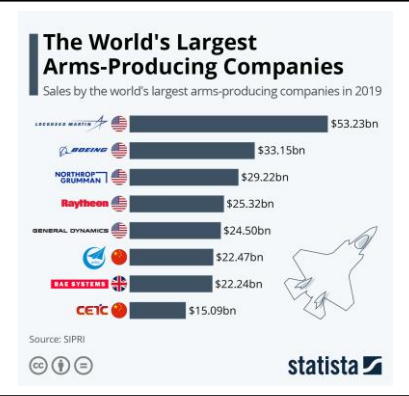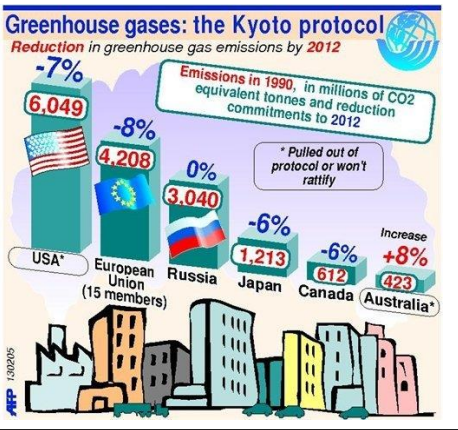# Aim #26b: How does globalization create new opportunities for international cooperation and conflict?

Mini Lecture

- Because of the challenges to the environment brought about by population growth, industrialization, and urbanization, a number of international efforts & organizations have risen to attempt solutions.
- On December 1, 1997, delegates from 150+ countries attended the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Kyoto, Japan. They reached the first international treaty, **Kyoto Protocol**, designed to reduce the emissions of detrimental **greenhouse gasses** (Carbone dioxide, methane) & combat **climate change**.
- The Protocol was signed by 178 nations in 2001, but rejected by the U.S. Opponents argued that cutting the use of fuels that produced emissions of Carbone dioxide to the extent the treaty required could cause energy prices to soar & damage the U.S. economy.
- In the end, almost no countries met the established targets. The agreement had little impact because the world's two biggest greenhouse emitters, China & U.S., were not bound by the protocol and this discouraged other nations to cut their carbon emissions.
- Some nonprofit organizations formed to advocate for the environment. **Greenpeace** was found in 1971 and grew into an international agency. It battles deforestation, desertification, global climate change, the killing of whales, & overfishing. Greenpeace engages in lobbying, education, and direct actions, such as confronting whaling boats on the ocean, occupying coal-fired power plants, & exposing the dumping of toxic waste at sea.
- In the post-Cold War era, large scale conflicts between two countries became rare. **Terrorism**, however, has grown as a real threat to public safety throughout the world.
- Terrorist groups & campaigns are nothing new, many existed before the end of the Cold War. The **Irish Republican Army** (**IRA**) led a decades-long campaign of bombings & shootings to attempt to achieve its goal of a free, united Ireland. Between 1969 and 1998, more than 2,000 people were killed in fighting. The end came with a negotiated settlement.
- Between 1968 and 2010, more than 800 people were killed & thousands injured by the **ETA** (**Euskadi Ta Askatasuna**) fighting for the independence of the Basque people in Spain.
- One of the best-known terrorist organization is **Al Qaeda**, which bases its actions on a radical interpretation of the Islam (condemned by most Muslims). It was led by Osama bin Laden and carried out a number of bombings against U.S. targets throughout the 1990s & beyond.
- On September 11, 2001, it carried out a series of devastating attacks that had grave ripple effects around the world. These attacks killed more than 3,000 people. Most of the world rallied to condemn Al Qaeda & support the U.S.
- In the years that followed the 9/11 attacks, Al Qaeda & groups with similar agendas, such as **ISIS** & **Boko Haram**, carried out additional acts that killed thousands. While they attack Westerners, most of their victims were Muslims.
- **Cyber Warfare** attacks have recently emerged. In this high-tech form of attack, countries or terrorist groups disrupt, disable, or spy on the computer systems of another. They could also attack the computer systems of large businesses. Several kinds of cyber-attacks emerged:
    - Hacking is the penetration of computer systems to steal data.
    - Ransomware locks up computers or systems until a ransom is paid.
    - Malware & viruses could disable critical government, military, & commercial systems.
    - Denial-of-service attacks flood a website's servers with so much information that the site would disable, keeping legitimate users form gaining access.
- One of the best-known examples of cyber warfare occurred during the 2016 U.S. presidential election. According to U.S. intelligence agencies. Russians wanted to discredit American democracy & support Donald Trump. They used several tactics such as spreading consistently negative information about Clinton through a government-sponsored news website, radio station, & tv network. They also hired "trolls" to post malicious, divisive, & false comments on social media platforms.
- When Rwandan rebels & government forces clashed in the early 1990s, each side had a large stash of weapons. Weapons included mortars from France, assault rifles from Romania & Russia, and machine guns & grenades from South Africa. Each year, buyers from many countries spend tens of billions of dollars for weapons sold on the **world arms market**.
- Many nations had arms-exporting industries. China led in the production of light arms (rifles, grenades, missiles). Sweden sold everything from fighter planes to submarines. The U.S. outsold almost everyone.
- While the world's leaders often denounced the arms trade, they also encouraged it. Many U.S. presidents have actively assisted U.S. corporations in winning arms contracts from allied nations. After the Cold War, the U.S. cut back its purchases from U.S. arms manufacturers which led to economic hardship, so the government stepped up the promotion of sales to other countries.
- The major nations tried to put limits on the sale of certain especially destructible weapons (missiles). The Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) found in 1987 (by U.S., UK, France, Japan, Germany, & others) hoped to coordinate efforts to limit the sale of these weapons. They also restrict the sale of arms to uncooperative countries, such as Iran & North Korea.
- Though China did not sign the MTCR, it did agree to observe the controls. Nevertheless, Beijing sold missile technology to Pakistan and also purchased advanced military technology from Israel. To stop such activities, the U.S. has occasionally cut off exports of high-tech goods to China.

Review Questions:
1. What international efforts have attempted to address climate change?
2. What current global security issues are plaguing the world today?
3. Why do you think the International trade in arms is a global problem?

Enduring Issue: Globalization; Cooperation; Environment; Conflict

Has globalization made the world safer?

Activity: Has globalization made the world safer?
Directions: Examine the claims, reasoning, and evidence presented below in response to the question, "Has globalization made the world safer?" Answer the accompanying questions. Then in one paragraph, argue whether globalization has made the world a safer place. Cite at least two pieces of evidence to support your claim.

Claim 1: Globalization makes the world safer because when countries trade together they depend on one another and therefore, are less likely to go to war.

Watch this Kurzgesagt- In a Nutshell- video entitled "Is War Over?" (3:16-5:27), which argues that globalization is one of the causes of a world with less war.

1. According to the video, what effects has globalization had on war between states? Why?
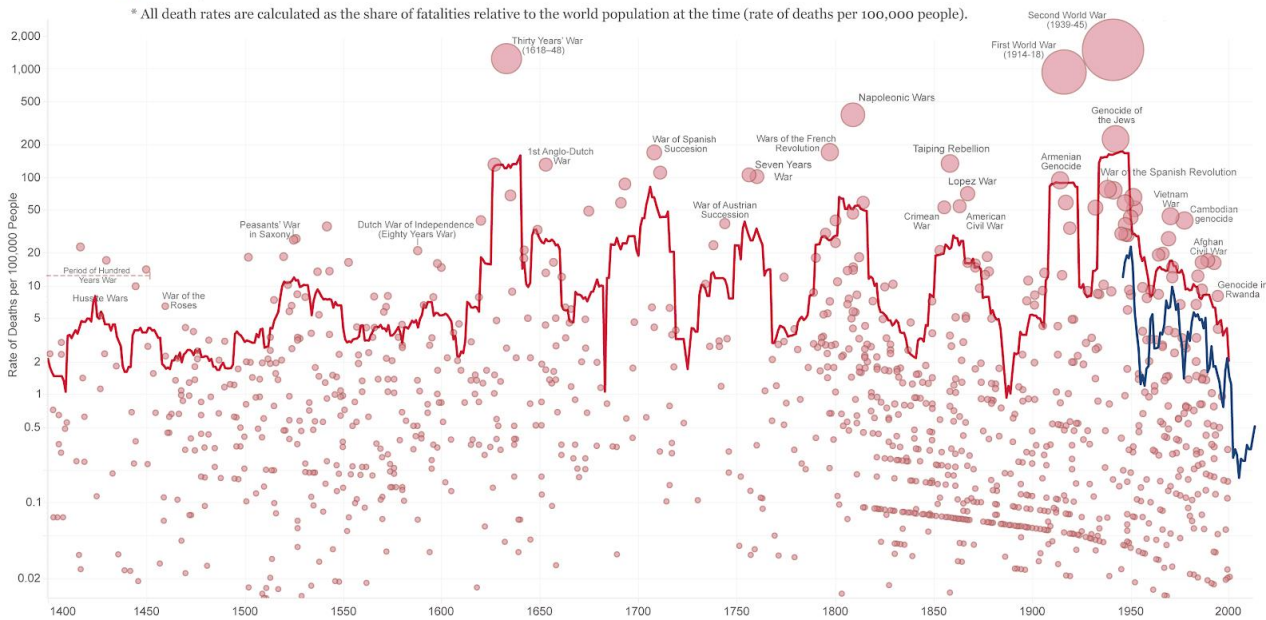
2. Describe the trend in deaths in conflicts since the mid-20th century.

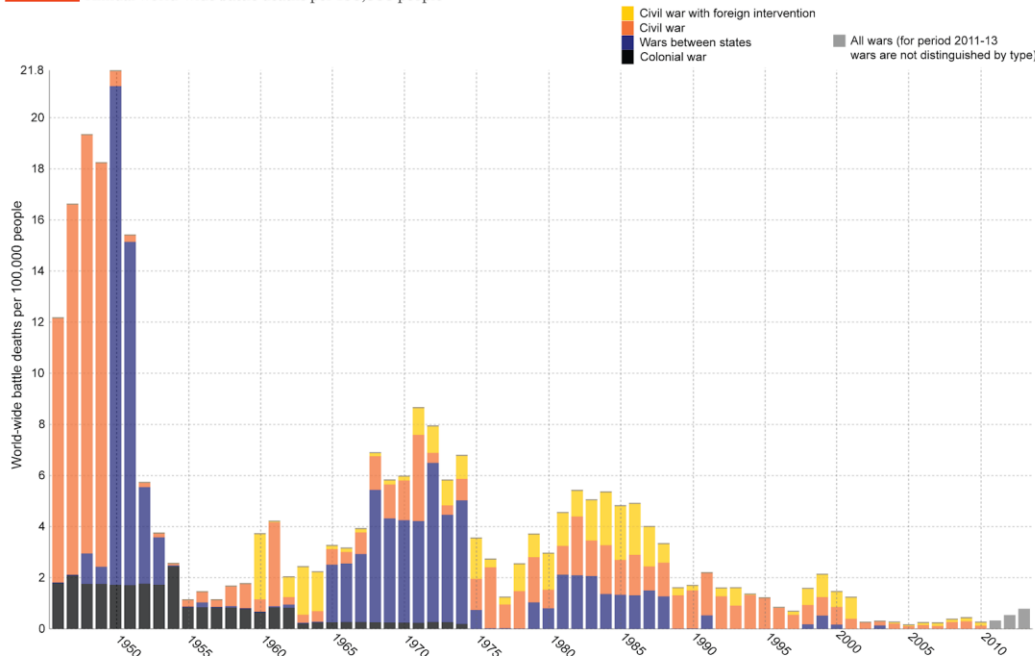Global deaths in conflicts since the year 1400

Data sources: Battle Deaths Dataset v.3.0. published by the PRIO Institute and Conflict Catalog by Peter Brecke for data on battle deaths. And world population data from HYDE and UN.
This is a data visualisation from OurWorldinData.org. There you find more visualisations on this topic. Licensed under CC-BY-SA by the author Max Roser.

Battle death rate in state based conflicts by type (1946-2013) – by Max Roser

3. Since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, what types of conflicts have been most common?
4. What has been the overall trend in battle death rates in state based conflicts since the mid-20th century?

Data source: PRIO Battle Deaths Dataset (1946-2007) and data provided by Steven Pinker for 2009 and later (based on UCDP and PRIO).
The interactive data visualisation is available at OurWorldinData.org. There you find the raw data and more visualisations on this topic. Licensed under CC-BY-SA by the author Max Roser.

Claim 2: Globalization has made the world more dangerous because reactions against the social, cultural, and economic effects of globalization have led to terrorism.

Watch this brief explanation of the September 11, 2001 attacks (5:25-7:46) for background on the event.

Terrorism

The RAND Corporation, a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization that researches public policy, defines **terrorism** as "violence calculated to create an atmosphere of fear and alarm to coerce others into actions they would not otherwise undertake, or refrain from actions they desired to take." RAND notes that terrorism is "generally directed against civilian targets" and that "the motives of all terrorists are political, and terrorist actions are generally carried out in a way that will achieve maximum publicity."

Before the 1960s and the modern day rapid increase in globalization, terrorism was most often used by nationalist groups who were fighting against colonial rulers. According to Bruce Hoffman, director of the Centre of Security Studies at Georgetown University, these groups used terrorism to "mobilize sympathy and support outside the narrow confines of their actual "theaters of operation" [and] thus taught a powerful lesson to similarly aggrieved peoples elsewhere, who now saw in terrorism an effective means of transforming hitherto local conflicts into international issues."
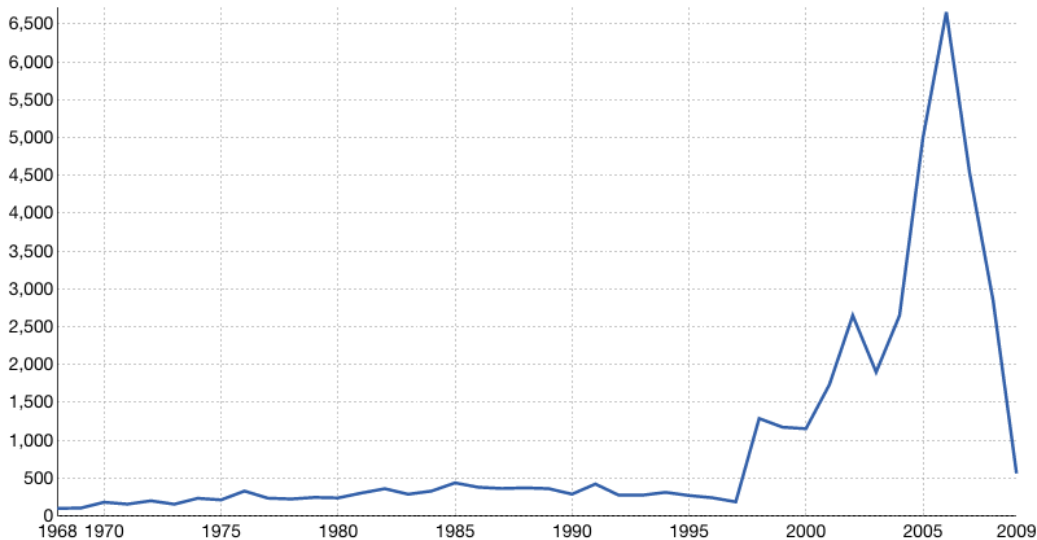
Globalization has extended the reach of powerful states and international organizations and given rise to international terror groups who are reacting against those states and organizations. The deadliest, and most well known attacks in the era of international terrorism were the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. on September 11, 2001.

In a document created in 1996 in which he argued for a war against "the blatant imperial arrogance of America, under the cover of the immoral United Nations," Osama bin Laden, the leader of the terrorist group Al Qaeda who organized and carried out the attacks on September 11, 2001, referenced some of the effects of globalization as reasons for encouraging terrorism. He identified the international weapons trade and the United States' selling of arms to Saudi Arabia, the influence of the United Nations, and the debts owed by Middle Eastern countries to international organizations, and encouraged his followers to boycott American made goods in their countries. From bin Laden's point of view, some of the changes he wanted were related to globalization. Since the attacks of September 11, organizations similar to Al Qaeda have emerged with similar ideas.

Total incidences of terrorism worldwide, 1968-2009

Data source: RAND Database of Worldwide Terrorism Incidents

OurWorldInData.org/terrorism/ · CC BY-SA
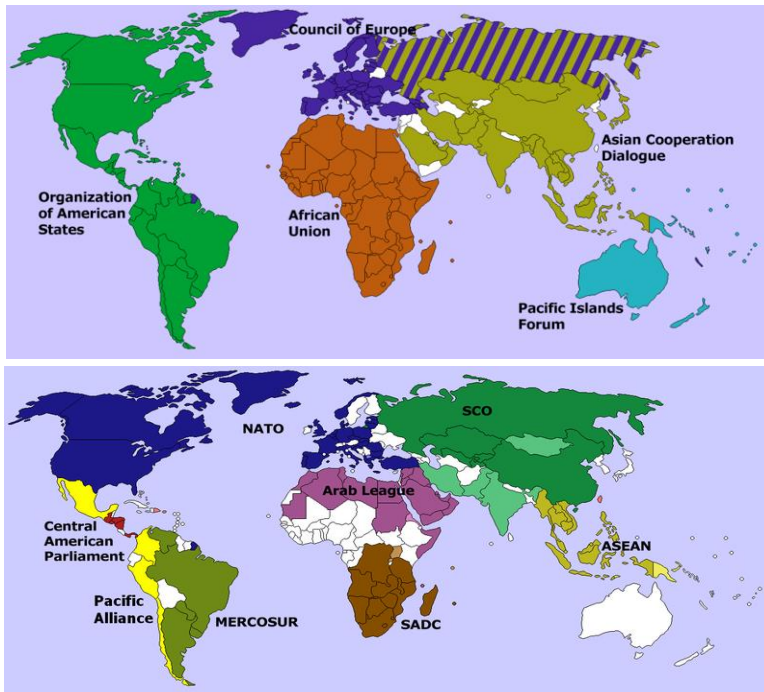
CHART   DATA   SOURCES

Claim 3: Globalization leads to international cooperation which makes the world a safer place.

Since World War II, international cooperation between states has increased through organizations devoted to making the world safer and more secure.

List of International Organizations that work to settle disputes between nations without resulting in open warfare.

- United Nations
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- Arab League
- Organization of American States
- African Union
- Union of South American Nations
- Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)
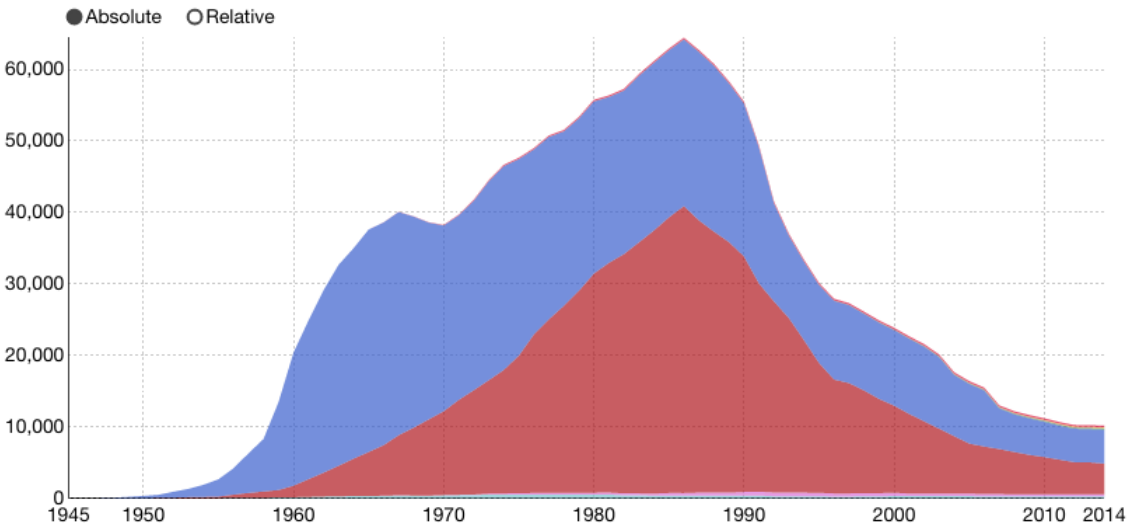- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- Pacific Islands Forum

One of the issues that international organizations have been successful at addressing has been nuclear disarmament. Through treaties with international organizations, states have agreed to decrease their nuclear arms stockpiles and have greatly done so since the end of the Cold War in 1991.

Number of nuclear warheads in the inventory of the nuclear powers, 1945-2014

Data source: FAS Nuclear Notebook

OurWorldInData.org/nuclear-weapons/ · CC BY-SA