

Key Note Speech

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Dag Hammarskjöld Professor Emeritus, Peace and Conflict Research,

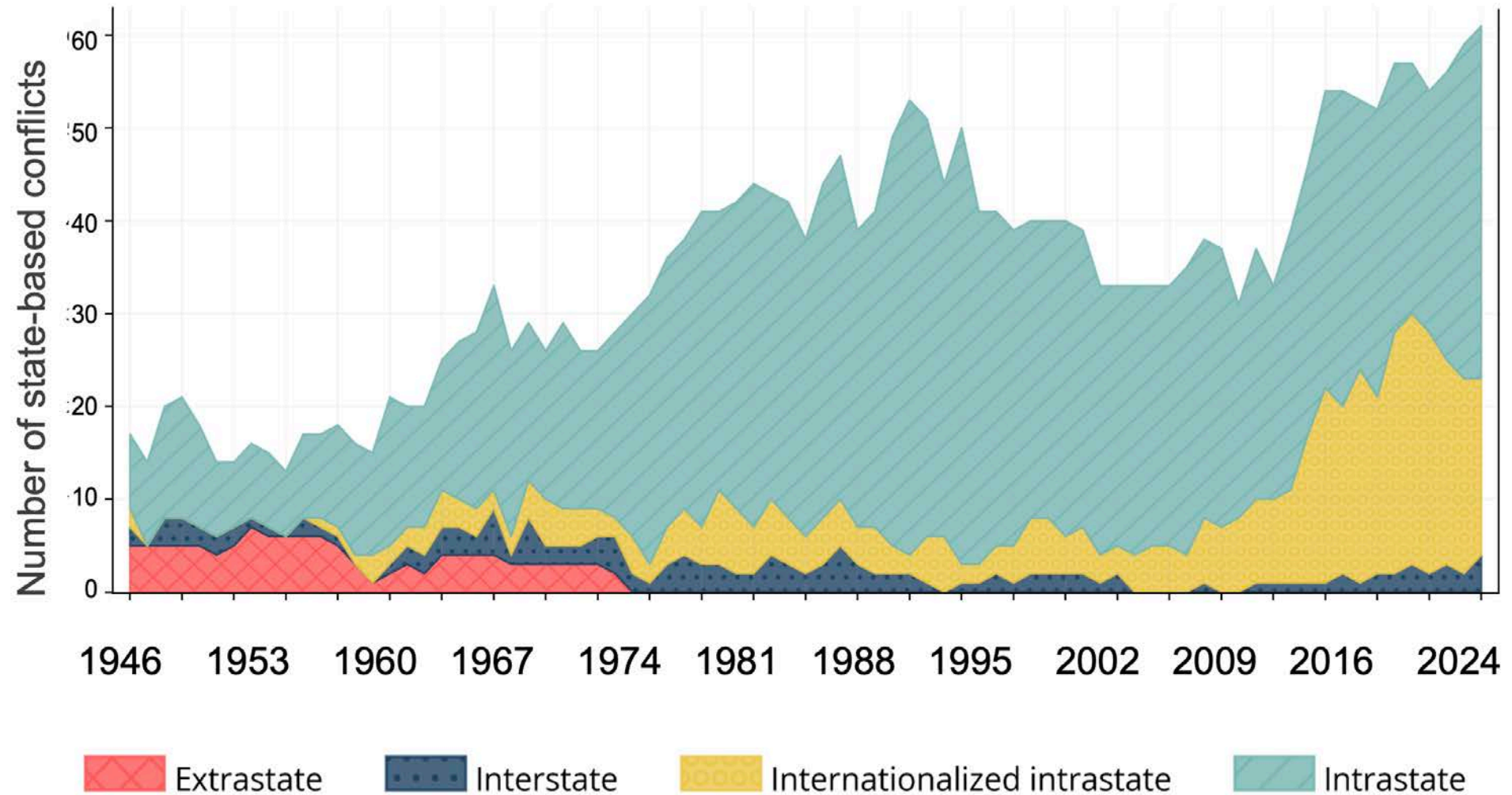
Uppsala university, Uppsala, Sweden

PMAC, January 30, 2026

Peace Under Pressure: Navigating Conflict, Environment, and Health

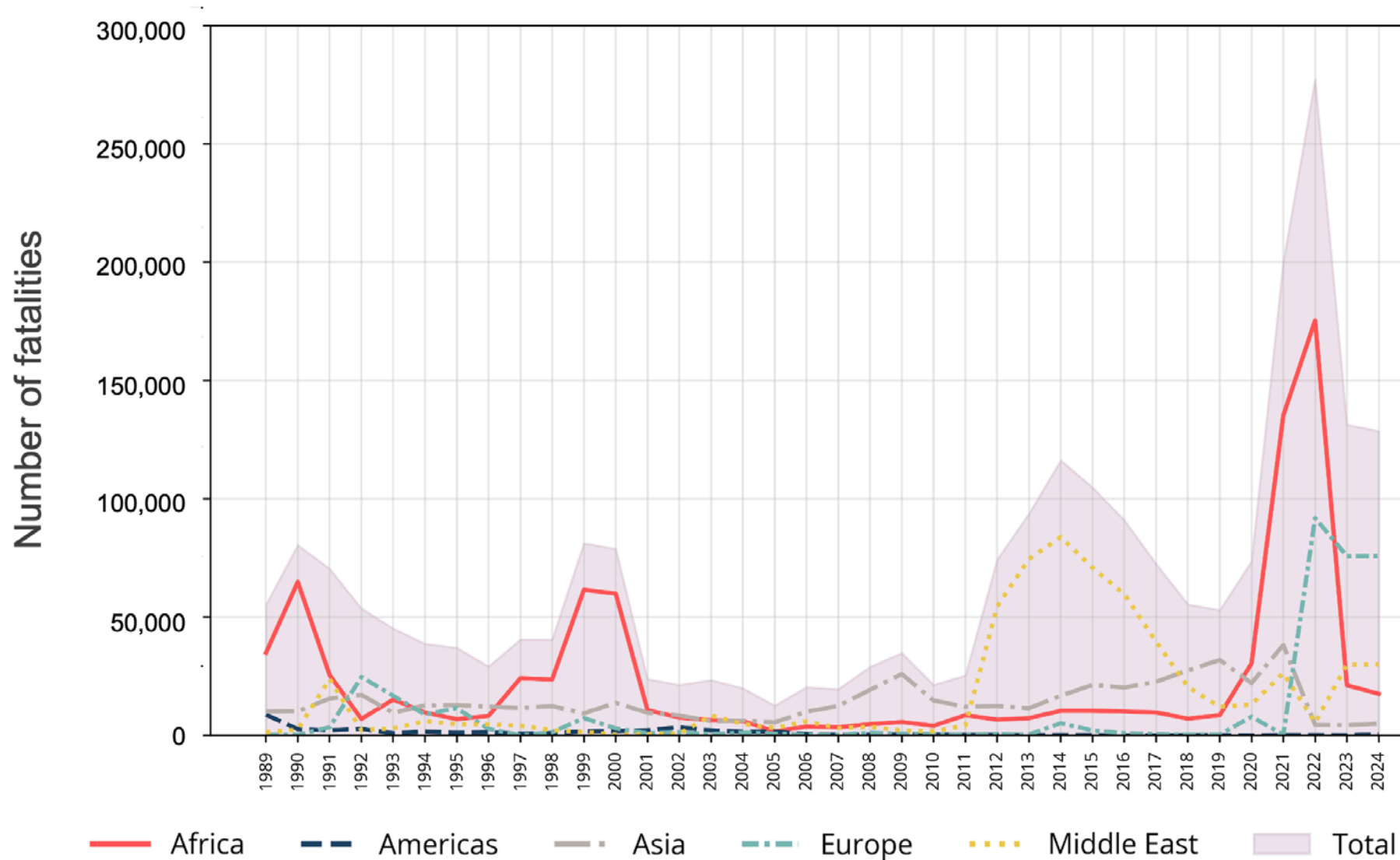
Armed Conflicts by Type

1946-2024



Based on UCDP 25.1 data

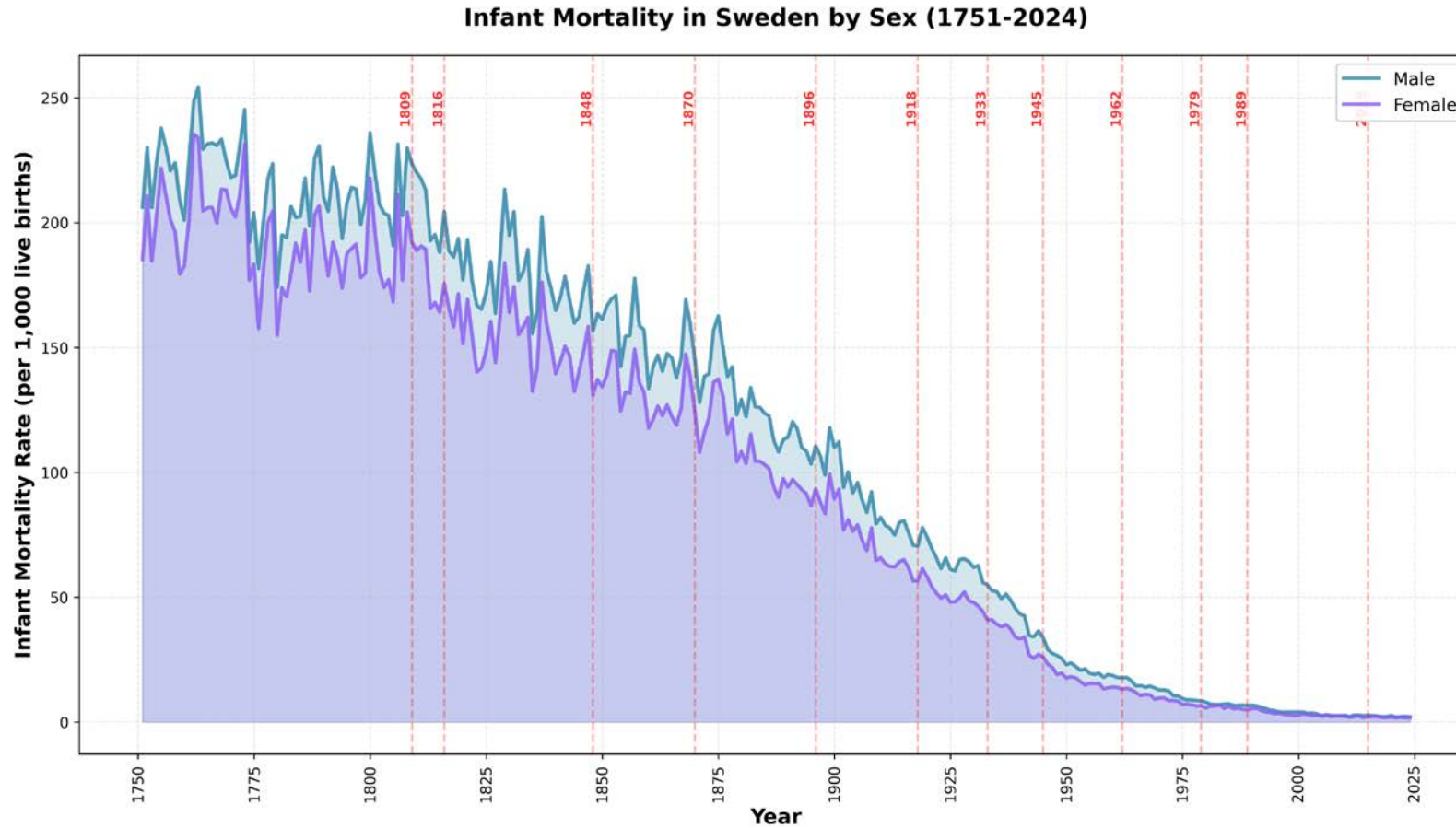
Fatalities in State-based Conflicts by Region 1989-2024



Based on UCDP 25.1 data

Steady Improvement of Health

Example: long record of Sweden



Health and Peace: Challenging Connections

- The most obvious: War is Bad for Anybody's Health
 - Medical service in the midst of armed conflict:
 - Today: a trend toward the erosion of agreed protection
 - Psychological long term impact is underestimated:
 - Today: Observe PTSD as a shared post-war condition
- Understudied: Medical conditions of Decision-Makers
 - Systematic evidence: High stress reduces ability to digest diverging data
 - Socio-psychological: Who is attracted to (lethal) power? Selection effects?
 - Anecdotal evidence: Drugs (alcohol, others) and decision-makers
- Long-term trend: Health improving – fewer wars?
 - Yes, if administered in a non-discriminatory way
 - Unfortunately also the reverse: More soldiers survive?

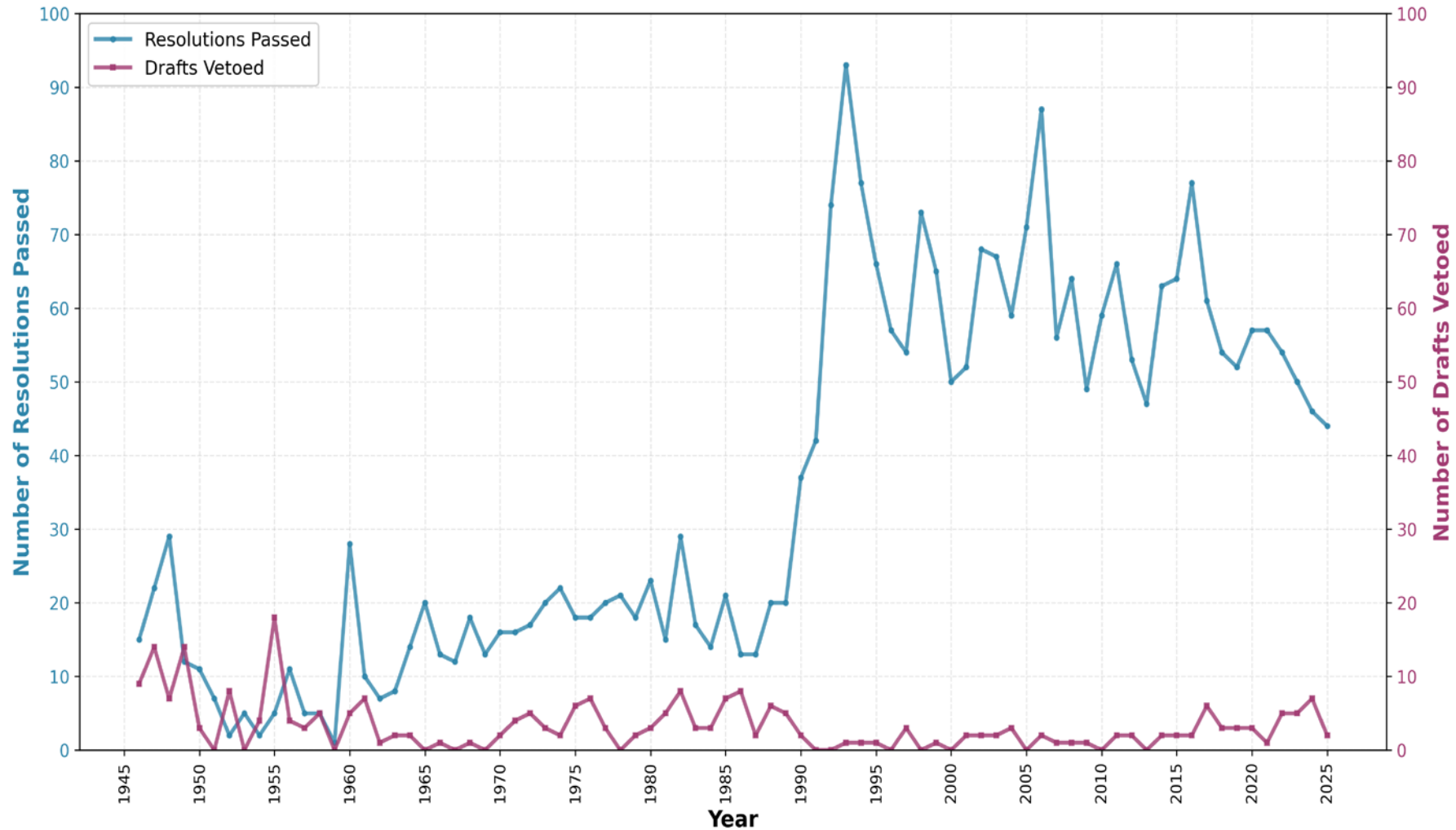
Health – Gender - Peace

- Improving women's health and education:
 - Effects on families
 - Effects on societies: gender equality
- Gender equality associated with societies that are
 - Less involved in inter-state wars
 - Less occurrence of civil wars
 - Less violations of human rights
- The question of traditional masculinity: worthy more attention!
- However, today: A trend toward traditional gender roles

[See more: *The Lancet Commission of peaceful societies through health equity and gender equality*, September 6, 2023]

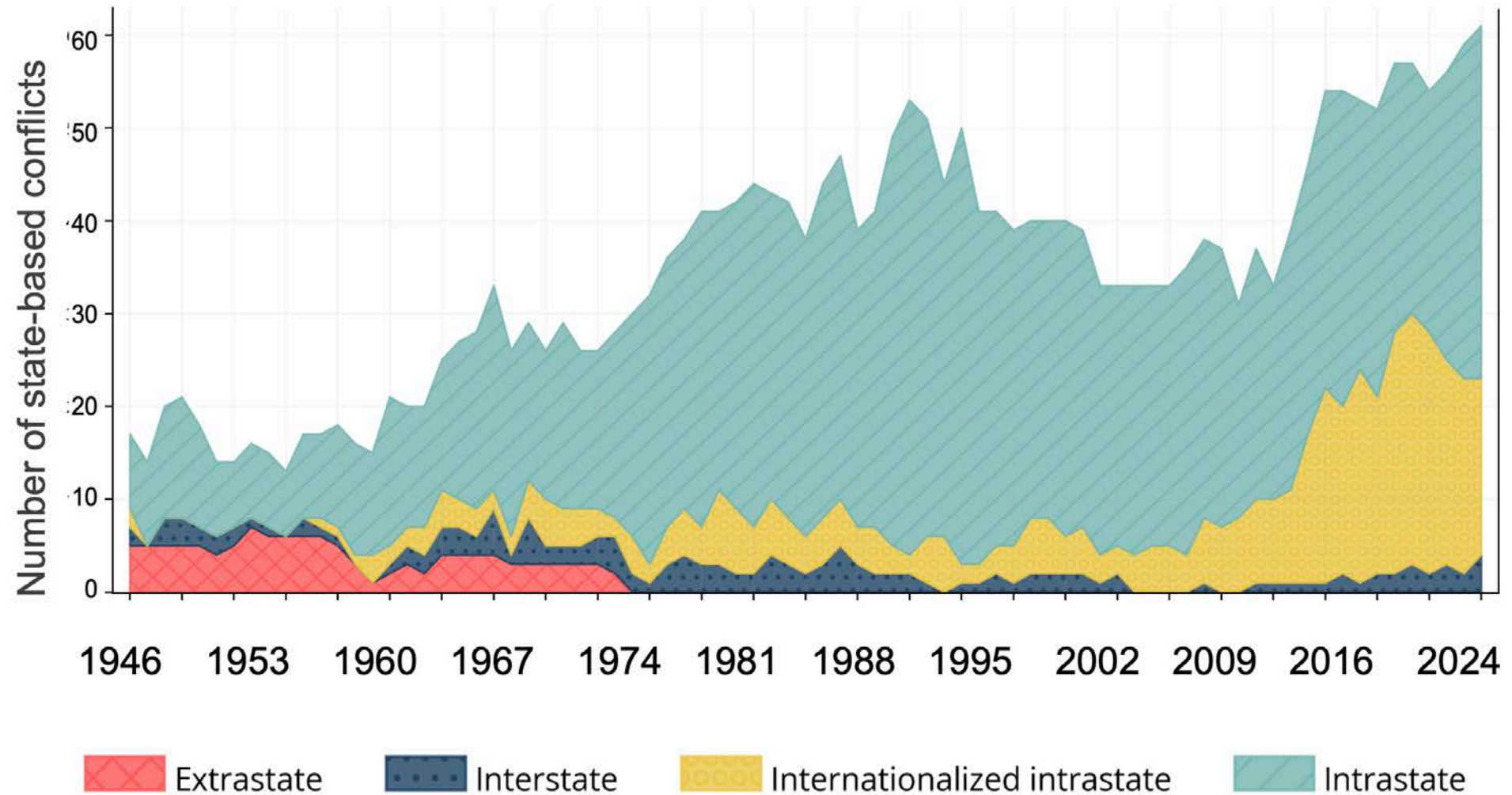
The Challenge to the United Nations

UN Security Council Resolutions (1946-2025)
Resolutions Passed vs. Drafts Vetoed



Armed Conflicts by Type

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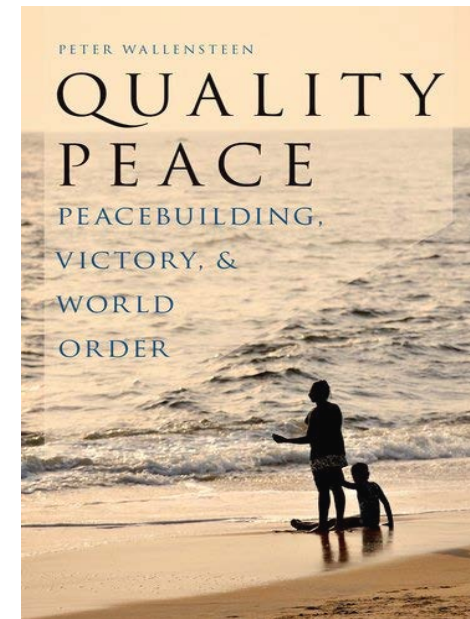


Based on UCDP 25.1 data

Quality Peace?

Comparing Victory to Agreements:

- Meeting Criteria of Dignity for All?
- What about Security for All?
- And the Need for Predictability!

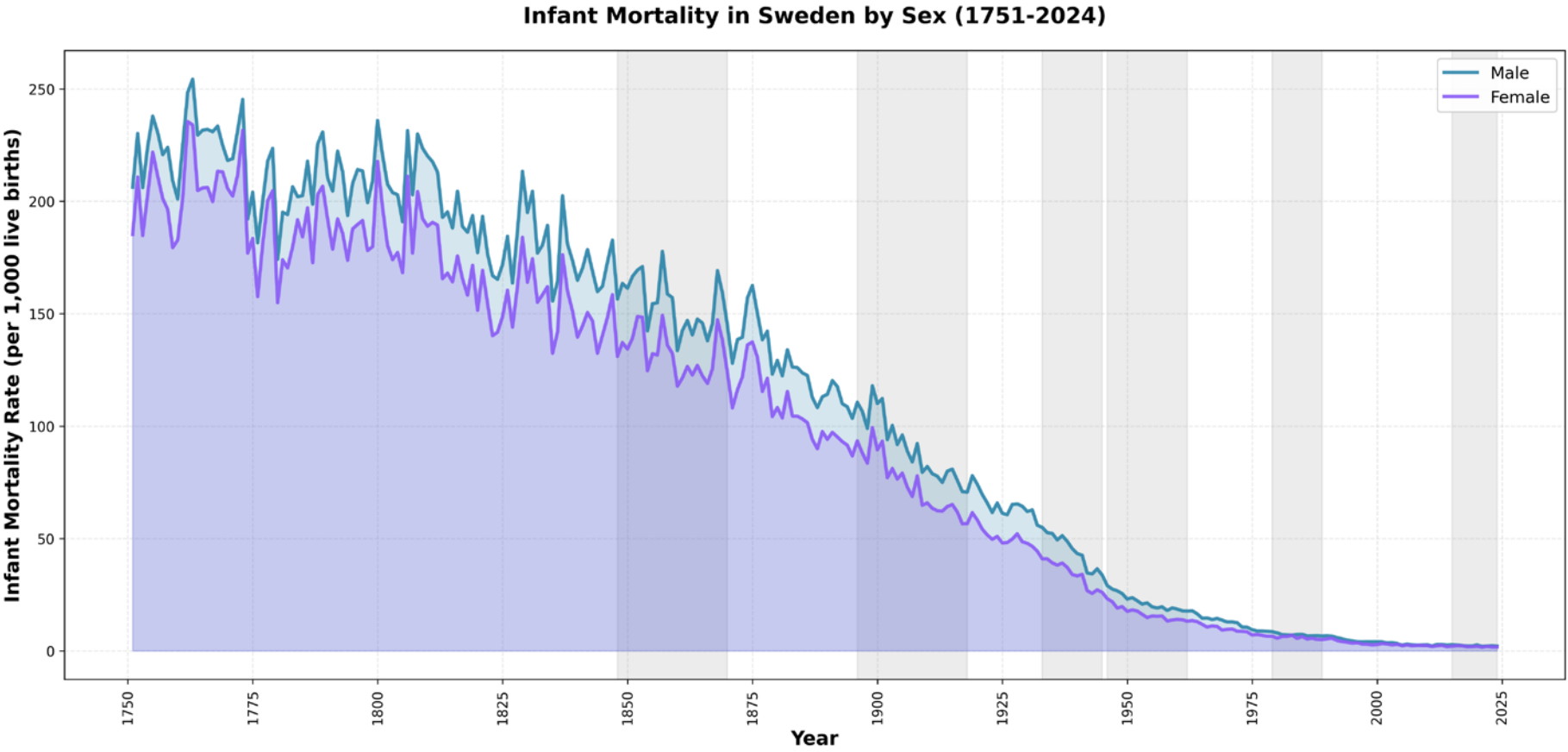


Universalism vs. Particularism: Two Choices

- Universalist policies:
 - concerted efforts among major powers to organize their relations through mutually acceptable rules of behavior and general standards.
- Particularist policies:
 - emphasize the special interest of a given power, even at the price of disrupting existing organizations or relationships.

War Periods In Spite of Health Improvement

In grey: periods of particularism (since 1816)



Grey shaded periods: 1848-1870, 1896-1918, 1933-1945, 1946-1962, 1979-1989, 2015-2024

What *do* we learn from this?

- Learning: It is a matter of methodology
- We can say the following, with high probability
 - Wars often end with negotiations
 - Negotiated settlements are better for democracy and health provision
 - Power alone does not provide for lasting peace
 - Rather: Particularism leads to dangerous confrontations
 - Particularism CAN turn to wiser universalism, incorporating lessons learned
- Thus: There is hope for the future!