

# **“Approaches to and Causes of State Failure” Societal Systems Analysis: Discontinuities and Risk Surfaces**

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**“States at Risk – Stabilization and State-Building by External Intervention”**

**Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace**

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# Integrated Network for Societal Conflict Research



Societal/Systemic Armed Conflict and Influence Networks



Ethnopolitical Group Status and Action



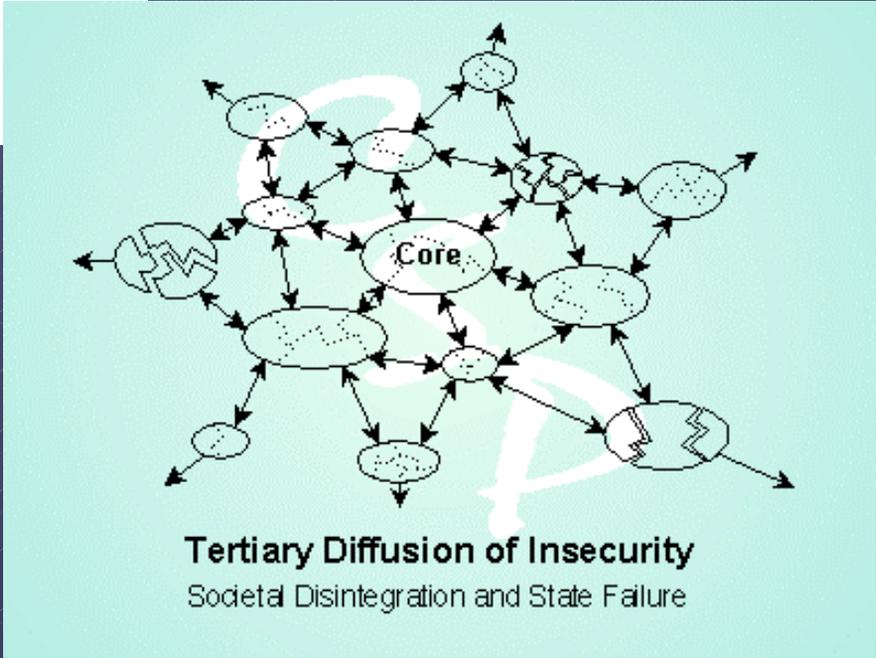
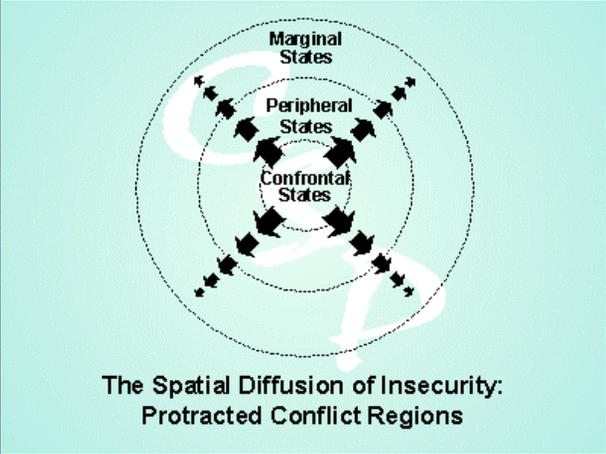
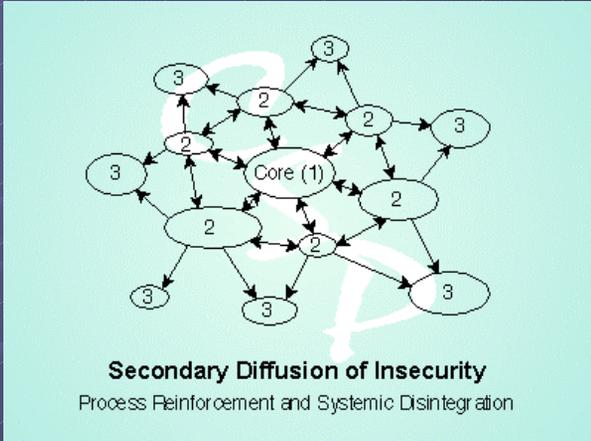
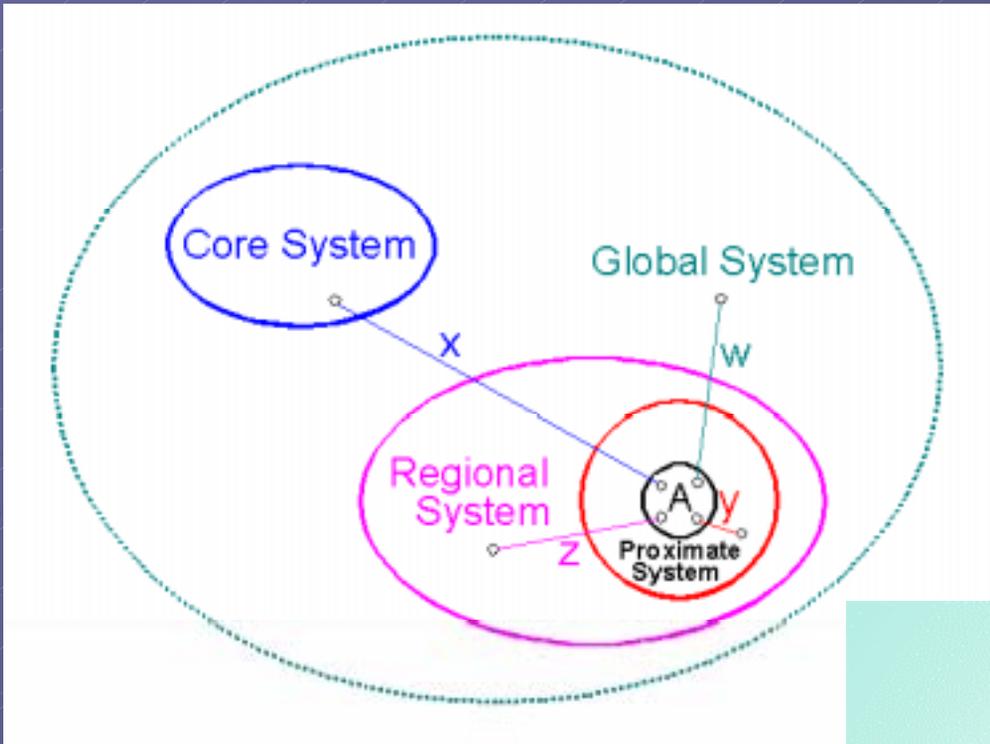
Regime Characteristics and Transitions



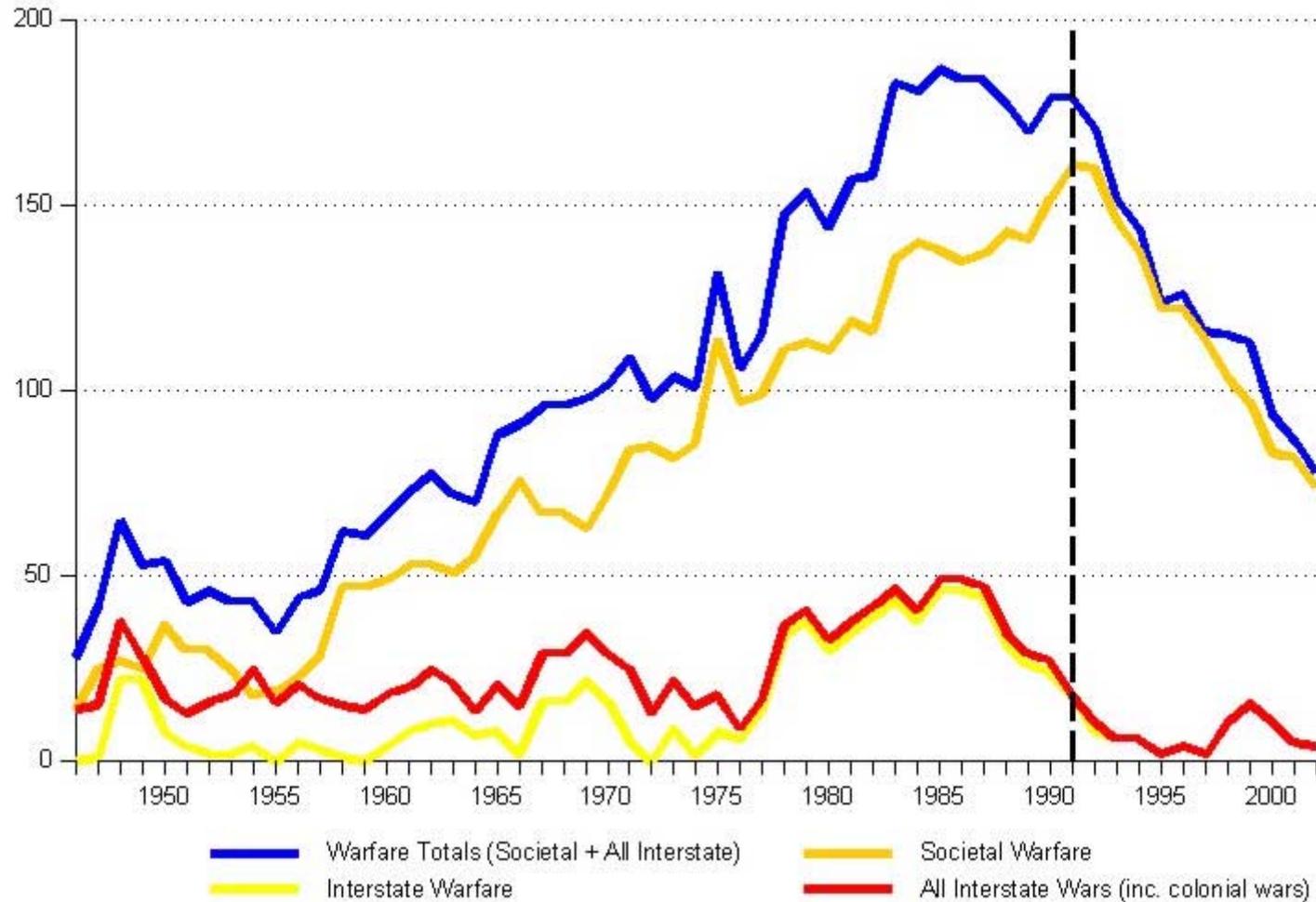
Systemic Analysis and Early Warning

# Armed Conflict and Intervention (ACI)

- Monitors and records general parameters of serious armed conflicts in all countries of the world annually since 1946; updated annually
- Interstate and intrastate wars (including interstate wars and revolutionary, ethnic, genocidal, and communal armed violence)
- Systems Analysis: Complex intervention and influence structures and dynamics (including general insecurity, refugee flows, military intervention, arms transfers, foreign support, political interaction events, bilateral trade flows, and international organizations)
- Spatial Analysis: Mapping “neighborhood effects”

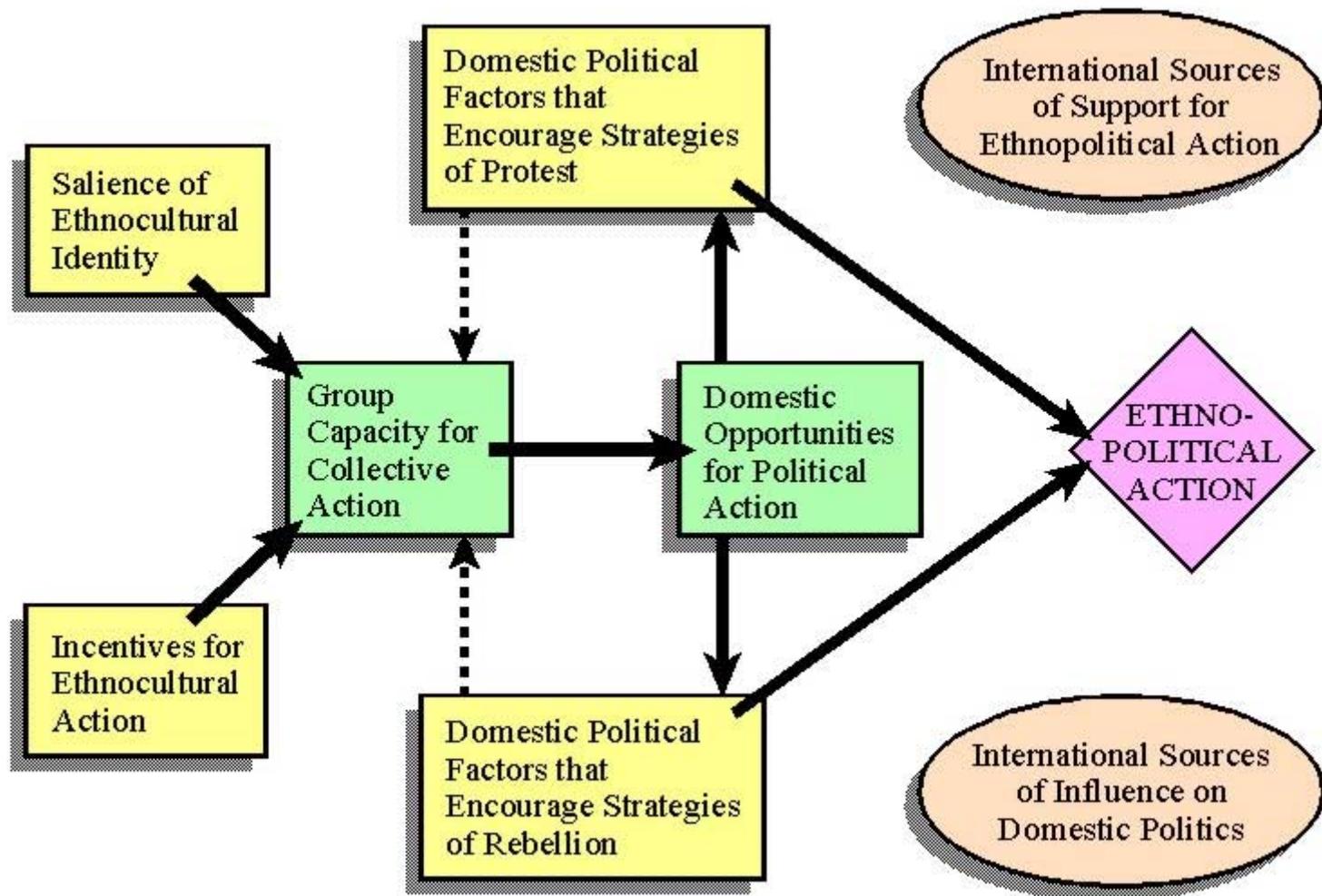


## Global Trends in Violent Conflict, 1946-2002



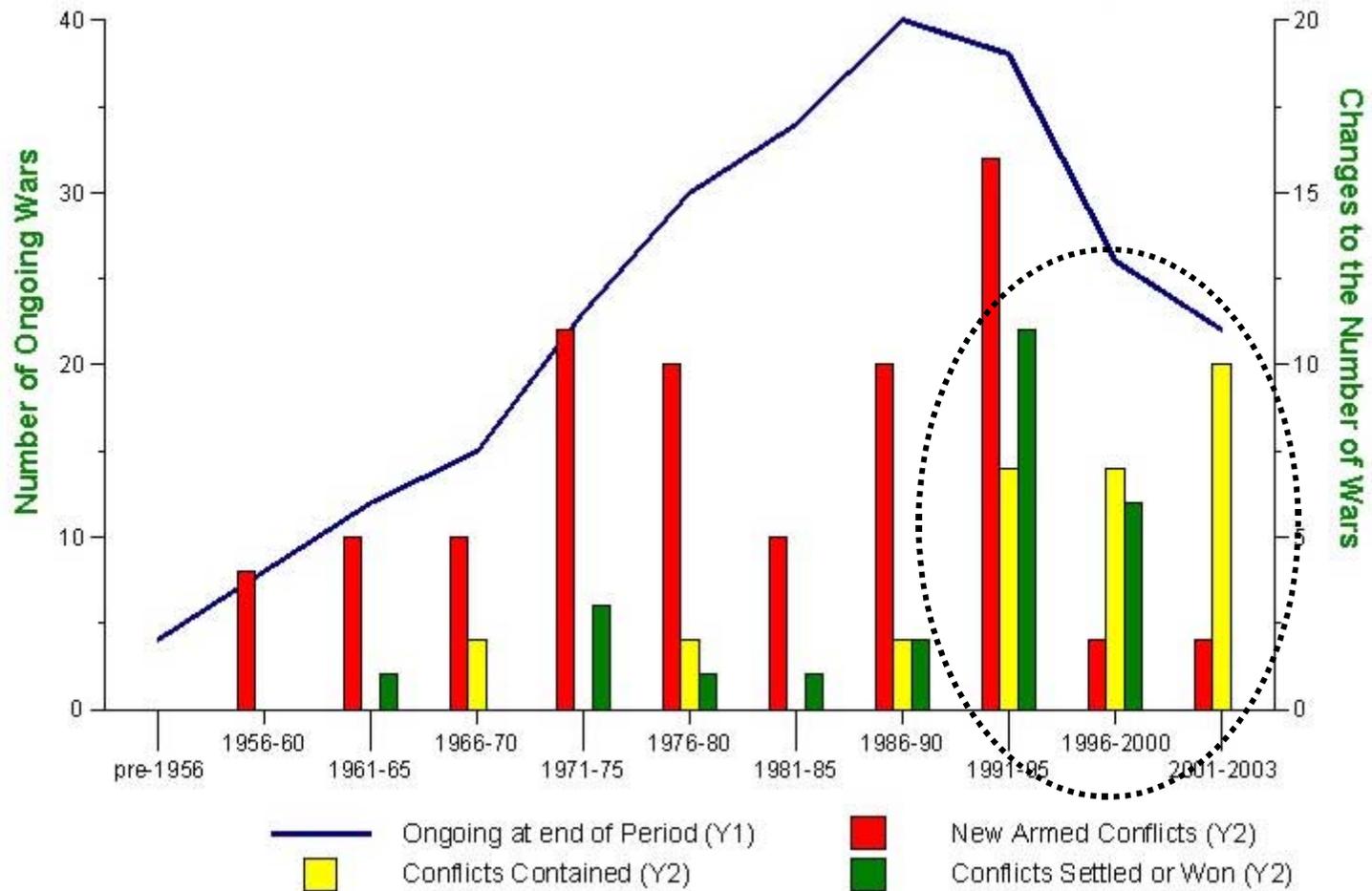
# Minorities at Risk (MAR)

- Monitors 285 current minority groups in 118 countries (plus 42 historical groups; 327 total); 42 countries have no groups listed
- “Minorities at Risk” groups must experience differential status or actively promote group interests
- Minority group size threshold: 100,000 population or 1% of total population (number of groups range from 0-11)
- Multiple indicators covering group characteristics and status; differentials, restrictions, and discrimination; organization, collective interests, and sources of transnational support; and group conflict behavior (factional, communal, protest, rebellion, and repression)
- Narrative descriptions and risk assessments



## Assessing the Risks of Future Ethnic Wars

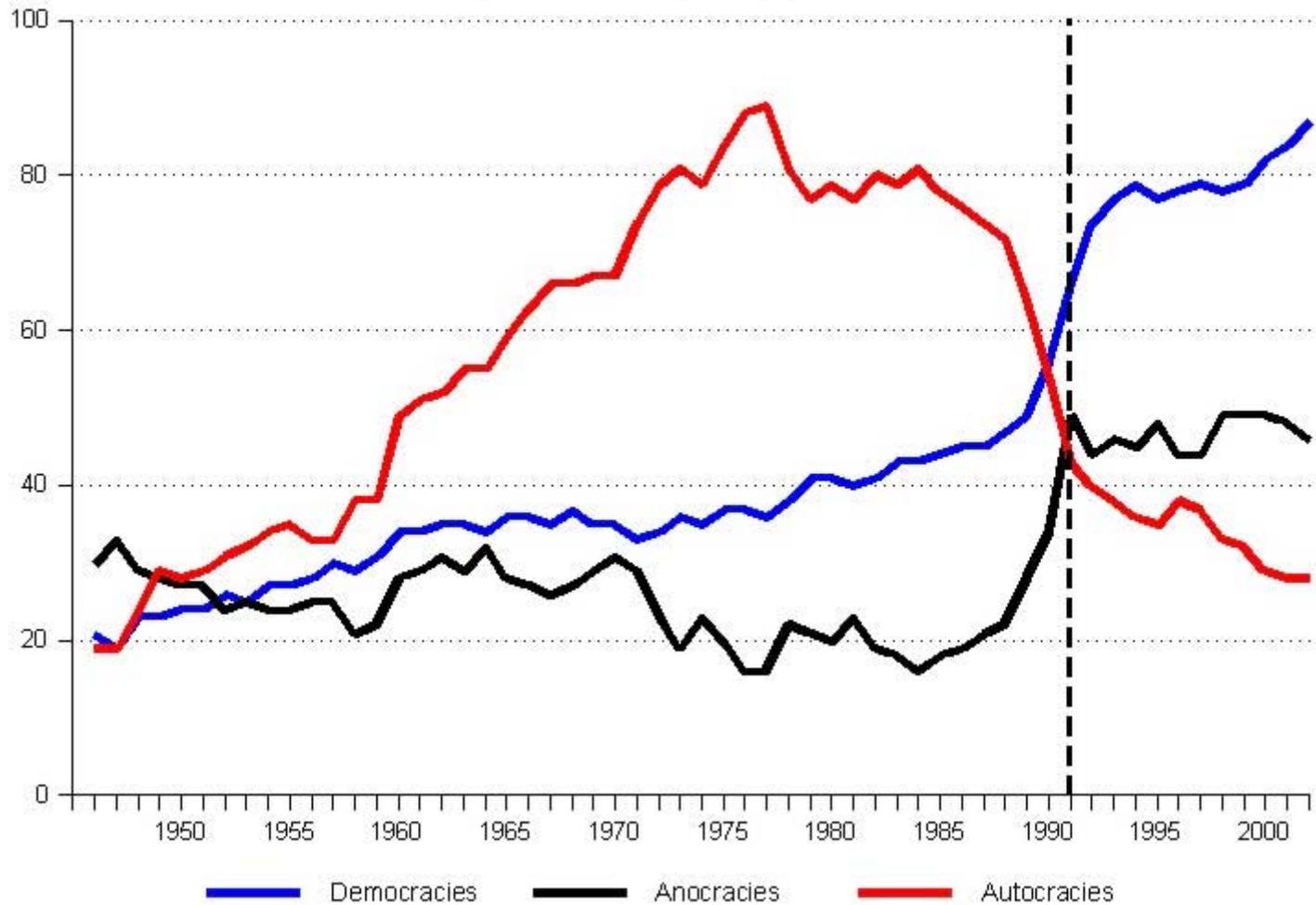
## Trends in Armed Conflicts for Self-Determination, 1956-2002



# Polity IV

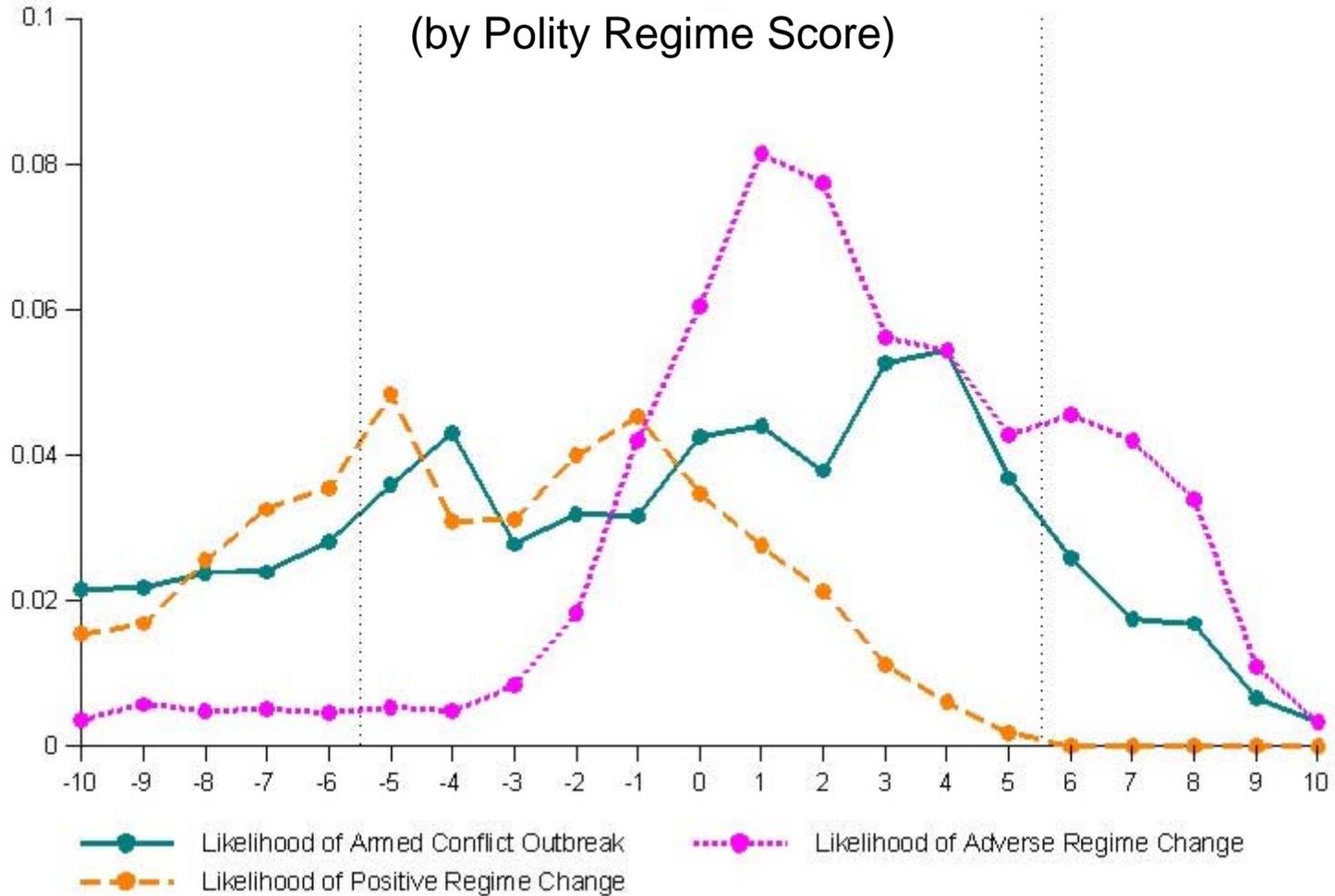
- Regime authority characteristics: annual time-series and “polity-case” formats, updated annually
- Covers all independent states (> 500,000 pop. in most recent year), 1800-2002
- “Patterns of Authority” // Societal Conflict
  - Executive recruitment, executive constraints, and political competition
  - Conceptual variables, regime transitions, narrative descriptions, trends graphs
- Polity Scale: Fully institutionalized autocracy to fully institutionalized democracy (anocracy/incoherent authority)

## Global Regimes by Type, 1946-2002



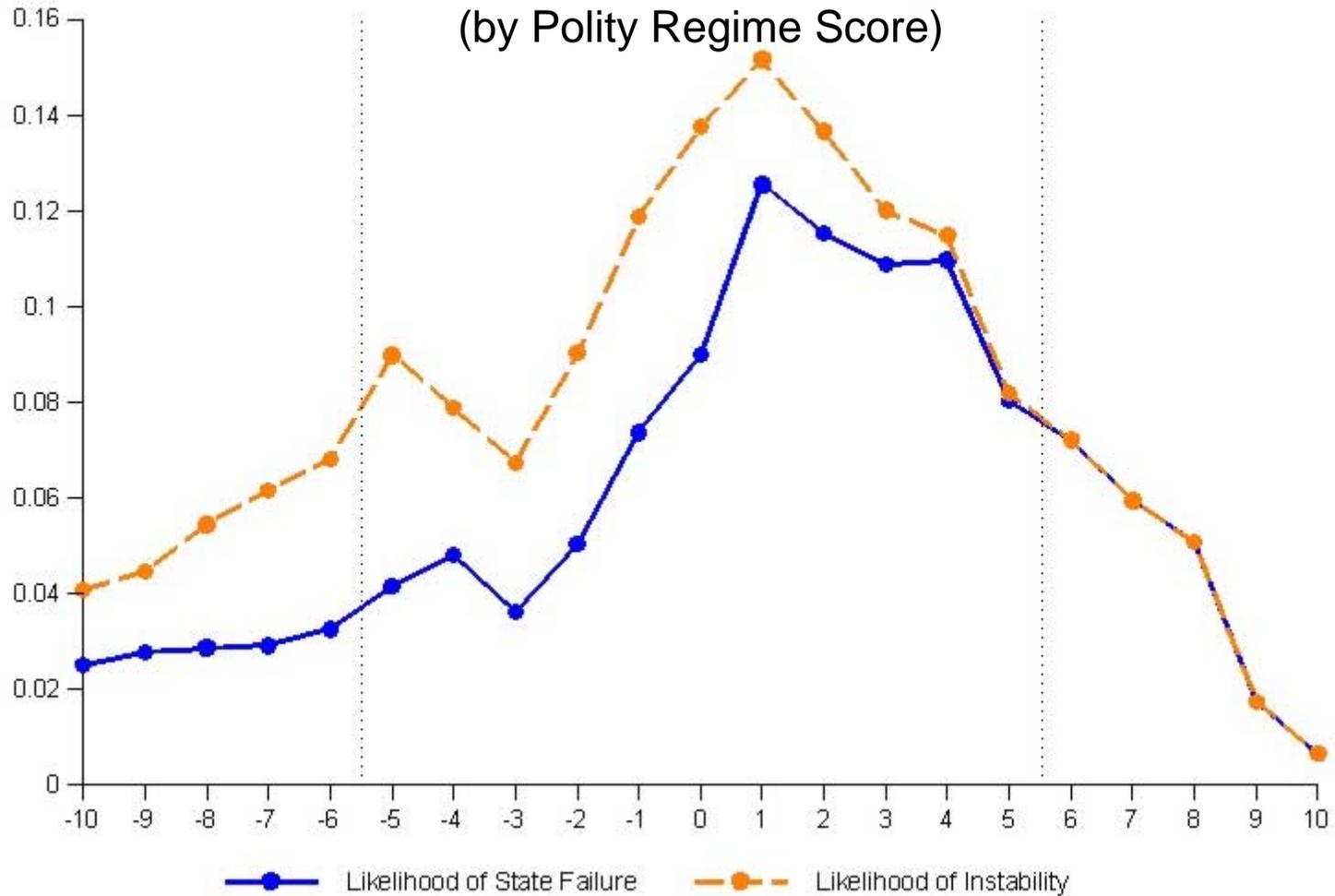
# Likelihood of Instability Events, 1955-2002

(by Polity Regime Score)



# General Likelihood of Instability, 1955-2002

(by Polity Regime Score)



# Political Instability (State Failure) Task Force

- Data-Driven Early Warning and Risk Assessment
- US Government Task Force initiated in 1995 at the request of top policy makers; brings together prominent scholars from many fields
- Designed to anticipate serious failures of governance two years in advance; such failures include adverse regime changes (106), revolutionary wars (62), ethnic wars (72), and political mass murder (genocide and politicide – 39)
- Collects and compiles (and creates) open source data covering all countries in the world, 1955-2002
- Extensive qualitative and quantitative analyses inform the design of “early warning” and “risk” models

# Key Global Risk Factors for Instability

- **Regime Type:** Weak democracies (29.7/12.8) and autocracies with some competition (8.2)
- **Exclusivity:** State policies of discrimination or active repression of communal groups (2.6)
- **Underdevelopment:** High infant mortality (poor economic capacity; 2.3)
- **Bad Neighborhood:** Two or more bordering states with internal armed conflicts (1.7)
- **International Isolation:** Low trade openness (connectivity; 1.5)

# Specialized Models and Applications

- Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Model
- Muslim Countries Model
- Autocratic Regimes Model
- Ethnic War Model
- Political Mass Murder (Genocide-Politicide) Model
- Measuring State Capacity and Performance
- Transitional Analysis of Democratization
- Ties Between States and Terrorist Groups
- Sub-national Risk Assessment: Spatial Correlation and Risk Mapping

# Key Findings: Transitions to Democracy

- **Structural Factors:** Level of economic development; political competition; checks and balances; global and regional context
- **Civil Liberties:** In autocracies, expanded civil liberties improve odds of deeper change
- **Resource Curse:** Barriers are much higher in wealthy autocracies with no democratic experience
- **Economic Crisis:** Triggers regime change, positive and negative
- **Transitional or Nascent Democracies are at especially vulnerable**

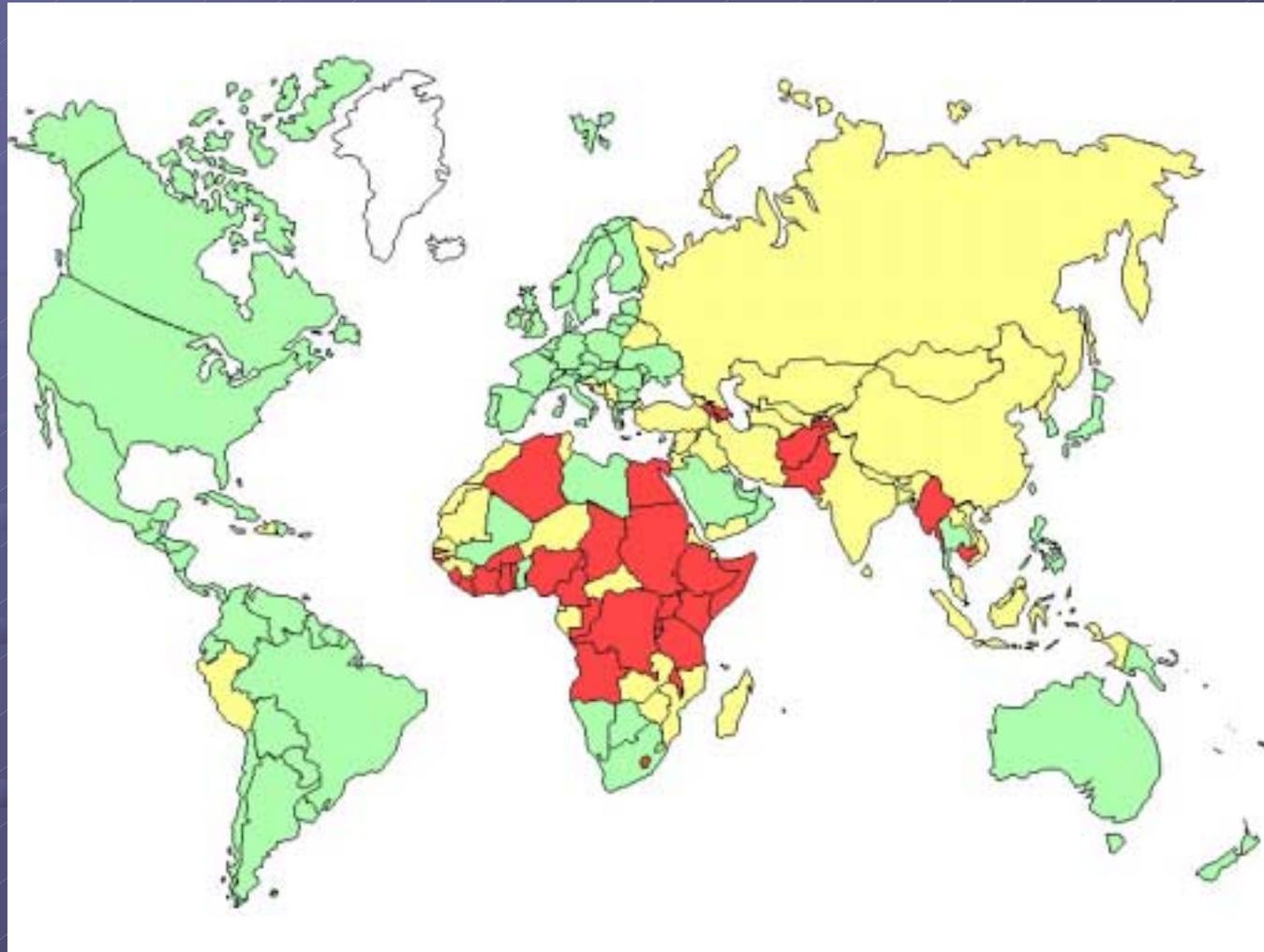
# *INSCR Peace and Conflict Series*

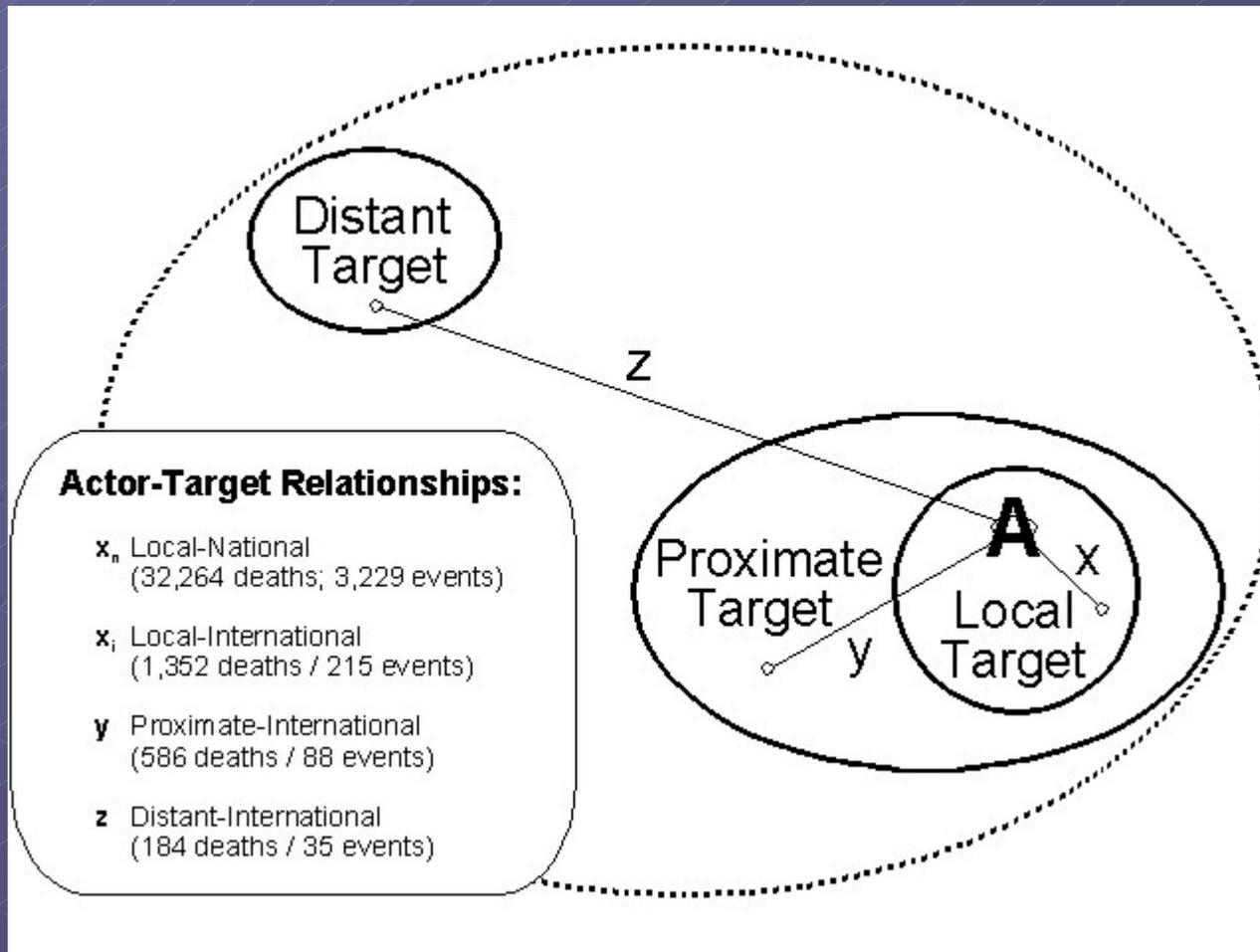
A Global Survey of Armed Conflicts,  
Self-Determination Movements, and Democracy





# Peace-Building Capacities of States





**Global Terrorism: Actor-Target Relationships**

# The End

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**INSCR Program**  
**CIDCM, University of Maryland**  
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