

# Types of Conflicts

International Disputes and Global Issues

# Introduction to Conflict

- Conflict is a struggle between states, or groups over economic, political, or social disagreements
  - Conflict can come in the form of clandestine, subtle, and overt actions between states or groups such as;
    - War
    - Espionage
    - Trade Dealings
- Conflicts need to be examined on a basic by basic situation, but their reasons can be divided by hegemonic, resource, or ideological competition
  - Hegemonic – Competition for dominance politically, socially, or economically
  - Resource – Competition over control of a tangible item, or unequal access to items (Water, oil, land, etc...)
  - Ideological – Competition over inherent “rightness” of an idea (ex. Nationalism, religious ideology, political ideology)

# Examining Conflicts: Civil War

- Defined: Internal struggle within a state between the government and one or more political opposition groups
  - Usually in competition for resources or internal disagreements over religious, economic or political ideologies
  - Sometimes presented as ethnic or sectarian divisions
    - Divisions worsened by underlying economic issues



Example: Conflict between Dinka Nuer in South Sudan

# Examining Conflicts: Criminal Violence

- Defined: De-stabilization caused by internal organized criminal organizations conducting illegal business
  - Conflict arising between competing criminal organizations, or between the government and a criminal organization
  - Criminal organizations may also include corrupt members of the government



Example: Violence caused by Los Zetas against other Cartels or the government in Mexico



# Examining Conflicts: Interstate

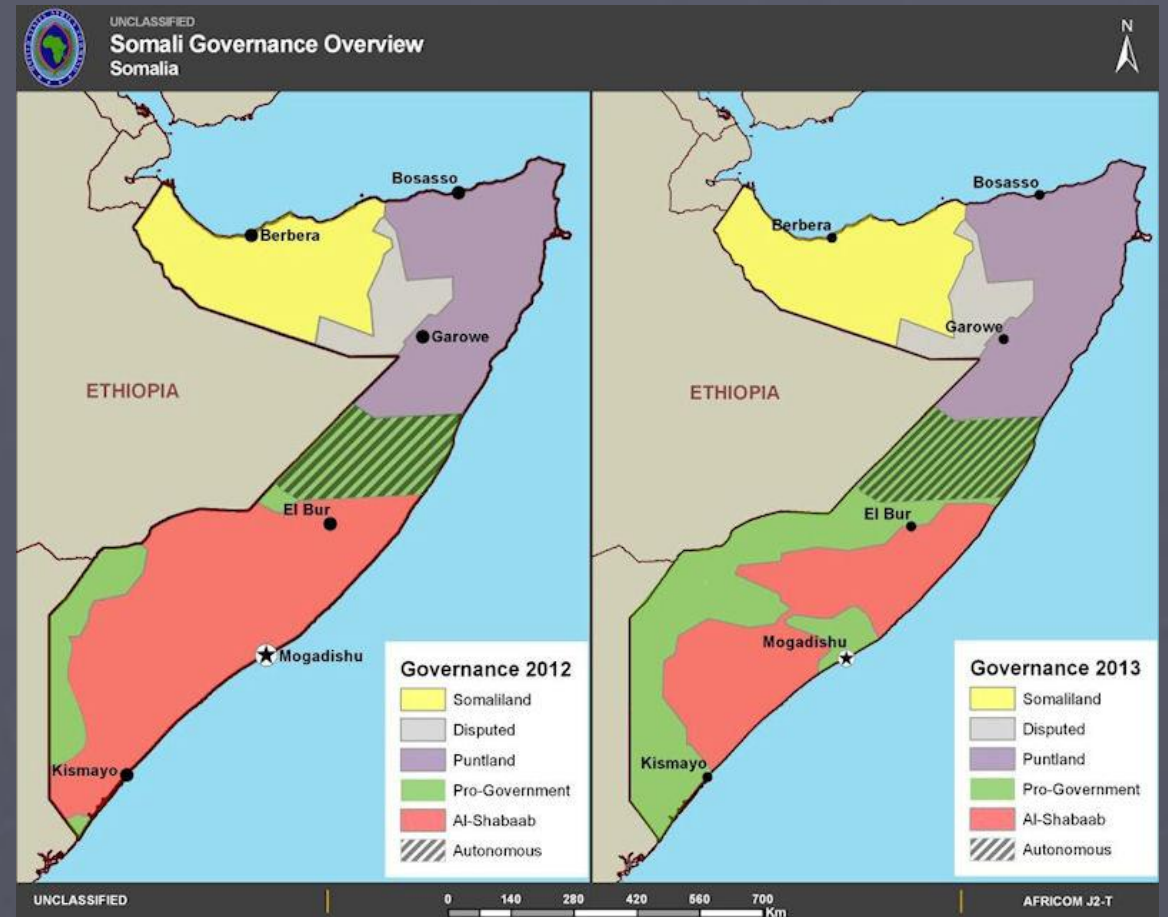
- Defined: Conflicts involving two or more states.
  - Interstate conflicts rarely only involve just two states anymore because of globalization and expanded interests
  - System of alliances may prevent some interstate conflicts from happening, but in some cases can also lead them to expanded rapidly
    - Have the ability to de-stabilize whole regions, continents, or even the whole world



Example: The continued conflict between North Korea And South Korea since 1950

# Examining Conflicts: Political Instability

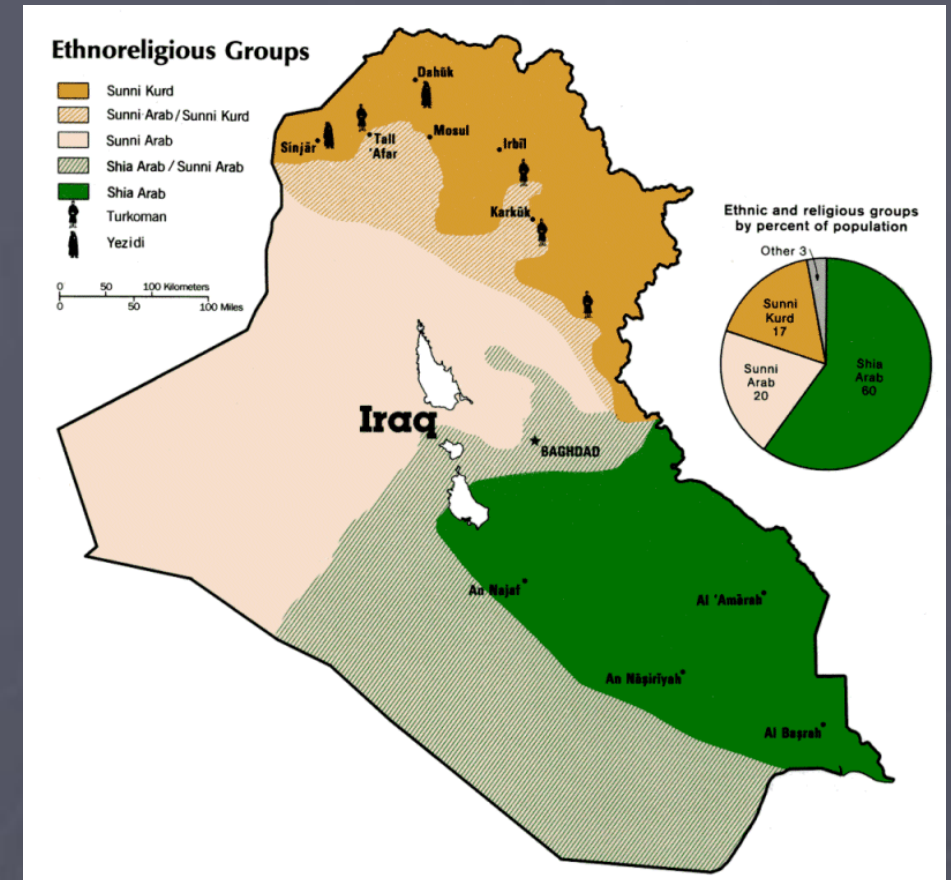
- Defined: Rival governmental forces or lack of government efficiency leading to the diminished authority of the government, or challenge to the legitimacy of the government
  - Caused by competing political parties, influential military or public figures, or presence of paramilitary groups
- Usually caused by a contested election, outside involvement, or corruption



Example: Continued struggle by the government of Somalia Against terroristic and separatist factions

# Examining Conflicts: Sectarian

- Defined: Conflict between different sects (subdivisions) of larger religious, governmental, or ideological groups
  - Religiously based violence is the main form of sectarian conflict at present. Sometimes referred to as interfaith conflict
    - Especially Sunni vs. Sh'ia Muslims in the Middle East



Example: Religious map of Iraq shows division between Sunni and Sh'ia Muslims

# Examining Conflicts: Territorial Disputes

- Defined: Disputes for land arise over two or more countries claiming the same area. Can also arise in situations where a group of people is trying to claim a territory as its own
  - Can be especially difficult due to treaties, agreements, present and historical ownership of the land
    - Ex. Palestinians and Jews both claim land that is now Israel as their homeland
  - Uninhabited lands can be valuable to minerals, fossil fuels, and fishing rights

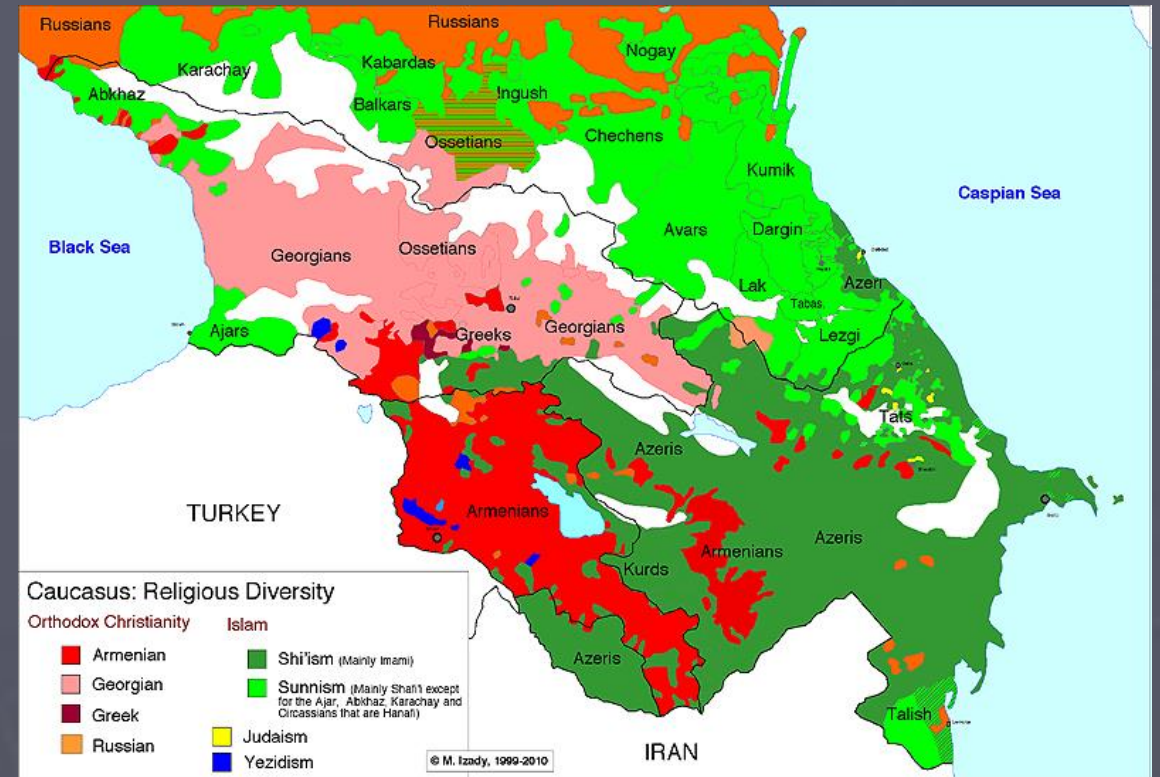


Example: Control of the island of Cyprus is being contested by the Greek-backed Republic of Cyprus, and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus



# Examining Conflict: Transnational Terrorism

- Defined: Groups with a particular goal who use terror against one or more states as their primary method of achieving their goal
  - Groups trying to achieve separation from existing state, establishment of a new, or weakening/removal of existing power structure
- Can be ethnically, religiously, or ideologically motivated



Example: Chechens using terroristic methods in an attempt to gain independence from Russia

# Sources

- Council on Foreign Relations: Center for Preventative Action, “Global Conflict Tracker”, Updated Dec 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016, <http://www.cfr.org/global/global-conflict-tracker/>