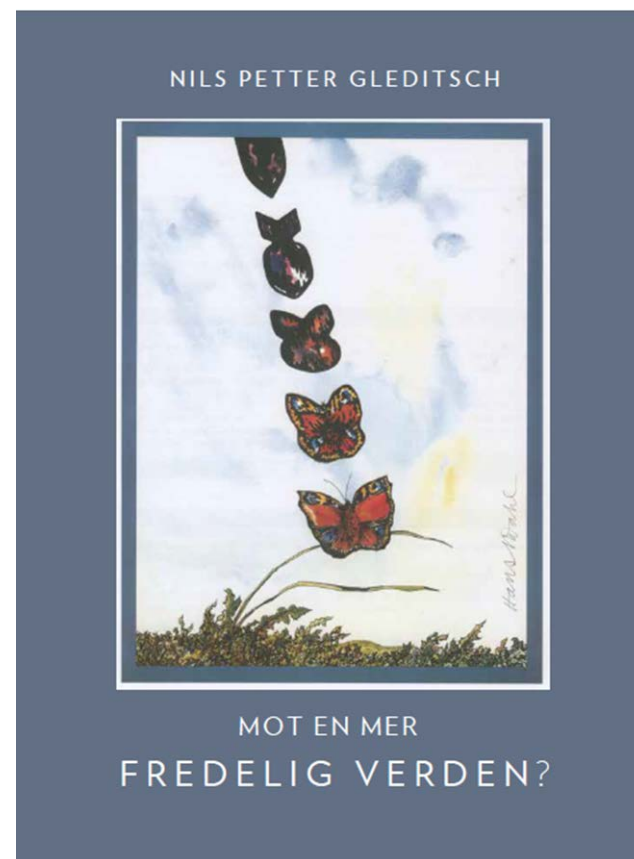


Towards a more peaceful world?

Pax et Bellum, Uppsala
Wednesday 8 November 2017

Nils Petter Gleditsch

Peace Research Institute Oslo &
Department of Sociology and Political Science,
Norwegian University for Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim



Homs, Syria, April 2017



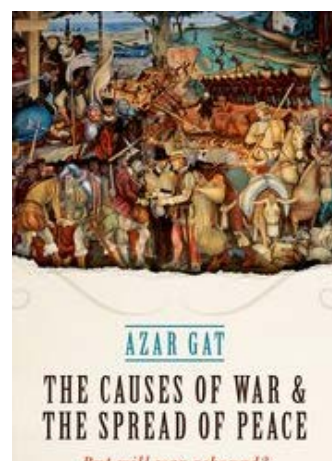
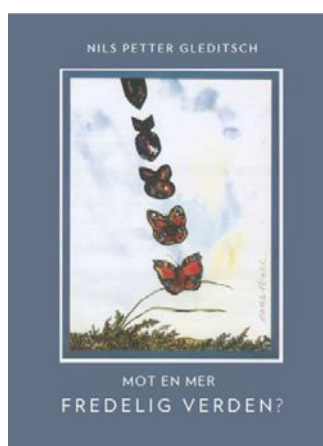
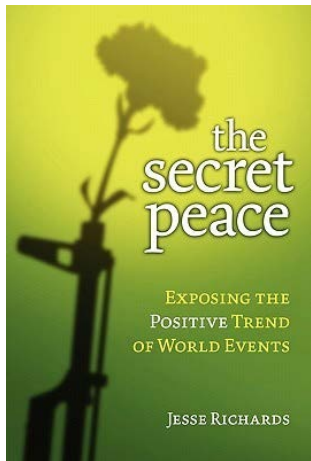
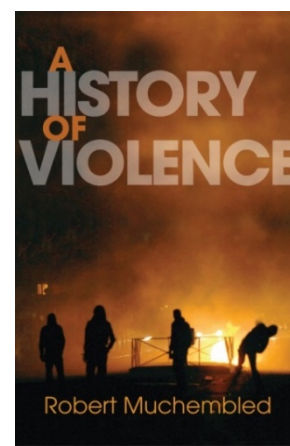
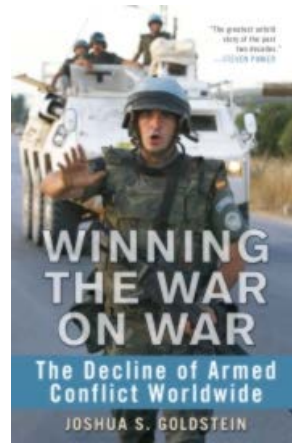
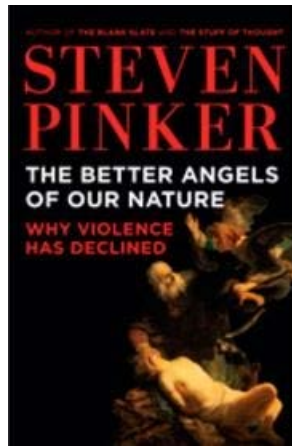
Stockholm, 7 April 2017



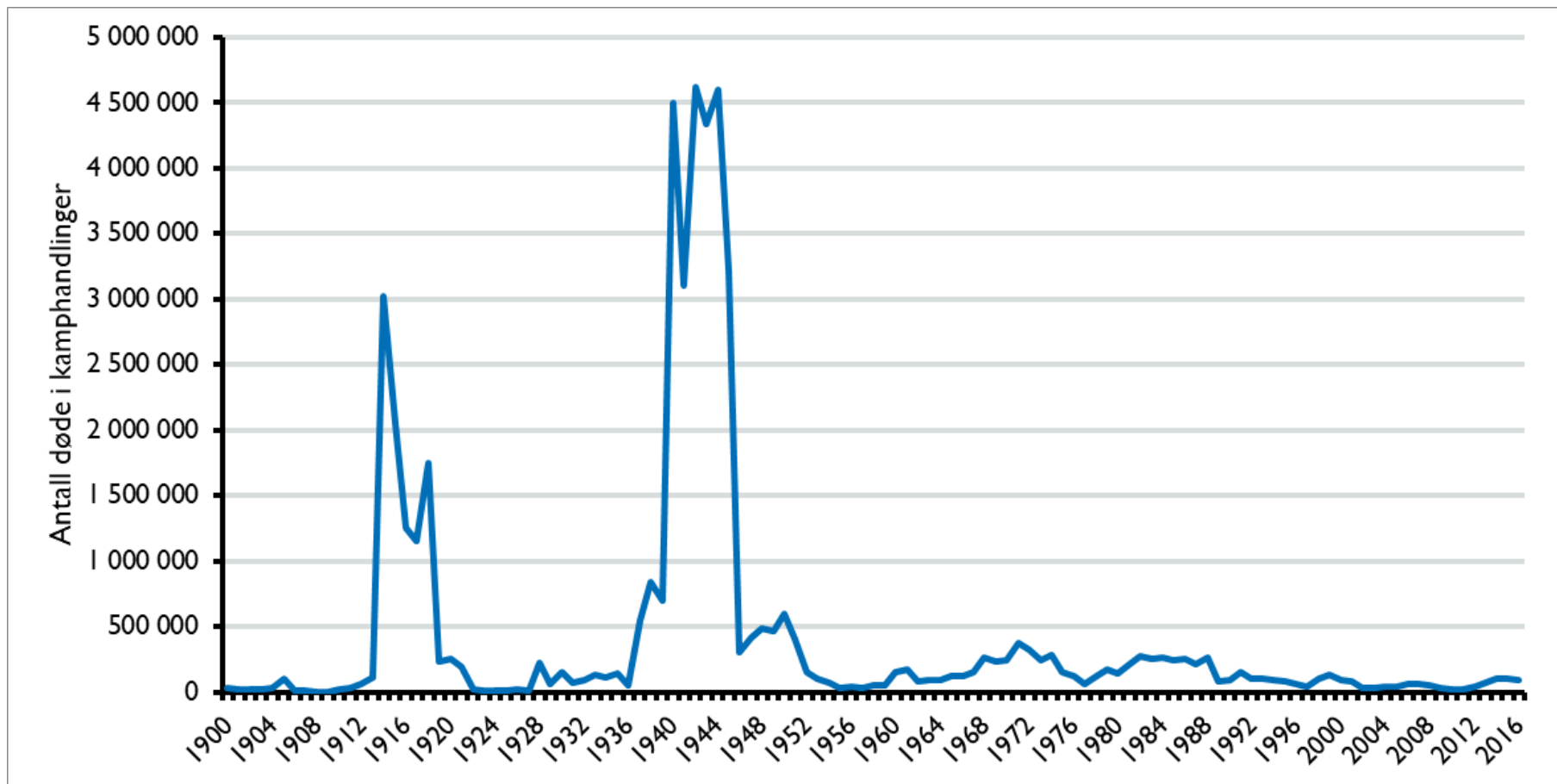
Not yet a peaceful world ...

- Since the Second World War we have had
 - 280 armed conflicts
 - in 157 different countries and territories
 - with 600 different pairs of actors (states or insurgencies)
- These include all armed conflicts with
 - at least 25 battle-related deaths in a calendar-year
 - between two organized parties
 - at least one of which is a state
 - the loss of civilians as well as combatants
 - in *internal* as well as *international* conflicts
- In 2016: 49 armed conflicts in 35 countries

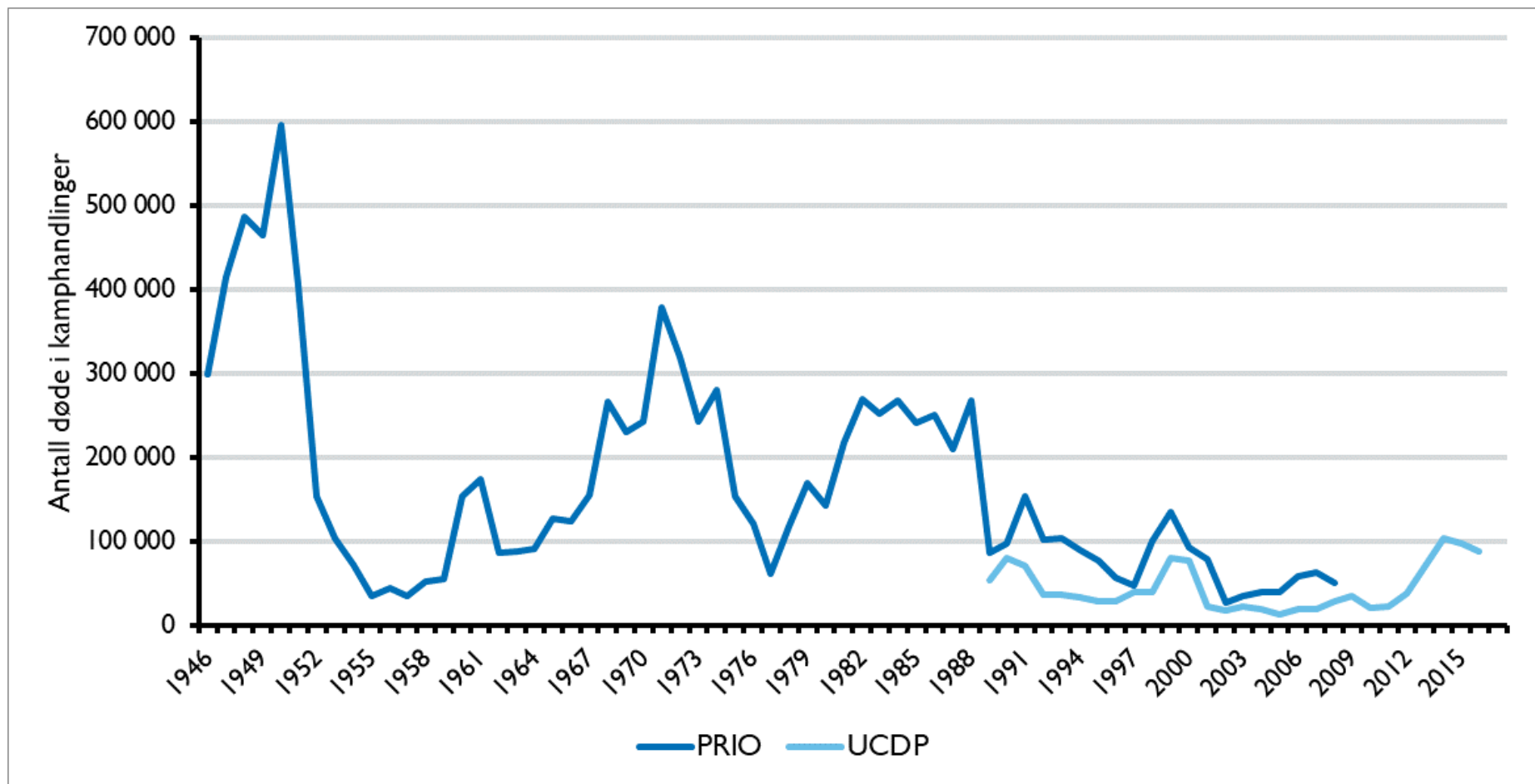
Even so ... a number of books about the decline of war and violence ...



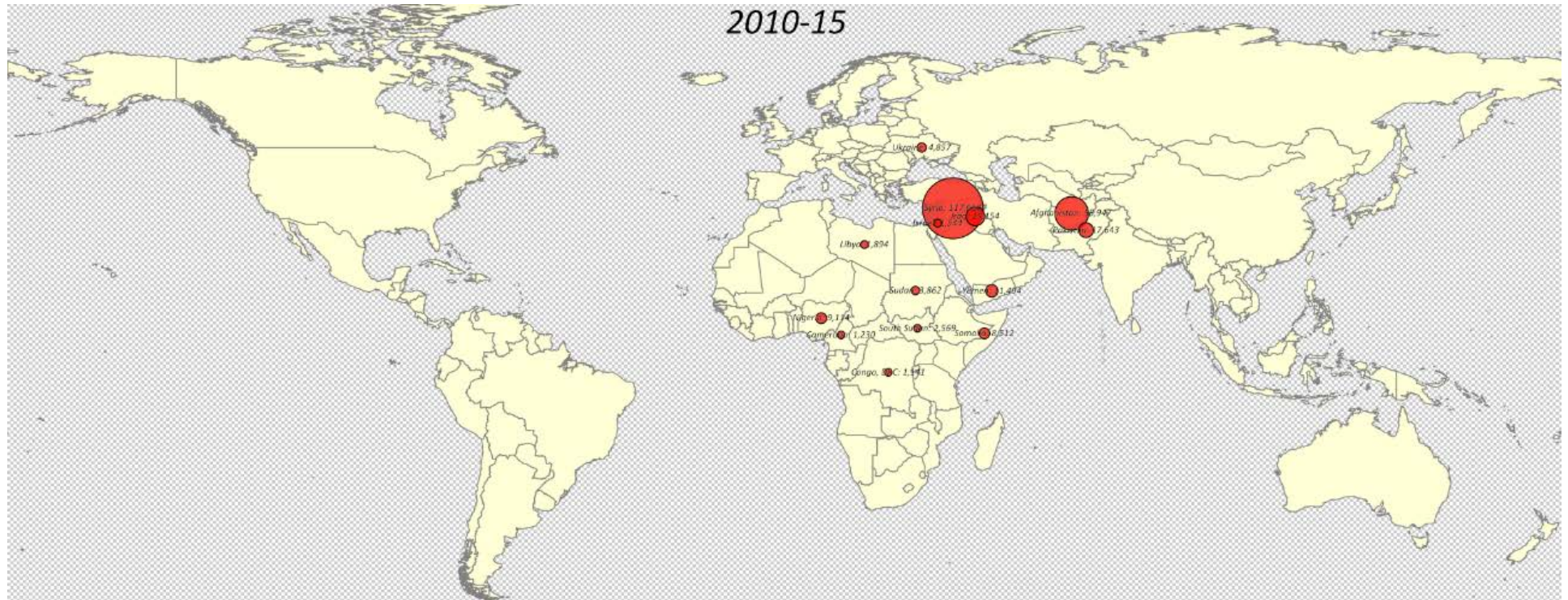
Battle-related deaths 1900–2016



Battle-related deaths 1946–2016



Battle-related deaths, 2010–15

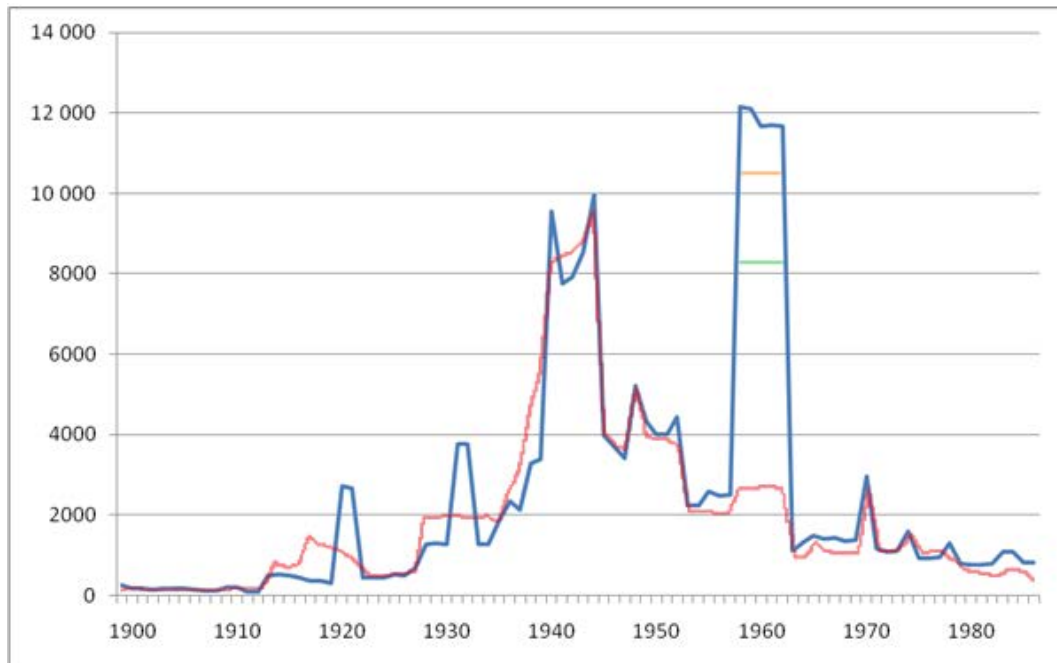


OK, but what about ...

- The long-term effects of war

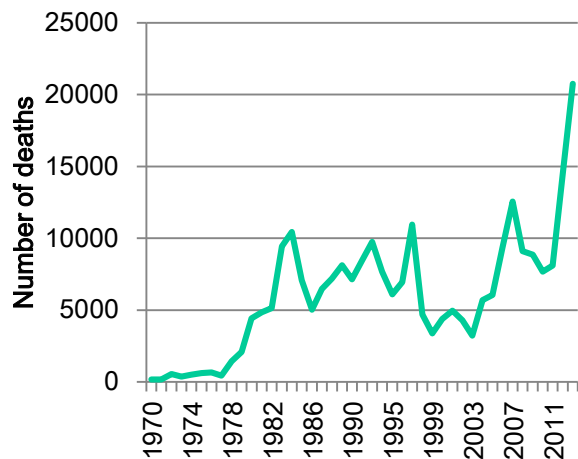
OK, but what about ...

- The long-term effects of war
- **Genocide, politicide, one-sided violence**

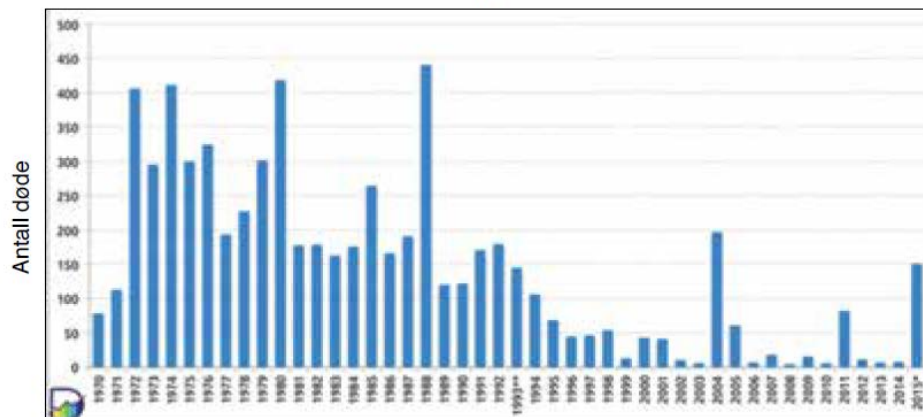


OK, but what about ...

- The long-term effects of war
- Genocide, pliticide, and one-sided violence
- **Terrorism**



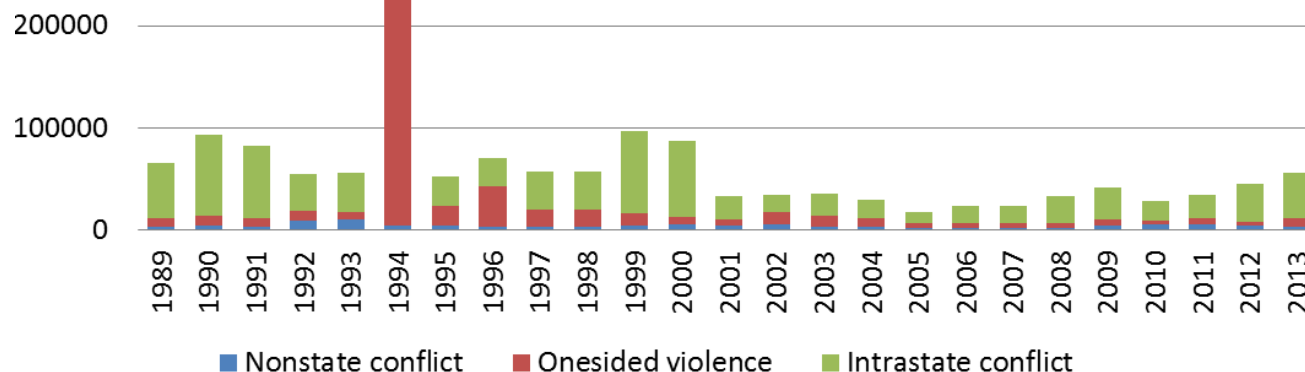
No. of deaths in terrorism, 1991–2013



Deaths in terrorism, W. Europe 1970–2015

OK, but what about ...

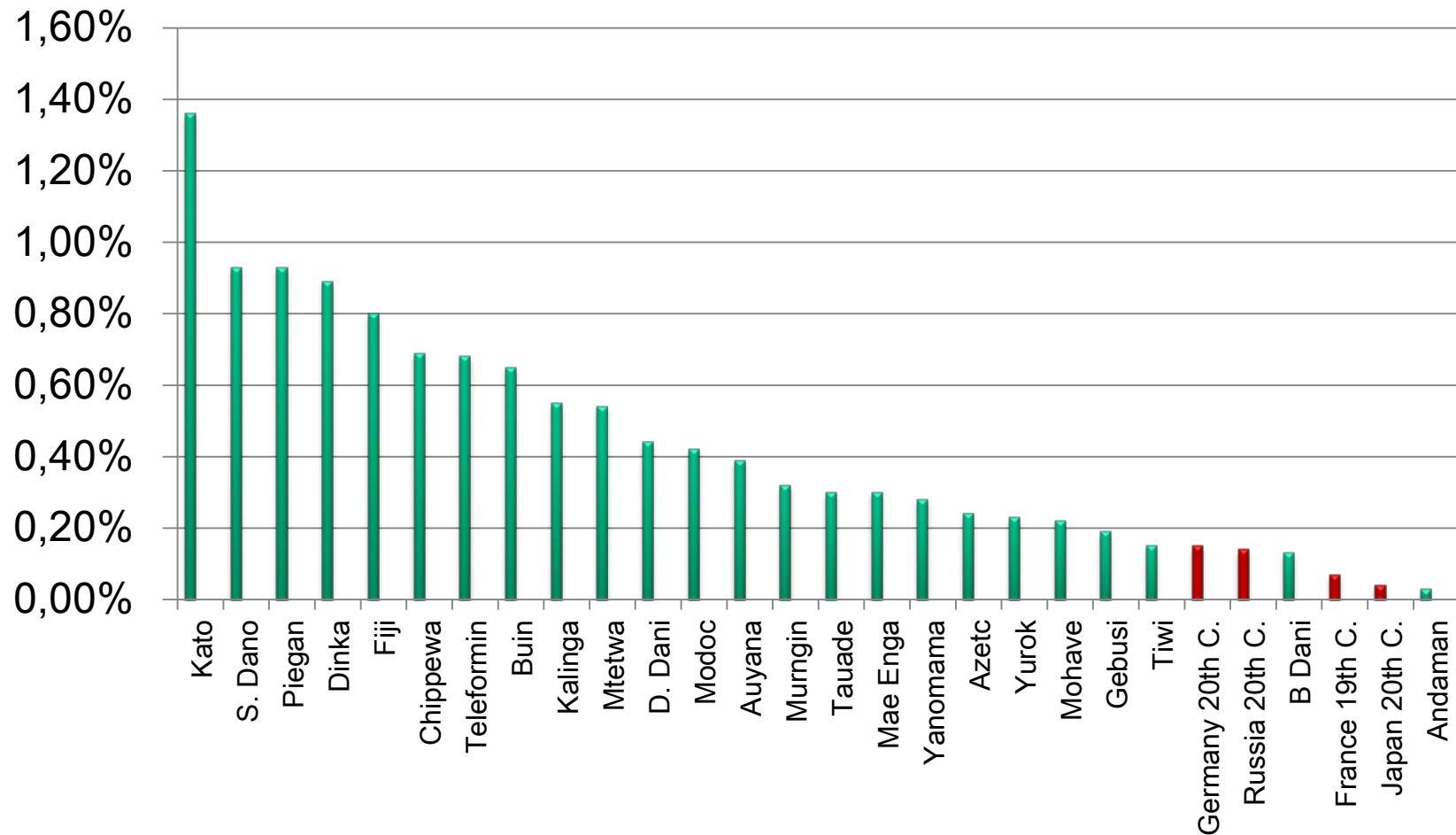
- The long-term effects of war
- Genocide, politicide, and one-sided violence
- Terrorism
- **Group conflicts**



OK, but what about ...

- The long-term effects of war
- Geocide, politicide, and one-sided violence
- Terrorism
- Group conflicts
- The 'good old days'

Modern and pre-historic warfare



A decline of violence, not only in ...

- War, genocide, group conflicts
- But also
 - murders and other violent crime
 - the use of the death penalty and other cruel punishment
 - torture
- Not a linear decline
- Much backsliding
- And not in parallel fashion everywhere

Why a more peaceful world?

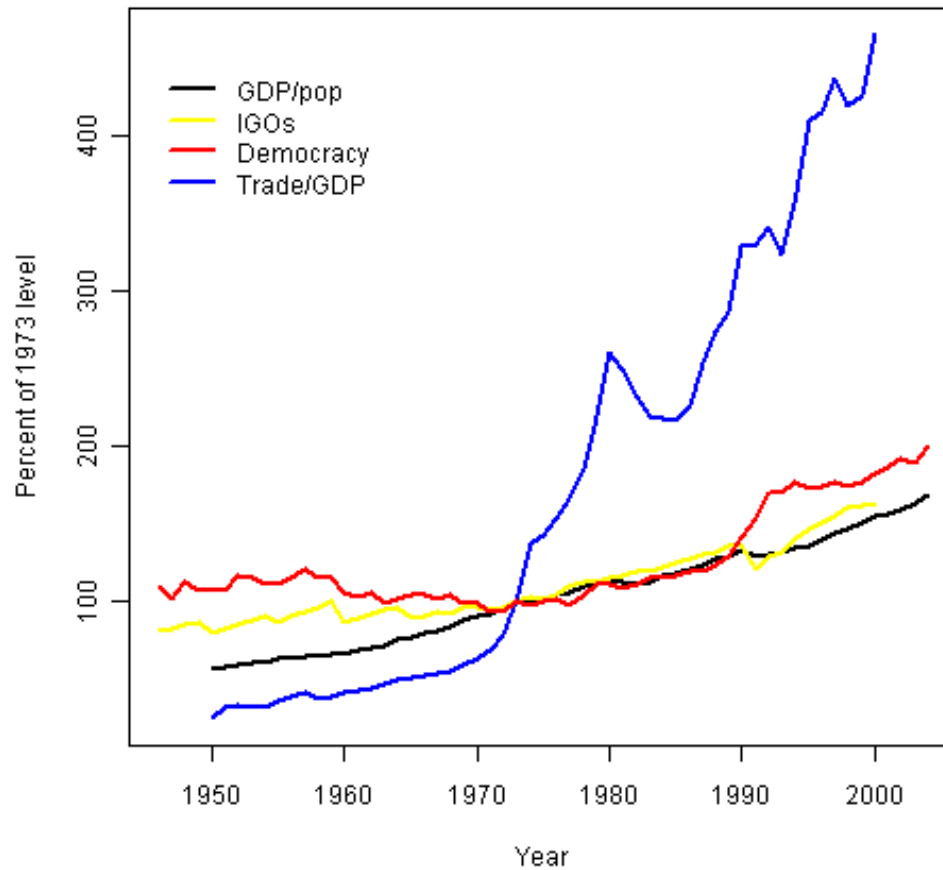
- in the long run

- Humans are neither intrinsically warlike or peaceful
- They have competing warlike and peaceful impulses
- The peaceful impulses have been strengthened by social factors
- The emergence of states
- A civilizing process
- The empathy circle has been extended

- in the short term

- The Cold War is over
- International peacekeeping
- The liberal peace

The liberal peace?



Challenges to the liberal peace

The secular peace – the cash of civilizations

- conflict increasingly follows religious lines of division

The unipolar peace

- new major powers will fight Western hegemony

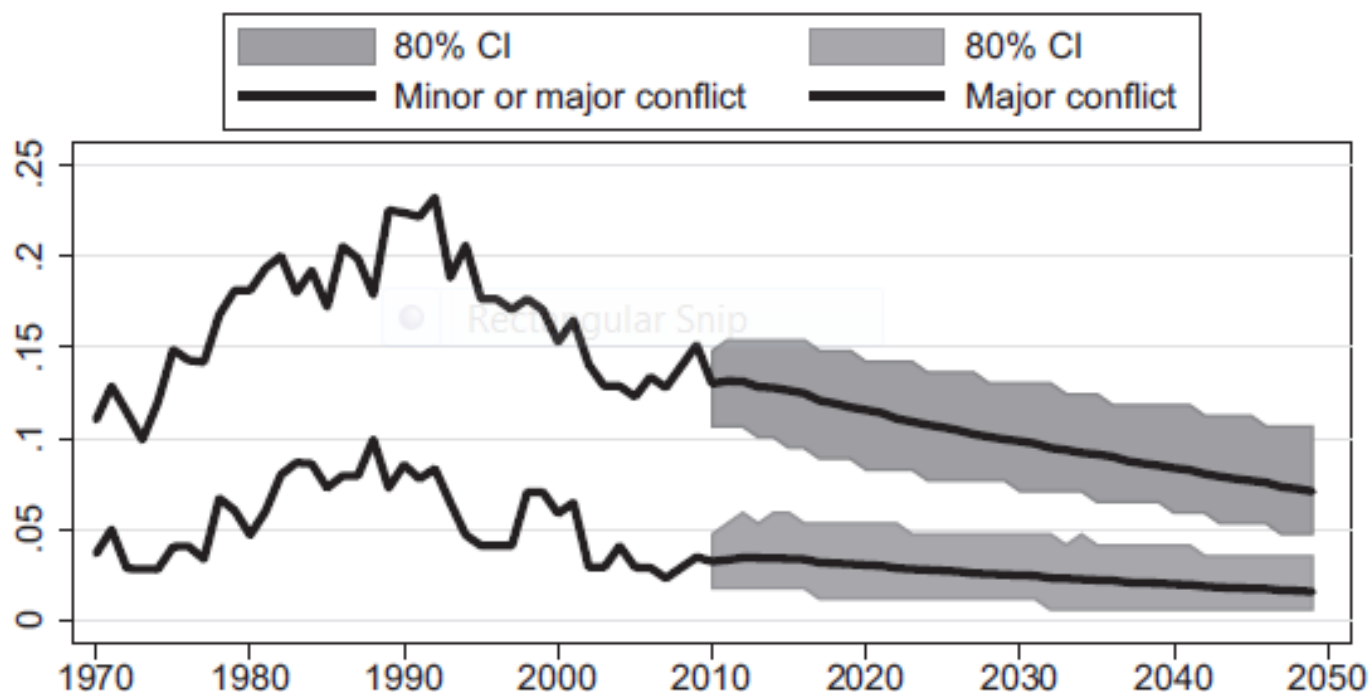
The unjust peace

- arise, ye wretched of the earth!

The unsustainable peace

- conflict as a consequence of environmental change,
notably climate change

An optimistic vision of the future



A reduction of the share of countries with internal conflicts 2009–50:

- a reduction by 50% in the incidence of war (> 1000 døde): from 3,5% to 1,6%
- a reduction by 50% in the incidence of armed conflict (> 25 døde): from 15,1% to 7,1%

The gray area corresponds to an 80% confidence interval

A caveat

- War is a rare event
- It follows a power-law
- The Long Peace since 1946 is not unique
- We cannot rule out that it is an accident
- Until it has lasted 150 years or so

Nevertheless ...

- The decline is real
- Large wars have been unusually rare
- War has not kept up with population growth
- Many forms of violence are declining at the same time
- We have a theoretical basis for the decline

Kenneth Boulding: Three faces of power

- Threat power (destruction)
- Exchange power (economic gain)
- Integrative power (legitimacy)

Integrative power



- or?



Thank you for your attention!