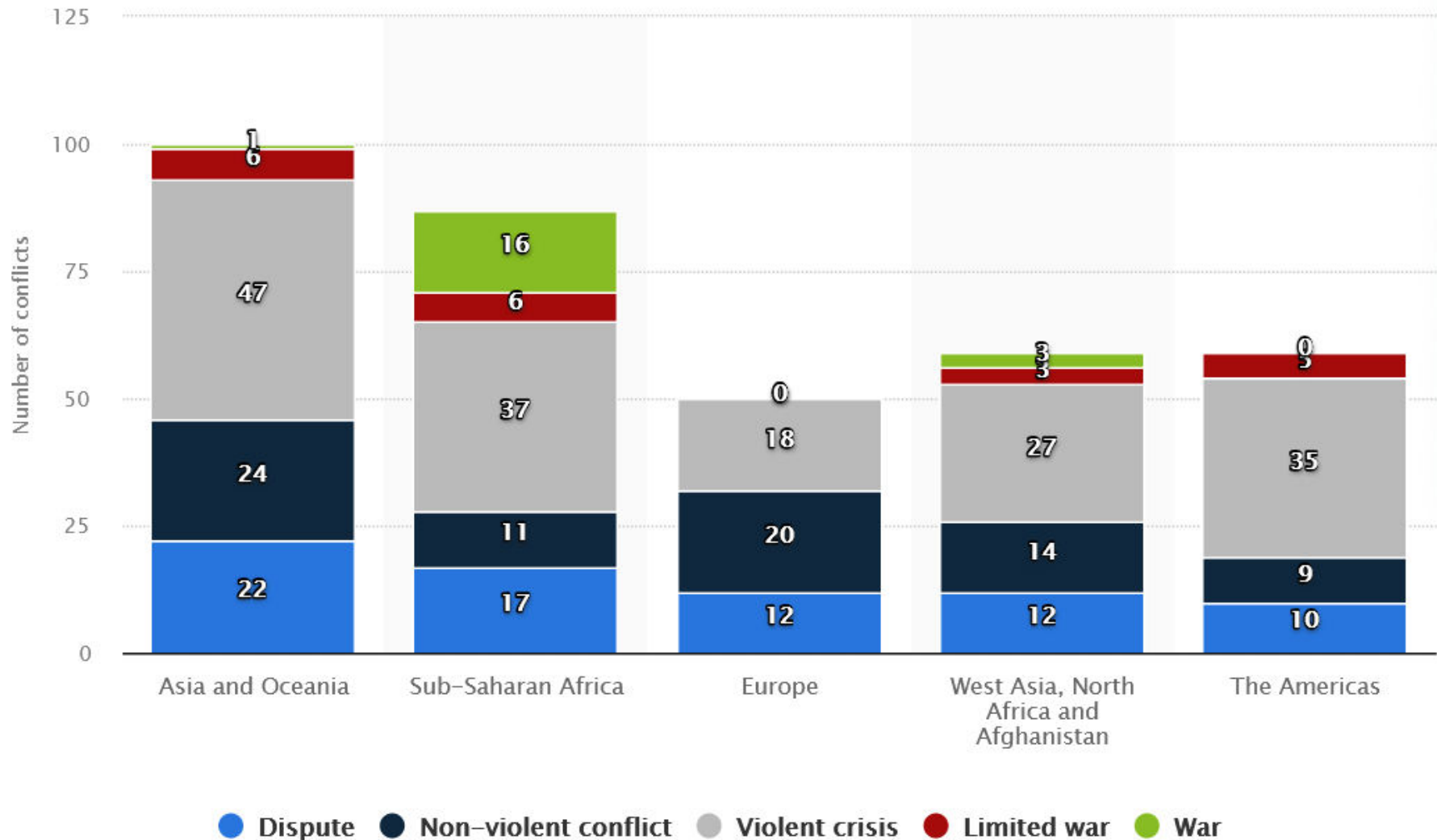
**In 2020 the Islamic State (IS) was involved
in 16 Conflicts !**

Frozen Conflicts: No final Political solution



2021: Number of Conflicts Worldwide

Source: STATISTA



Total: 73 78 164 18 20

This Conference is on the Web

1st Step – Google “Blog Arnaut”



Blog Arnaut



2nd Step – Click “Geopolítica”

Quinta dos Arnaut

Uma quinta sobre a montanha

[Blog](#)

[Arboreto](#)

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3rd Step – Look for “Conferências”

Conferências

2019_04_10 Universidade Nova: Uma Geopolítica Africana

Geopolítica de África v5

2019_04_03 Universidade Autónoma: O Crime Organizado Transnacional



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