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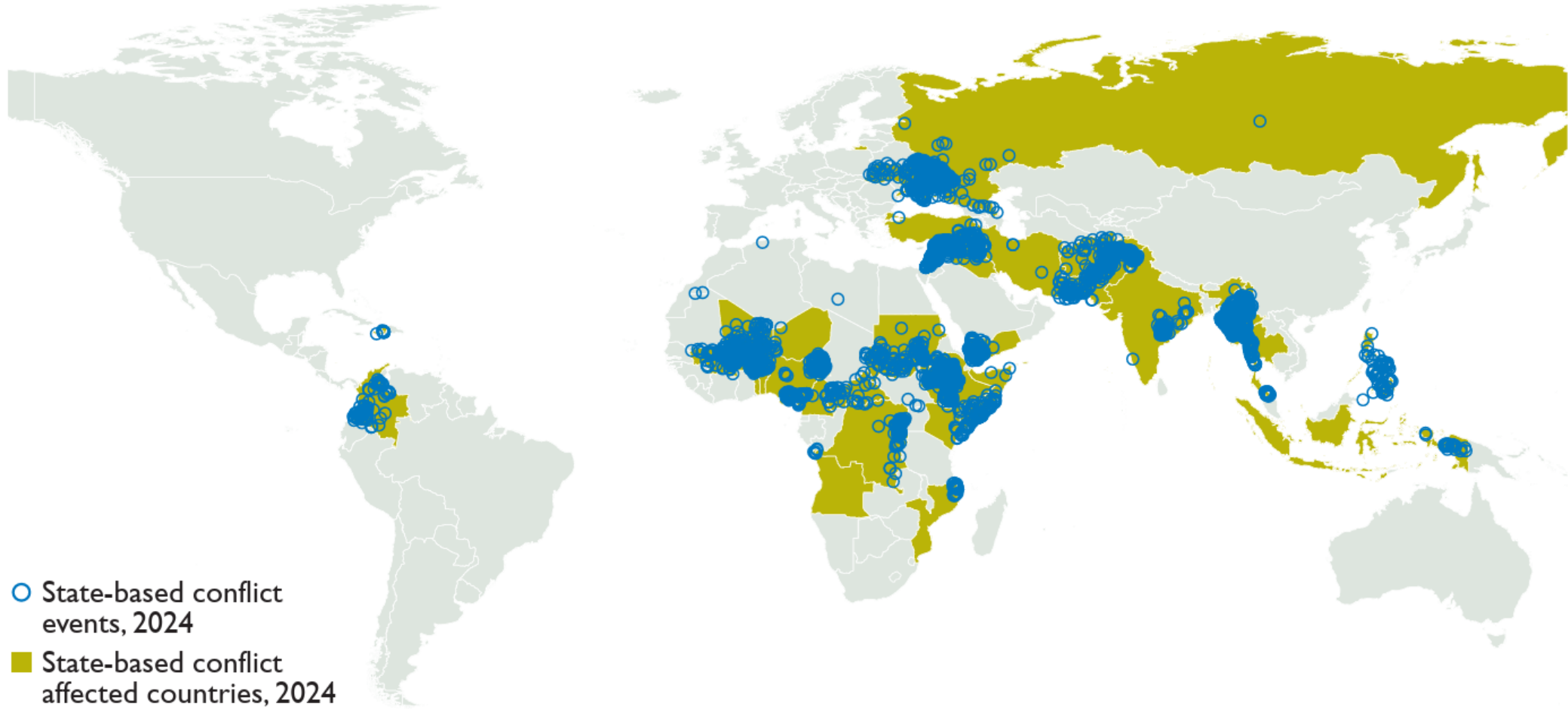
# Conflict trends and prospects for arms control

Church of Norway, Rådhusgaten 1-3, Oslo

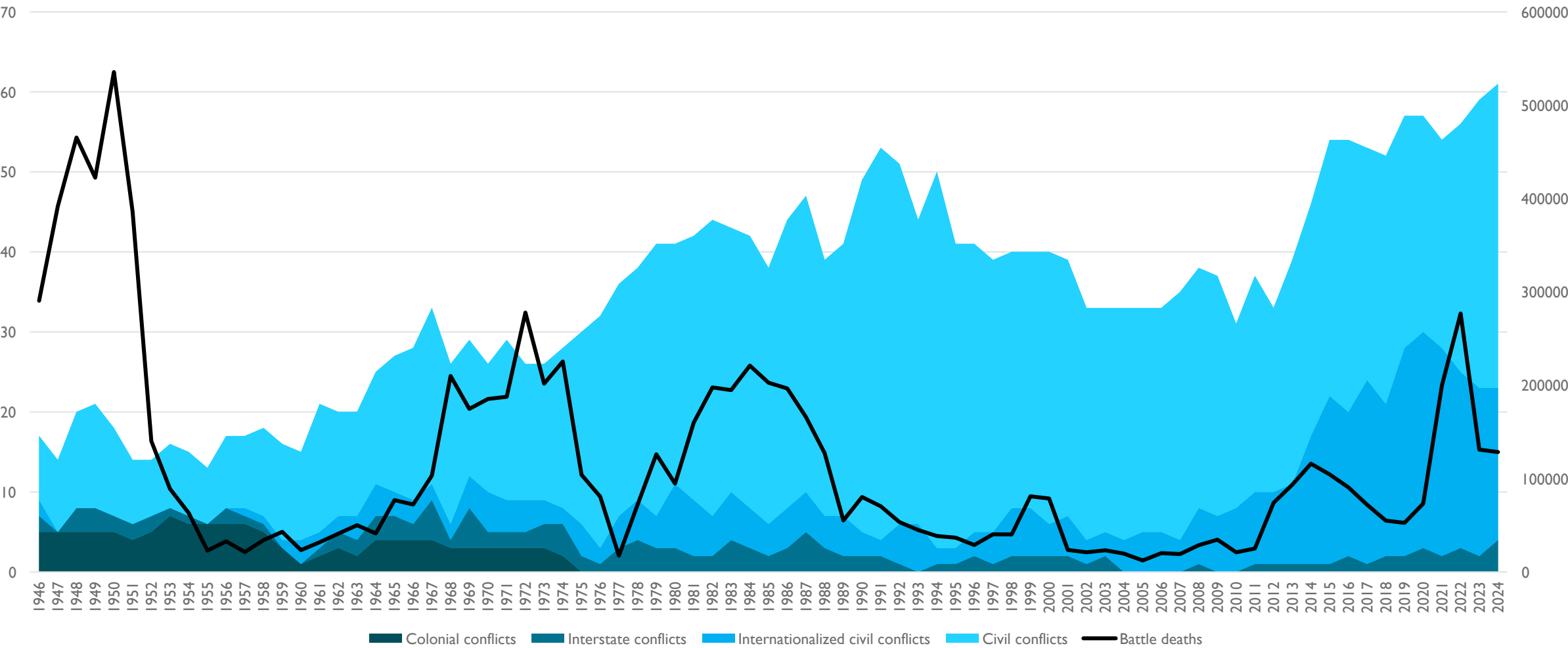
# Conflict data

- State based conflict
  - *At least 25 battle deaths*
  - *At least two organized parties, one of which is a government*
  - *Politically motivated dispute*
- Doesn't include
  - *Organized crime*
  - *One sided repression or massacres*

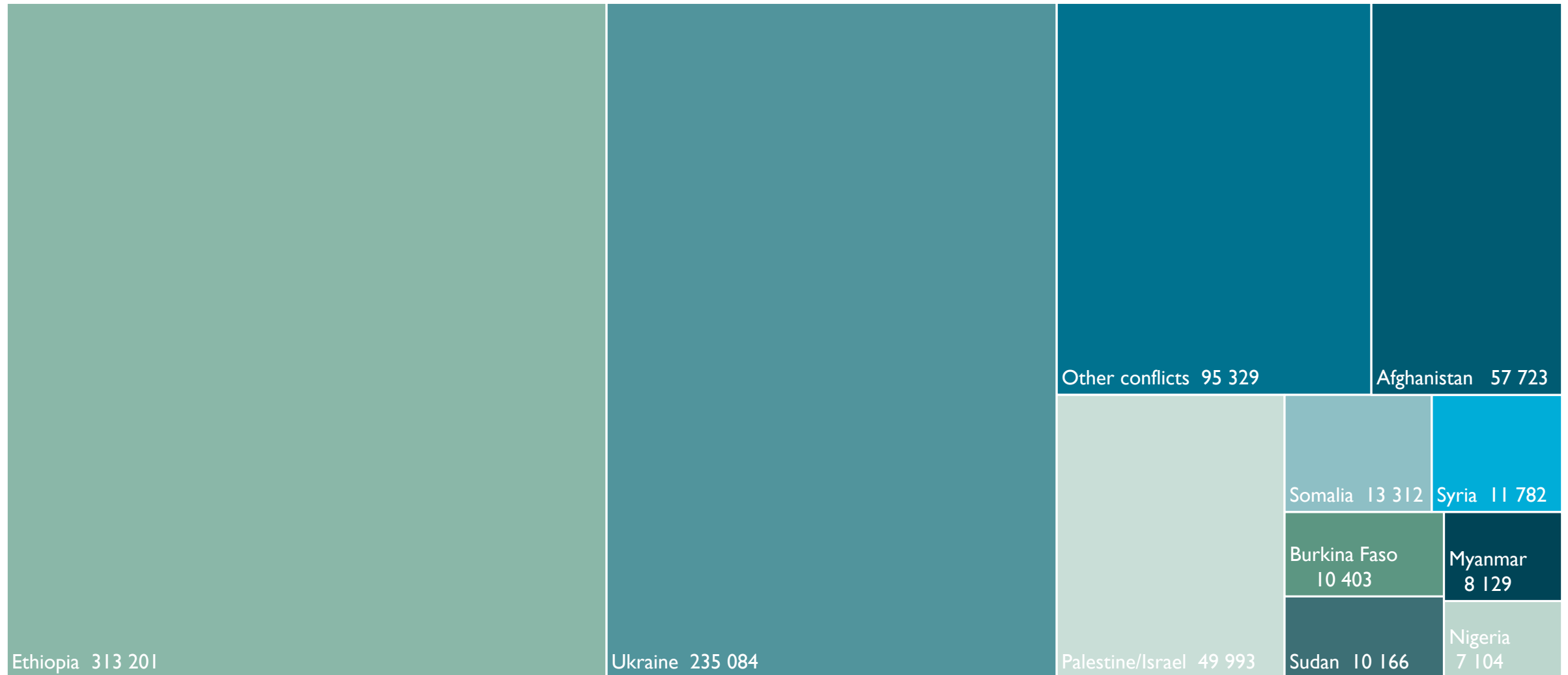
# Location of conflict events 2024



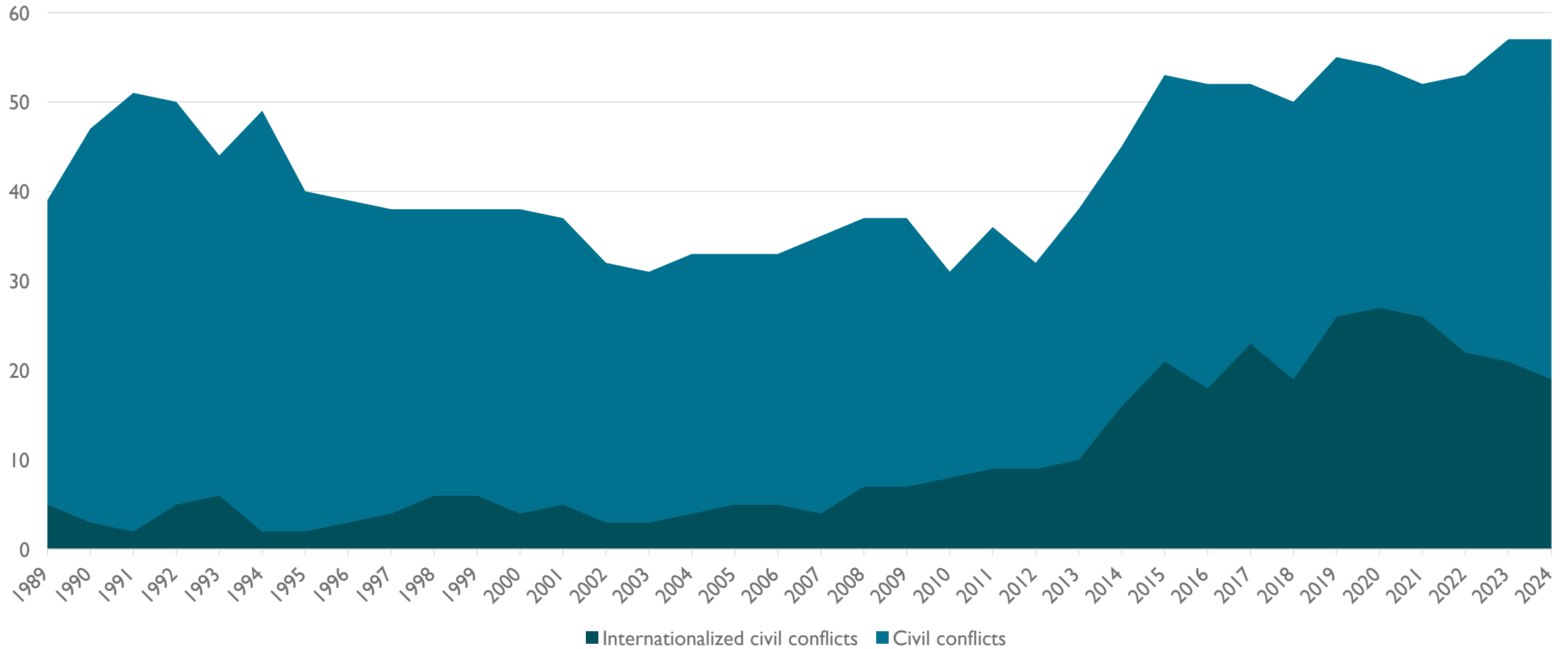
# Trends



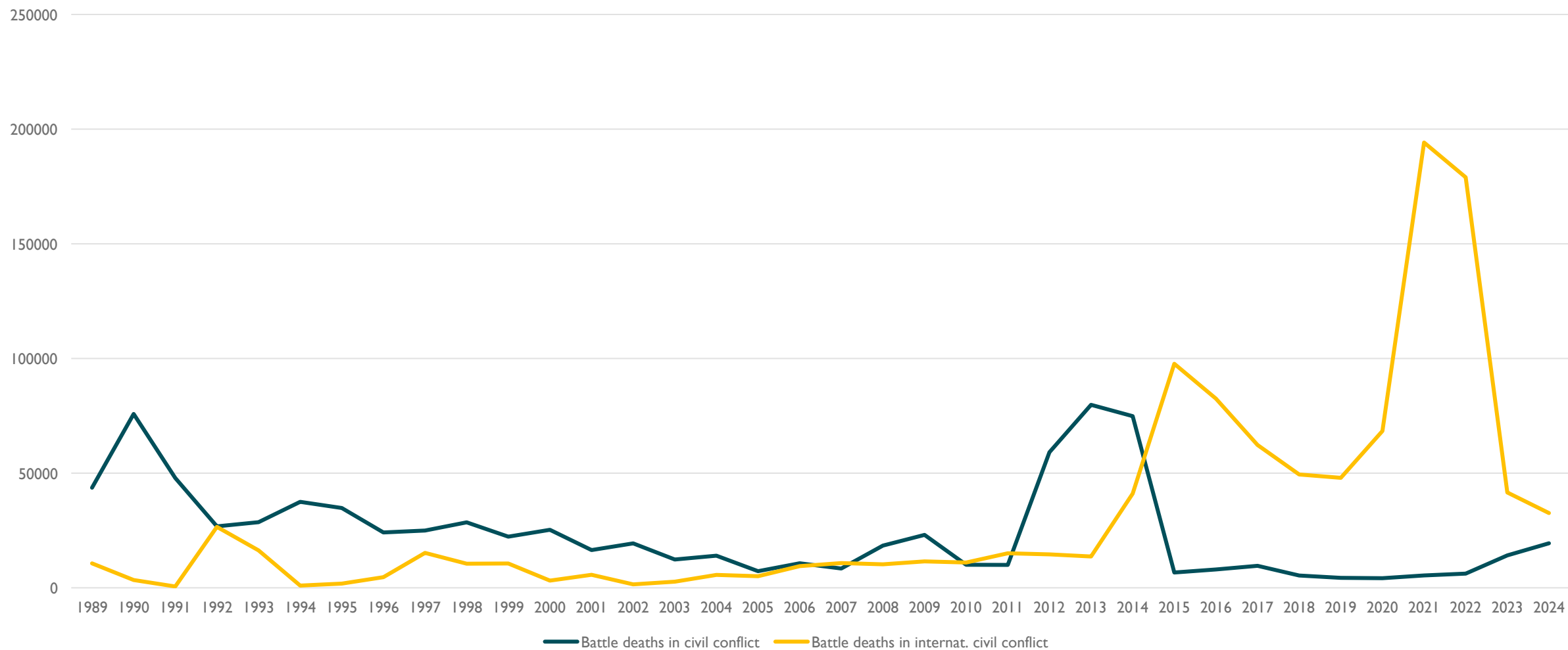
# Ten conflicts with highest battle deaths 2020-2025



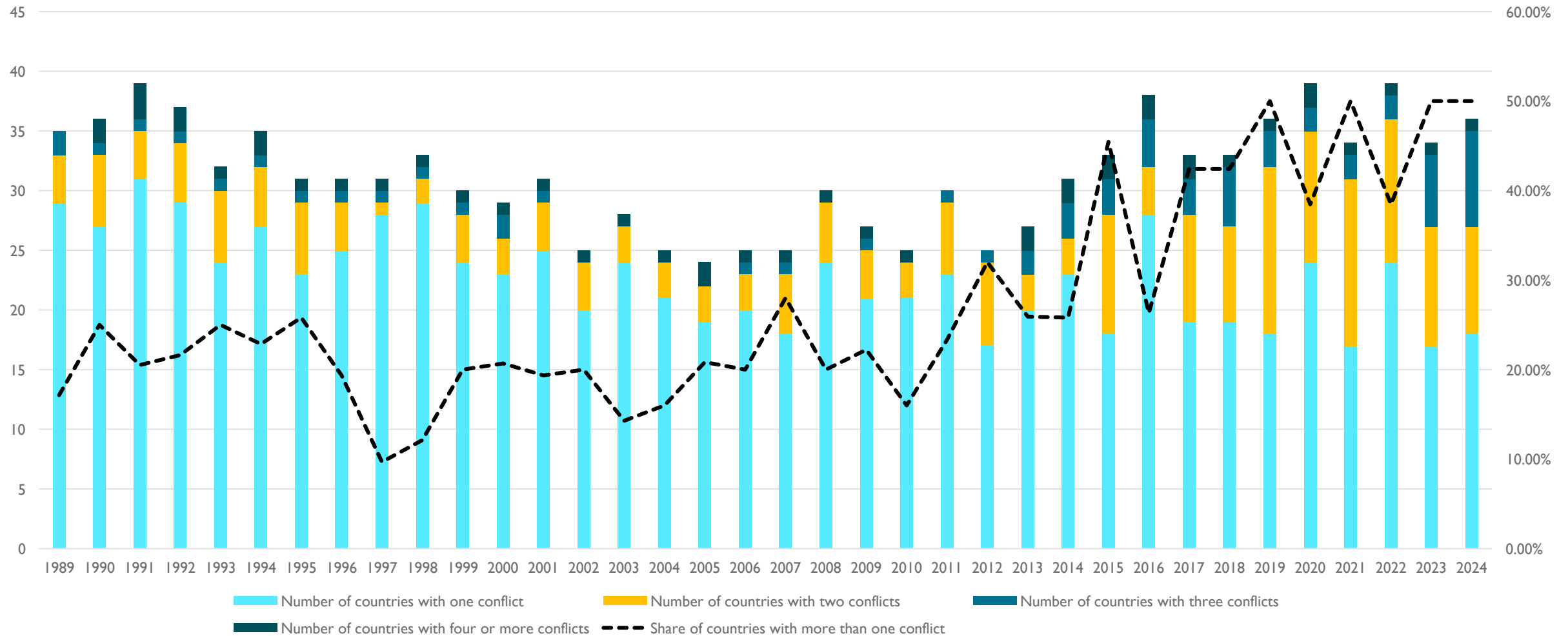
# Growing internationalization of civil conflict



# Higher intensity of recent internationalized civil conflict

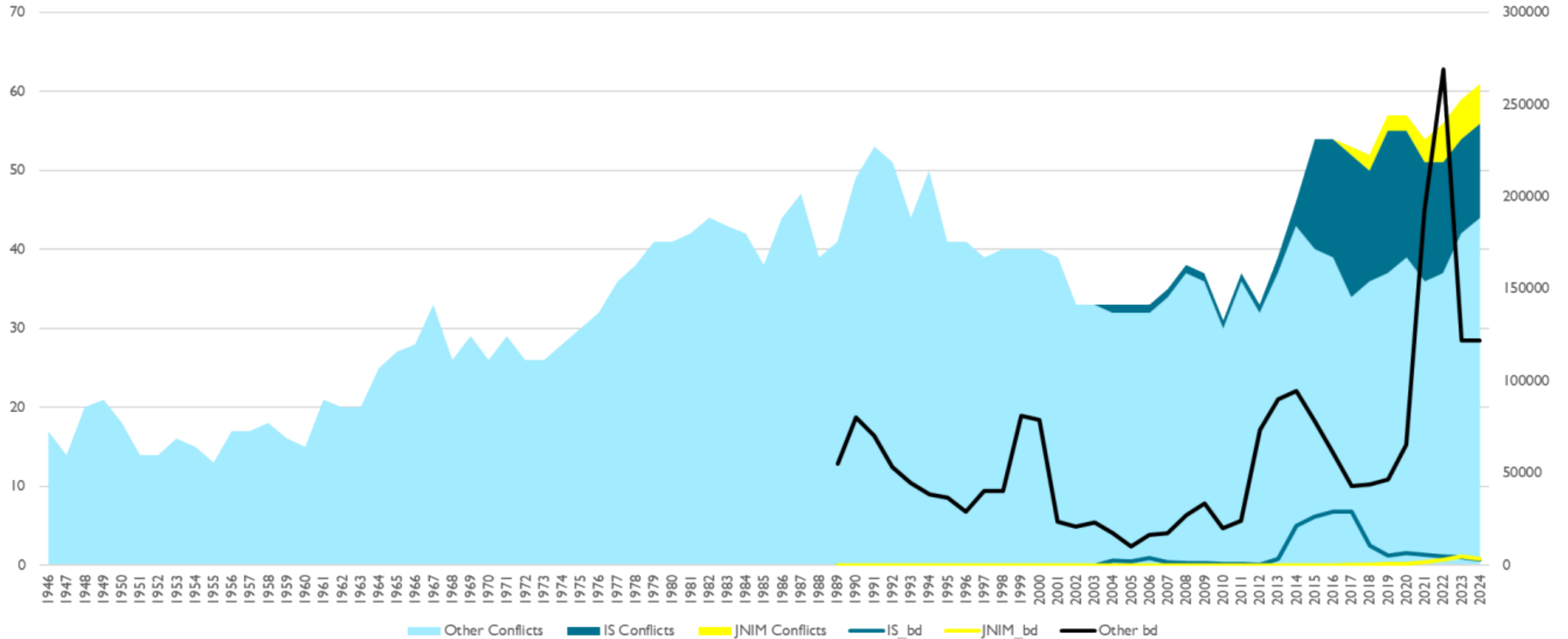


# Growing complexity of civil conflict





# Underlying cause: Role of Islamist groups – IS and JNIM



# Underlying cause: World is more autocratic

- Autocrats involve
  - *Fewer checks on war from legislatures or courts*
  - *‘Strong men’ want to be seen to be militaristic and aggressive*
  - *May support each other*
    - But lots of opportunism and disputes

# Underlying cause: Great power conflict

- China, Russia etc challenge the global order
  - *Global calls for change without supporting war*
- Direct fighting, eg Ukraine War
- Involvement in conflicts, eg Mali

# Proximate causes

- Decline in effectiveness of the UN and regional organizations
  - *Reduced peacekeeping, conflict prevention and mediation*
- Decline in respect for international law
  - *Break laws themselves, allow others to do so*
- Increased external involvement
  - *Internationalization, and also arms supplies*
- Insurgencies against autocratic leaders
  - *Lack of peaceful means of resistance*

# State of arms control

- Key US Russia nuclear arms process have broken down
- Russia has undermined implementation of multilateral treaties
  - *Ignored commitments*
  - *Disrupted conferences*
- US has failed to implement or support agreements (JCOPA, CTBT)
- Withdrawal from Mine Ban Treaty by Poland, Finland and Baltic states
- Discussions on acquiring nuclear weapons (South Korea, Poland etc)
  
- But many states and civil society expresses support for existing agreements

# Future for arms control?

- Possible to have agreements among adversaries
  - *Cold War progress soon after Cuba*
  - *Don't have to trust if can verify*
- But, strategic arms control is a means to achieve stability
  - *Russia, China etc want change*
- But, humanitarianism isn't being prioritized
  - *eg preparing for use of landmines*