

# Peace, War and the World in European Security Challenges



*Module 4 “Regional and national security: stability and potential conflicts”*

**Armed conflict as the part of the system of international relations**

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## Aim of Presentation

- To characterize an armed conflict according to theory of international relations
- To describe basic types of contemporary conflicts
- To describe possible solution of armed conflicts

## Agenda

- Key terms and conception of armed conflict
- Reasons of armed conflicts
- Conflict cycles and diagram of conflicts
- Dynamics of conflict
- Classification of armed conflicts
- Ways of conflict solution
- Trends in armed forces development



# Reasons of armed conflicts

- **Conflict of interests:**
  - conflict for territory – only on case, that there is some economical or political profit; if it is only symbolical, historical value, we speak about conflict of values
  - economical conflict – more possibilities, for example conflict for material sources, conflict for access to markets, trade roads
  - political conflict – enforcement of political aims like hegemony, geopolitical dominance (colonies, expanses) etc.
- **Conflicts of values:**
  - ethnical conflicts, religious conflicts, ideological conflicts

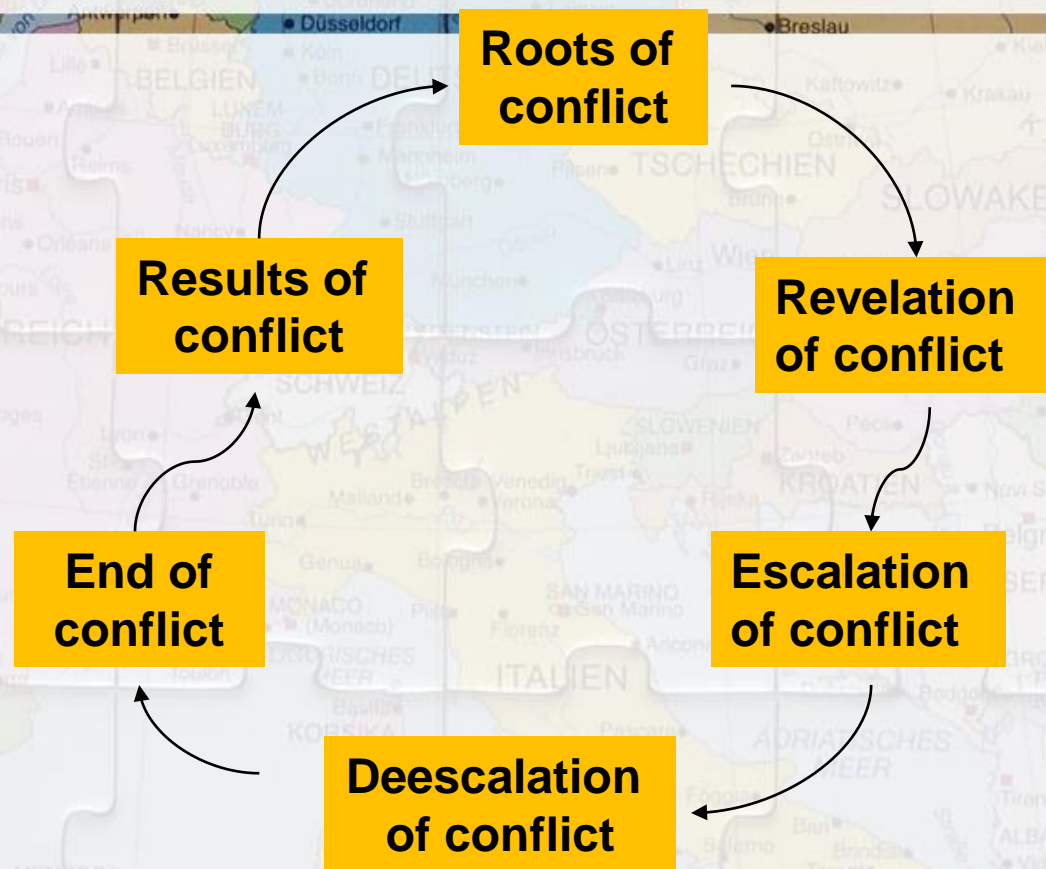
# Cycles of conflict

- **General determination:**
  - Conflict is social reality, when at least two parties are standing against each other (individuals, groups, states), which have diverse view on specific facts or different interests
- **Elements of political conflict:**
  - Different attitude to national values and topics (right on self-determination, state borders determination, ...), duration and depth, at least two parties, will to enforce own interests and to win, instruments – wide scales – negotiations, threat, pressure, demonstration, using of physical violence, war....



- Parts of conflict situation:
  - conflict behaviors, incompatibility of interests – arise as result of scarcity available properties
- Definition of conflict:
  - conflict is social situation, when at least two parties want to get at the same time certain limited sources.

## Cycles of conflict





## Cycles of conflict – The Cuban missile crisis/Caribbean crisis

**Criticism of USSR  
from China**

**Effort of USSR to improve  
global posture, ideology**

**Weak position of Khrushchev,  
hot line, peace coexistenc**

**Russian rockets  
in Cuba**

**Removal of missiles from Cuba,  
Promise of USA not attack**

**Sea blockade, USA ultimatum  
Russian request to remove  
missiles from Turkey**

**Russia accepts  
conditions of USA**

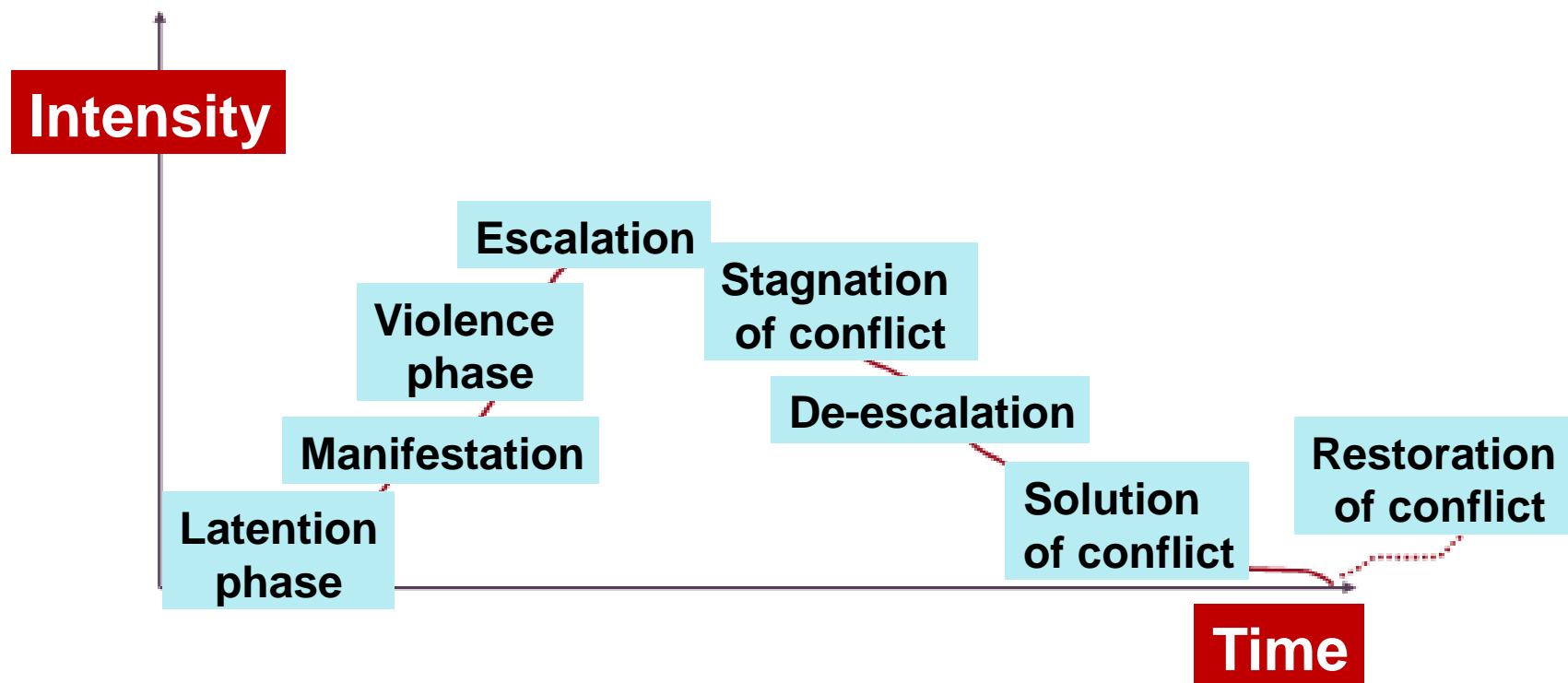


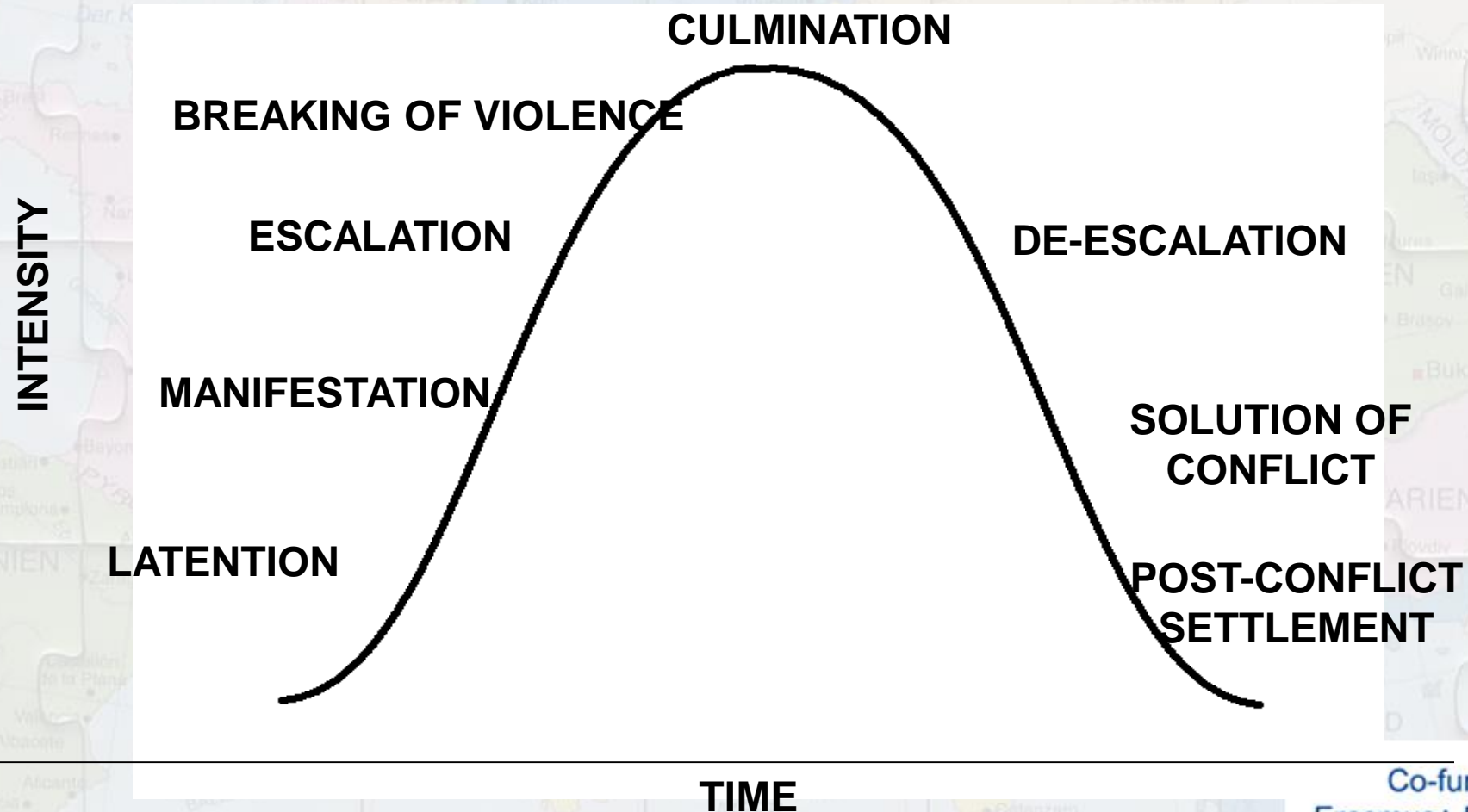
## The Curve of Conflict



- Latention
- Manifestation
- Escalation
- Dead point
- De-escalation
- Solution
- Peace building









- **Background of conflict**

Geopolitical and economical position of parties, history of mutual relations....

- **Function of players**

States, revolution or rebel groups, movement for independence, international organizations etc.

- **Caused of conflict**

What is object of conflict

# Classification of Armed Conflicts

- **Conflicts of systems**
  - Aims, interests, rules and structures determine international relations and adjust new rules: 30-years war, WWI, WWII, conflict East – West (possibility to change basic aspects)
- **International conflicts**
  - Conflicts between groups – state actors. They occur in environment of international system, which determines basic standards and rules (Gran Chaco, Malvinas/Falkland islands etc.). These conflicts change relations among actors, development and negotiations are tied by international norms
- **Intrastate conflicts**
  - Inside of states. Roots of conflict are related to state or government. (war for independence or civil war). If there are some another external factors involved to conflict (diplomatically, economically, but not military) we can talk about intrastate conflict under external influence



## Classification According to Intensity

- Latent conflict
- Crisis
  - Mostly non-violent development
- Serious crisis
  - Mostly violent development
- Wars
  - Longtime organized armed violence between parties with approximately the same capabilities and power, who have to face to serious material and life losses

# Classification of Armed Conflicts

- **minor conflict**
  - Min. 25 dead, less than 1000 dead in period of whole conflict
- **major conflict**
  - More than 1000 dead during the conflict, but more than 25 and less than 1000 within one year
- **war**
  - At least 1000 dead within one year



# Classification of armed conflicts

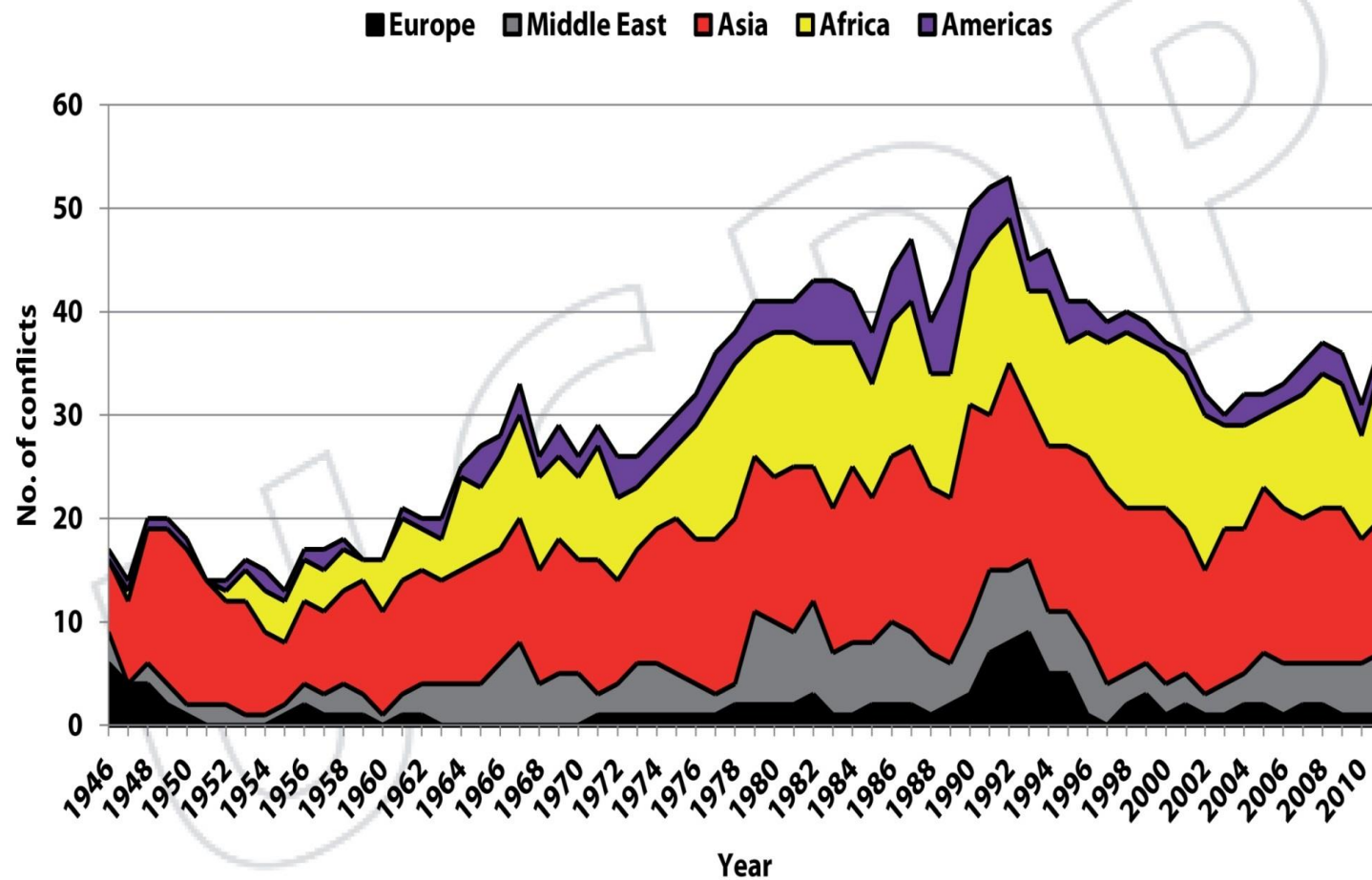
- **State conflicts (state actor is actor of conflict as well)**
  - International conflict
  - Intrastate conflict (state versus internal enemy – civil war, art armed movement)
  - Internationalized intrastate conflict (state versus opposition group with external support)
  - external armed conflict (state versus non-state actor outside of own territory)
- **Non-state conflicts**
  - organized armed violence, any of the fighting parties is internationally recognized state subject (conflicts between communities, clans, tribes, warlord)

# Classification of armed conflicts

- Specification has only orientation character
- Many of conflicts have aspects international and intra-national
- Intrastate conflict could obtain international dimensions and opposite
- Very often intrastate conflict could change to international conflict (conflict could expand to neighboring country DRC or could escalate to intervention of regional states or intra-national community)
- Could occur frequent changes, example Afghanistan (1979-2014)



## Armed Conflicts by Region, 1946-2011

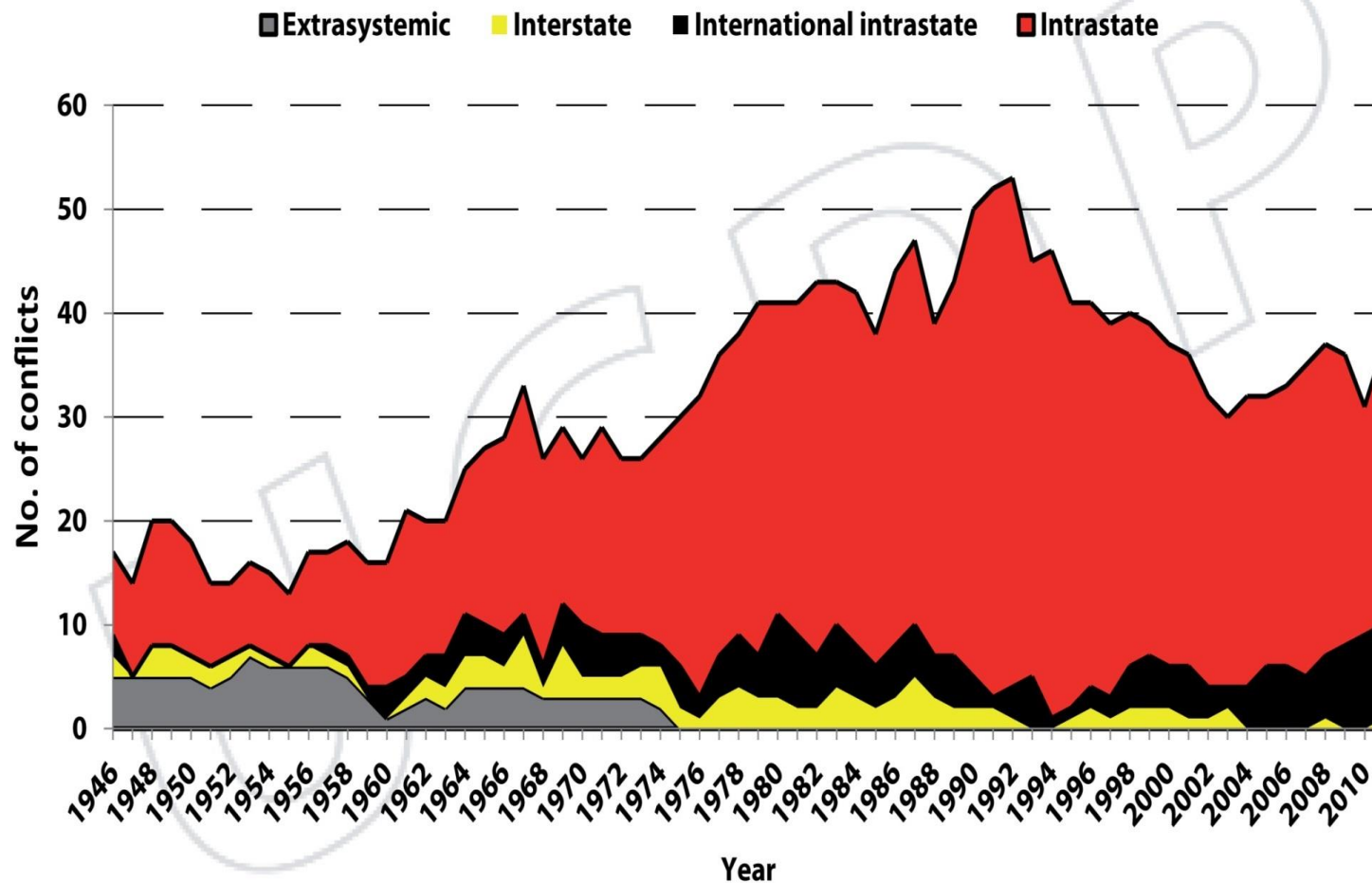


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## Armed Conflicts by Type, 1946-2011

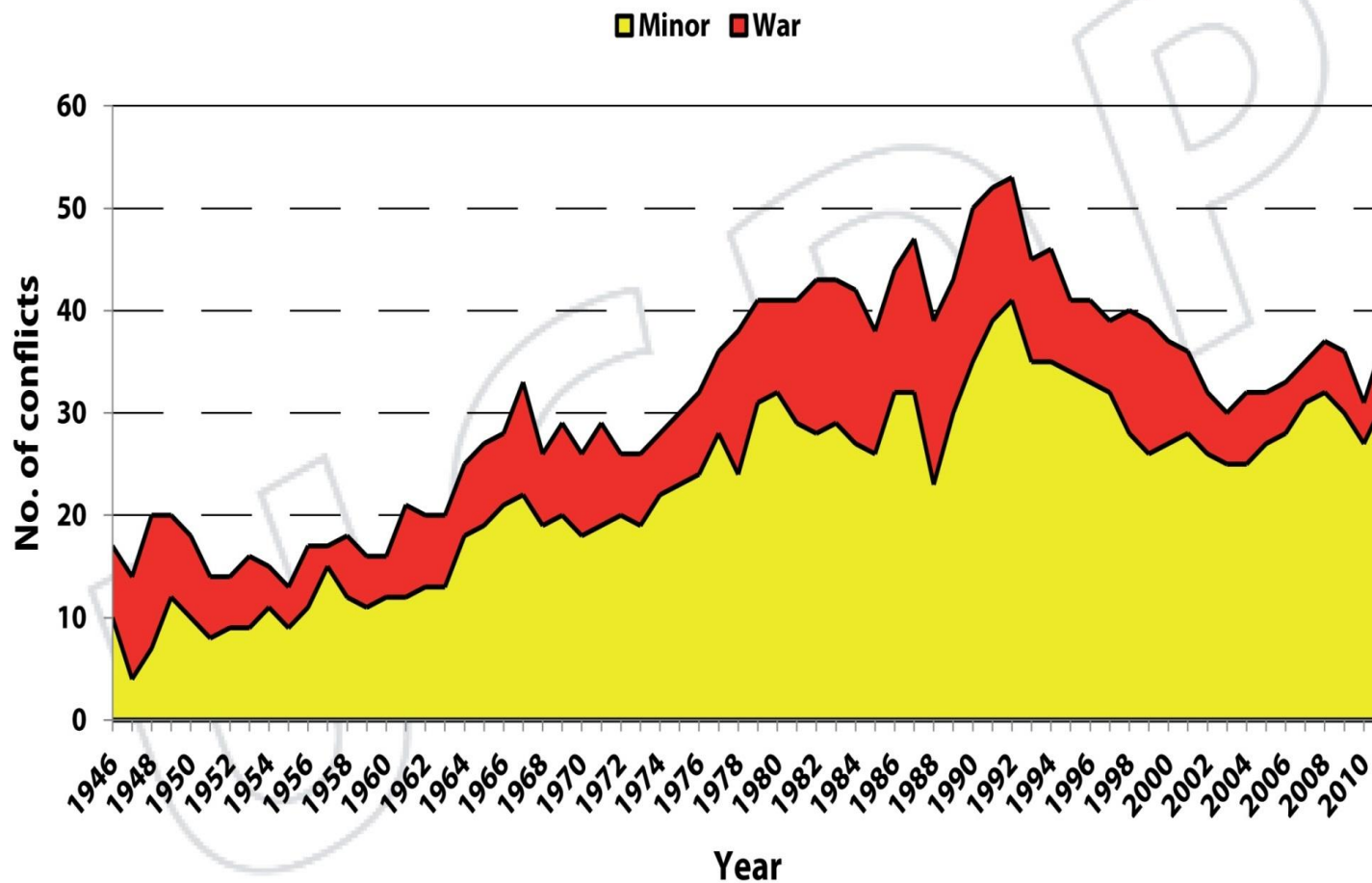


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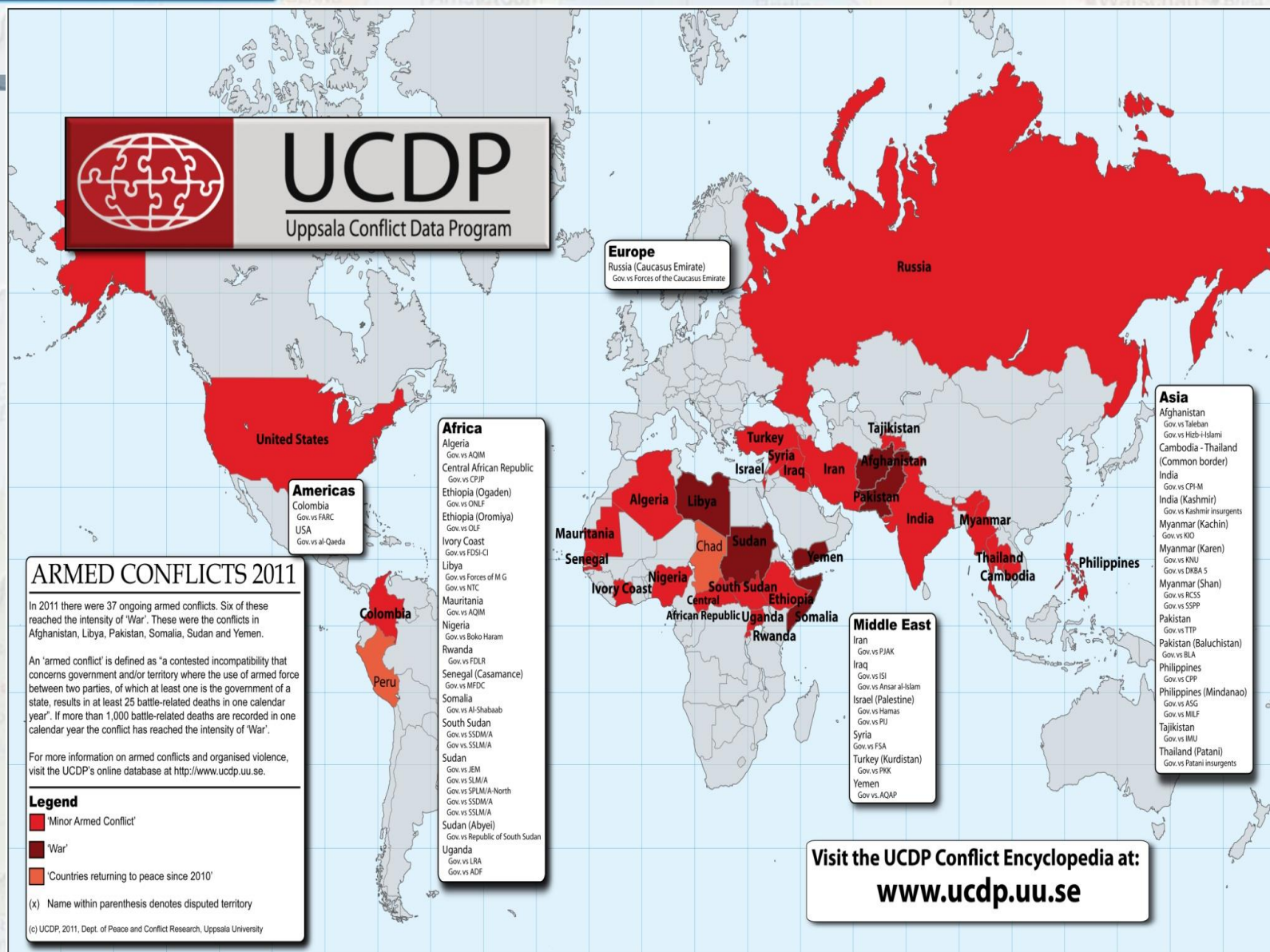
## Armed Conflicts by Intensity, 1946-2011



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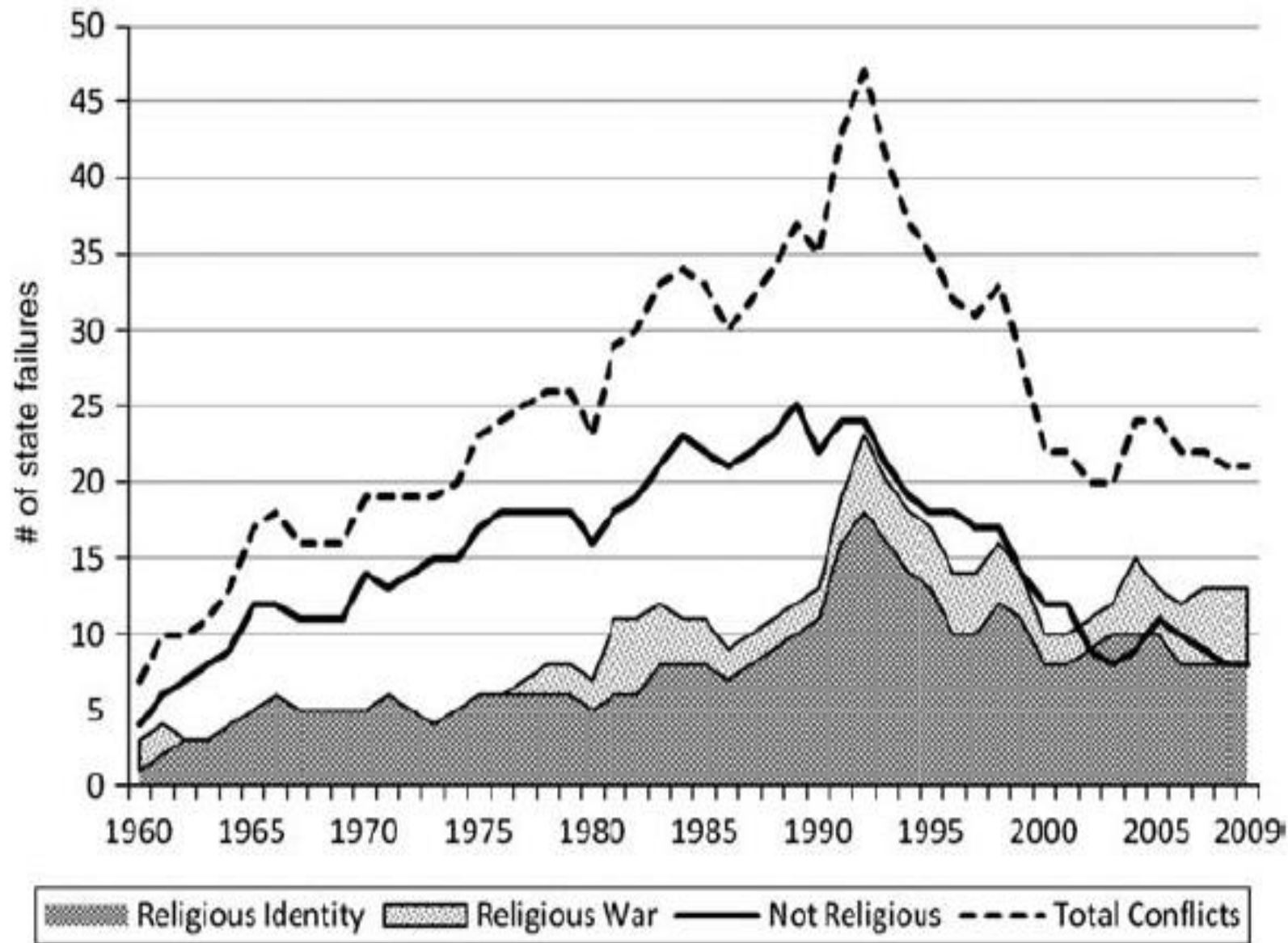
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## Religious conflicts



## Conflicts Solution: Possibilities

- Peace agreement
- Victory of one party
- Other result
  - For example ceasefire
- Prevention – peacekeeping
  - arbitrage tribunal
- Separation of problematic property
  - 1494 Tordesillas – Spanish and Portuguese definitions of interested areas
  - 1976 UK/Island – Codfish war, new definitions of fishing territories



## Conflicts Solution: Possibilities

- Shared supervision
  - Potentially area of the Arctic
- External supervision
  - NATO, EU: BiH, Kosovo
- Forced intervention of third party
  - Peace enforcement, Peacekeeping
- Postpone of solution
  - Soviet Union(Russia)/Japan – dispute over Kuril islands, not solved since 1945



# Trends in Armed Conflicts Development

- Since 1970 significant decreasing of international conflict in global measure
- Increasing of not-direct looses
- Ethnical and religious differences are now stronger than ideological
- Diminishing of differences between state actors and private combatants
- Conflicts take place in context of failed states and transforming societies (result of globalization)
- Limited conflict – geographical, political, technological limits

