

*King's Christian Collegiate Model United Nations
Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC)*



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February 24, 2023

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Welcome letter

Dear King'sMUN 2024 delegates,

We are truly honoured, as this year's Co-Secretary Generals of King'sMUN, to welcome you to our 10th annual conference. The Secretariat has been working hard throughout this school year to deliver you an incredible, in-person conference with a variety of creative committees, experienced chairs, and an overall successful day of debate.

Model United Nations, a reenactment of the function of the United Nations, is designed for students to come together to debate, discuss, and develop creative resolutions to some of the world's most pressing issues that plague our world today. In most committees, students take on the positions of various countries, characters, or political figures to create solutions for both real and fictional issues and crises. We also offer unique committees that explore historical, future, and fictional issues.

In our personal experience with MUN, we have developed many valuable skills that we will take with us throughout our lives, such as confidence in public speaking, leadership, and creative problem-solving. Furthermore, MUN promotes lifelong connections, as we are constantly meeting delegates who share similar passions to us in committee sessions. We truly believe that your participation in MUN will guide you throughout your high school journey and beyond.

At King'sMUN, we provide a variety of committees to ensure that we have something of interest for everyone. From very current pressing issues (ie. UNSC and the African Union) and issues in sports (ie. International Cricket Council and WSF) to fictional, yet real, controversies (ie. Barbieland) and issues set in the past (ie. The Manhattan Project). We strive to ensure that there is appeal for a variety of delegates. Whether you have no experience or have been to a multitude of conferences, there is a place at King'sMUN for you!

Once again, we are thrilled to welcome all delegates, new or returning, back to King'sMUN. We hope that you engage in fruitful debate and have an amazing time at King'sMUN 2024.

Sincerely,

Serena Kalsi and Georgia Apostolopoulos

Co-Secretary Generals

King'sMUN 2024

The purpose of the United Nations

The United Nations was created after World War II on April 25th, 1945. 51 countries initially met in San Francisco, California for a conference to start a charter for the UN. The organization's goal is to maintain international peace and security, protect human rights, and promote sustainable development. At creation, the UN had 51 members, in 2023, 193 of the 195 recognized countries are members, where the state of Palestine and Vatican City are observers. (Roosevelt and Gerhart, n.d)

The UN has six principal organs, the first is the General Assembly, the deliberative assembly of 193 state members. Assemblies take place every year on important issues with peace and security, admission of new members, and budgeting for new ideas. Drafted resolutions are later forwarded to the six main committees of the General Assembly, which includes the DISEC. Second is the UN Security Council, which is in charge of maintaining and implementing peace among nations, since the other organs are in charge of drafting ideas. The Security Council comprises 15 states, including Algeria, Ecuador, Guyana, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, South Korea, and Switzerland. The other 5 members are permanent and hold veto power over all UN resolutions without debate. These countries include China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the USA. Third is the UN Secretariat, this organ provides information and carries out tasks that are needed to organize UN meetings. The Secretariat is made up of tens of thousands of international servants around the world which the secretary general and deputy general lead. Fourth is the International Court of Justice, its main function is to deal with disputes including war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and violations of state sovereignty. This UN organ can provide advisory opinions on international law matters if a country struggles. Fifth is the Economic and Social Council, which assists the general assembly with data gathering, with help from NGOs, and makes recommendations for the economic development of countries. The sixth is the Trusteeship Council. It is established to administer new trust territories, as they transition from colonies to independent nations.

The headquarters of the General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council, trusteeship Council, and the Secretariat are located in New York. The International Court of Justice headquarters is in Hague, the Netherlands. (“Main Bodies United Nations,” n.d)

Purpose of the DISEC, why was it created? When was it created? What has it done?

The United Nations Disarmament and International Security Committee was created right after the charter of the United Nations was signed in 1945, it is the first main committee of the General Assembly. DISEC was created to establish rules for the creation of military equipment and to govern disarmament. Although the DISEC cannot rule out decisions, they can provide ideas which can be considered by the UN Security Council. The DISEC is also an institution of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), their objective is to implement disarmament at all levels, including nuclear weapons, weapons of mass destruction, as well as controversial new weapon technologies. (“DISEC: Disarmament & International Security Committee,” n.d)

The DISEC passed its first resolution on January 24, 1946. This was called Resolution 1 and aimed to solve problems raised by the discovery of atomic energy. The resolution included four proposals, the first being that countries should exchange scientific atomic for the sole purpose of peaceful innovations. The second measure encourages control of atomic energy to the extent necessary to ensure its use for peaceful purposes, with that, elimination should be of artillery made from atomic technology along with other major weapons capable of mass destruction. The last point promotes that there should be effective safeguards, by the way inspection of countries is done for atomic energy, so it is compliant and avoids evasions. (“UN General Assembly - First Committee - Disarmament and International Security,” n.d)

After Resolution 1, the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission (UNAEC) was founded on January 24, 1946, following the four specific proposals. The UNAEC continues to operate enforcement measures to suppress arsenals of atomic weapons and promote peaceful uses. The commission has also evolved to consider the ethical issues around mining precious minerals and resources. (“United Nations Atomic Energy Commission,” n.d) The DISEC has also played a key role in creating the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The Treaty was entered into force in 1970 and then extended indefinitely. A total of 191 states have joined including five countries having nuclear weapons. The NPT is the most signed treaty of all other arms disarmament agreements. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was later created to safeguard the treaty and conduct investigations to verify countries' compliance. (“Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) – UNODA,” n.d)

The DISEC has influenced the creation of the Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT), which aims to ban nuclear tests in the Earth's atmosphere, outer space, and under the water. The treaty's history dates to 1954 when India expressed concerns and called for an agreement to ban nuclear weapon testing. This led to the PTBT agreement in 1963 which was first signed by the United States, the Soviet Union, and the United Kingdom in Moscow. (“Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT),” n.d)

Issue 1: Addressing the Role of Media in Fuelling Conflicts

Social media dependence is increasing rapidly as technology has become more accessible and popular since the early 2000s. Today around 4.9 billion people use social media as of June 2023. Social media has such a large audience and has the potential to release dangerous fake news, misinformation, and hate speech. Social media is also the main world news source for many, so people tend to believe what they see. (Shewale, 2023)

Misinformation has been a major part of arguments, from elections to the Covid-19 pandemic. People in stressful environments may depend on social media news as it gives a reason as to why something is happening trusting the source. This is made even worse when data is shared between family and friends as people usually believe information from close people. (McSwine, 2023)

Social media fueling conflict is ubiquitous, a recent example is the armed conflict in Ethiopia that took place in 2020. This event clearly shows how the media can exacerbate conflicts with ethnic factors. The conflict comes after the failure of multiple regimes aimed at the government to implement new policies to promote equality among new ethnic groups. The question was raised if Ethiopia would become an equal single nation or a nationalistic country. After a military regime in 1991 was overthrown by ethnic armed groups, the question was addressed. In 1995 a constitution was made stating that various nationalities of the country have the freedom to pursue their economic, social, and cultural values without interference. This led to centralized government structures, strengthening the representation of ethnic groups.

Even after the new governmental structures, people in Ethiopia either supported or opposed the new ruling, and people who supported the ruling claimed that enough wasn't being done. Protests in the region of Oromia resulted in a new government change with Abiy Ahmed Ali coming into power in 2018. He faced difficulty balancing the federal system, with the former

Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), which supports equality, and the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF) which follows a nationalistic view. Abiy Ahmed Ali, the government of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) eventually went through with the decision to follow TPLF ideology, even labelling the OLF as a terrorist organization. Similar tensions came back after the TPLF members were accused of corruption scandals. Abiy was accused of his efforts being made to manipulate Tigrayans (native Ethiopians). Tensions increased further after the 2020 election became delayed. ("The Interaction of Mass Media and Social Media in Fuelling Ethnic Violence in Ethiopia – ACCORD," 2022)

The protests evolved into a war where social media created a polarized political environment with different political groups using media to spread propaganda, convincing that other groups were a threat to Ethiopia. In the early stage of this war, governments were extremely effective in establishing a media blackout since people used to depend on Ethiopian broadcasting news agencies among other trusted outlets. This made it difficult to report on conflict beyond what the government releases. In 2021 developments came after the OLF and TPLF army divisions claimed the capture of two cities, Dessie, and Kombolcha in 2021. After this, rumours spread through unregulated social media claiming that Tigrayan civilians were providing information to the Tigray Defence Force (TDF), a paramilitary group taking over the land. After the rumours, Tigrayan civilians across the country were labelled 'sleeper cells' on many social media platforms. Many social media influencers discussed and attempted to start rebellions pushing the idea all Tigrayans should be put into concentration camps, or even promoting the need to execute all Tigrayans even though most had no connection to the rebellion. ("Ethiopian forces recapture two key towns from Tigrayan forces," 2021)

Delegates should keep in mind that the DISEC can only suggest topics that the Security Council can discuss, thus DISEC cannot stop the issue of social media directly, or force social media companies to change their policies. Delegates should draft solutions and create resolutions for the General Assembly to discuss. Countries attending the General Assembly can use possible resolutions to create policies for their benefit.

Further questions

1. How can the enforcement of international law be changed to control in-nation social media use, to preserve international peace and security?

2. Has your specific country implemented measures in the past to control social media outlets? What were the beneficial results or limitations of these policies?
3. Were there any terrorist groups, or movements that took advantage of social media to spread propaganda at a large scale?
4. What are the most common social media platforms in your country? Are there policies which impact the spread of misinformation?

Connections to the SDGs



Sustainable Development Goal 16 has the highest connection, dealing with the issue of social media in conflicts. SDG 16.3 talks about the importance of fair justice for all. It connects with social media as it is the key to cybercrimes, online harassment and promoting violence against certain groups. Expanding on the legal framework can help curve this trend stopping organizers from posting propaganda. SDG 16.1 can connect with the issue of violence being caused by misinformation. Addressing this can help achieve this goal and reduce crime and death rates of people affected. SDG 16.10 speaks about Ensuring that the public can access information protecting freedom of speech. control of social media flow with misinformation is key but balancing other freedom of speech should not be affected. SDG 16.6 Aims to build accountable and inclusive institutions for all, the regulation and oversight of social media control is connected to this. governments and international bodies should establish a framework for social media misinformation flow which could help achieve this goal.

SDG 17 is mainly about spreading new developments around the world with the help of partnerships. 17.3 speaks about mobilizing additional financial resources to developing countries which can boost government control. Many conflicts occur in developing countries so increasing the power of the government can mean more spending can go to controlling the follow of false social media information.



The control of social media hate can also help achieve SDG 5. 5.1 speaks about ending all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere. If the framework of social

media filtering is improved, there is less chance that violence against female groups will continue connecting with 5.2. SDG 10 speaks about reducing inequalities within and among countries which corresponds to social media making a considerable impact. Target 10.2 includes solving social economic, and political inclusion, Social media is a platform with many exclusionary content. Making social media platforms inclusive can reduce the risk of conflicts against marginalized groups. If social media is made more inclusive it can go hand in hand with 10.3, since opportunities can be improved if society has a better view of marginalized groups. (“THE 17 GOALS Sustainable Development,” n.d)



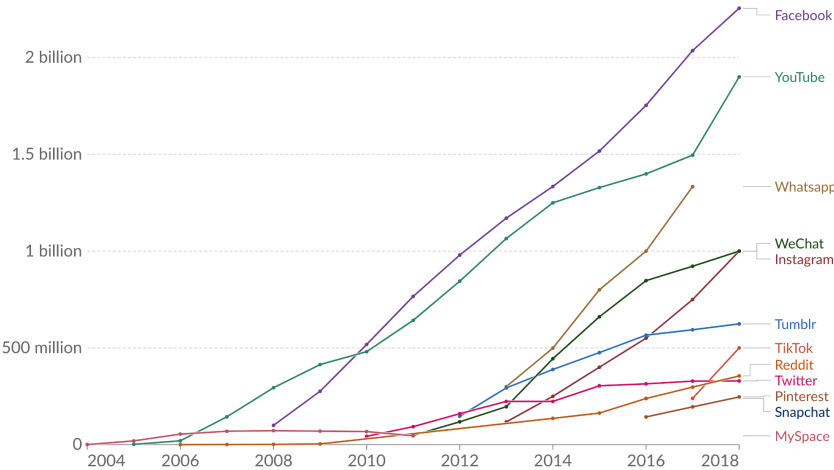
Useful sources

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Graphs and data

Number of people using social media platforms, 2004 to 2018

Estimates correspond to monthly active users (MAUs). Facebook, for example, measures MAUs as users that have logged in during the past 30 days. See source for more details.

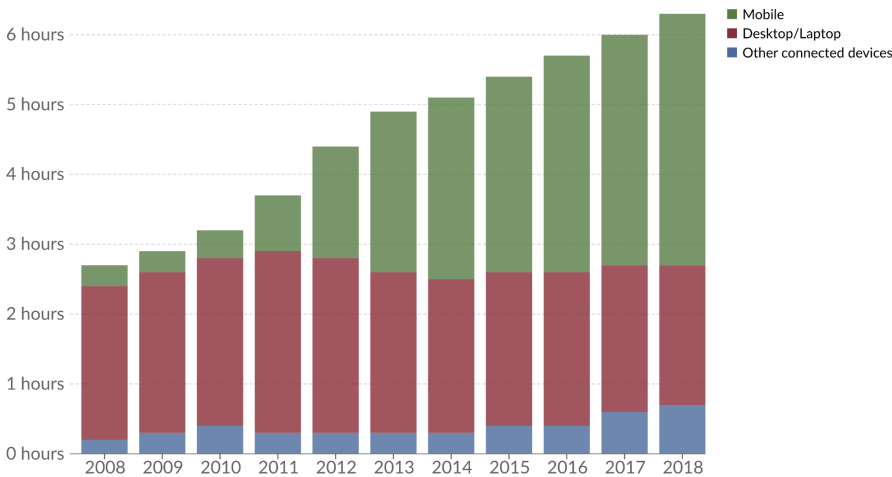


Source: Statista and TNW (2019)

OurWorldInData.org/internet • CC BY

Daily hours spent with digital media in the United States

Average daily hours spent engaging with digital media (e.g., images and videos, web pages, social media apps, etc.) The data for 'other connected devices' includes game consoles. Mobile includes smartphones & tablets. All data includes usage at home and work for people 18+.

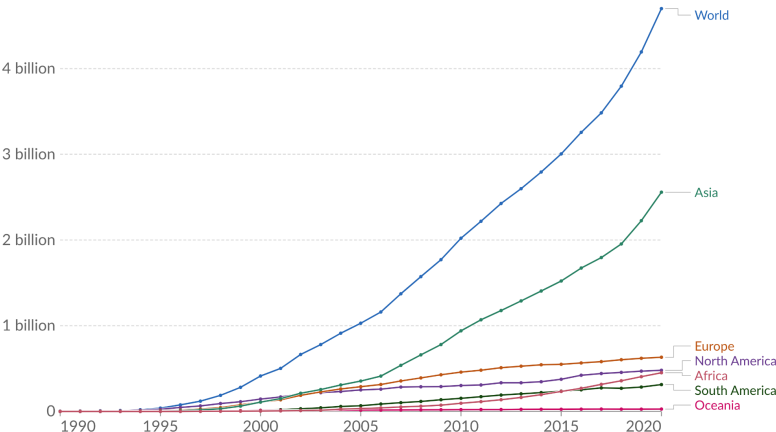


Data source: BOND Internet Trends (2019)

OurWorldInData.org/internet | CC BY

Number of people using the Internet

Number of people who used the Internet¹ in the last three months.

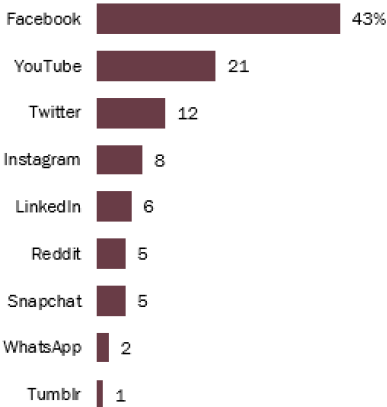


Data source: OWID based on International Telecommunication Union (via World Bank) and UN (2022)
[OurWorldinData.org/internet](https://ourworldindata.org/internet) | CC BY

1. Internet user: An internet user is defined by the International Telecommunication Union as anyone who has accessed the internet from any location in the last three months. This can be from any type of device, including a computer, mobile phone, personal digital assistant, games machine, digital TV, and other technological devices.

Social media sites as pathways to news

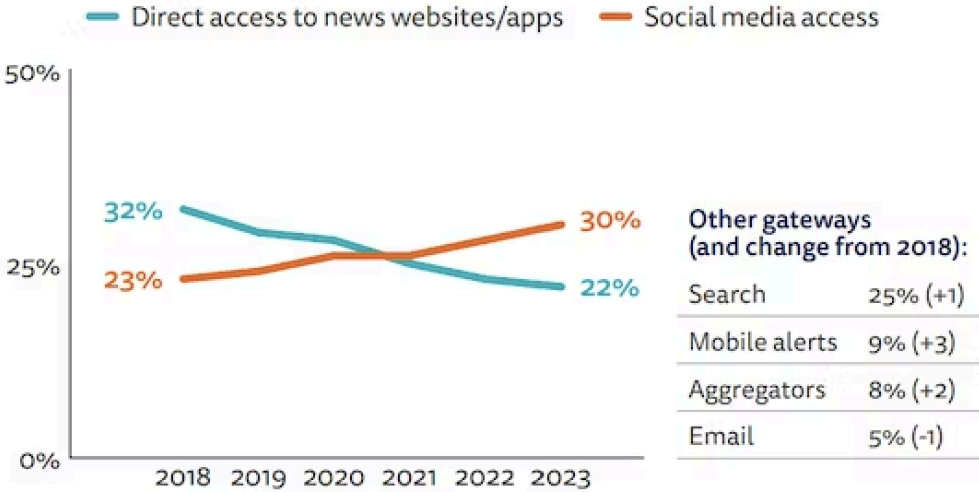
% of U.S. adults who get news on each social media site



Source: Survey conducted July 30-Aug. 12, 2018.
 News Use Across Social Media Platforms 2018

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

PROPORTION THAT SAY EACH IS THEIR MAIN WAY OF GETTING NEWS ONLINE (2018-2023) - ALL MARKETS



Q10a_new2017_rc. Which of these was the main way in which you came across news in the last week? Base: All who used a news gateway in the last week in each market-year ≈ 2000. Note: Number of markets grew from 36 in 2018 to 46 from 2021 onwards. Markets listed in online methodology.

Issue 2: Access to Weapons in Conflict Zones

Twelve billion bullets are produced every year, which has the potential to kill everyone in the world. Thousands of people are killed every day, and many are forced to flee their homes because of armed conflict happening nearby. The Arms Trade Treaty was the first resolution negotiated in the United Nations for common standards worldwide for weapons trade. The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), created strict rules for trade over the past 9 years since 2014. Yet global weapon trade is still on a steep rise and continues to be an issue with fueling wars and abusing human rights. The largest weapon exporters, Russia and the United States have not considered the treaty, and even countries that agreed and signed the treaty still fail to follow it. Selling weapons to high conflict zones for economic reasons without caring, causes violations of international humanitarian law, or war crimes being committed with sold artillery. (“Arms Trade – UNODA,” n.d)

Conflicts are almost always created because of conflict between country leaders and innocent civilians are most affected. “Weapons such as artillery, mortars, guided bombs and missiles destroy hospitals, homes, markets and transport systems, pushing survivors into poverty. People’s lives are destroyed. This is the cost of an unregulated arms trade industry.” (“Arms Control,” n.d)

The exchange of weapons causing conflict is highly evident in the Middle East and a large example is the war in Yemen. It continues to ruin the lives of many after the Houthi political movement took over Sana’a, the capital city in 2015. The Saudi Arabia-led invasion intervened to try to recover the United Nations-recognized leader in Yemen.

Since the conflict outbreak, thousands of people have died and many have been injured, the parties in the conflict have made the already extreme humanitarian crisis worse since Yemen has been struggling with years of poverty and lack of government control. Human rights violations are evident and were made by all sides of the political conflict, affecting many innocent civilians. The Saudi-led intervention made many inappropriate airstrikes hitting hospitals, schools, apartment buildings, and places of worship. Similarly, the Houthi forces also made inappropriate shelling in civilian areas, as well as launching missiles aimed at populated areas.

This conflict is constantly fueled by the United Kingdom and the United States which continue to sell firearms to the Saudi-led forces. The total funding support made is well over 18

billion US dollars since the start of the conflict. The Hunthi forces on the other hand receive funding from Hezbollah, a political party in Iran. (“Arms Control,” n.d)

Delegates should approach the issue by providing draft resolutions for discussion since DISEC cannot directly approve resolutions. Delegates should focus on ways to stop foreign arms trade researching the roots of the conflicts and how weapons end up being exchanged. Discussion should also be made on alternatives for solving conflict instead of mass violence primarily affecting innocent civilians.

Further questions

1. What are some ways countries can prevent weapon proliferation in a world where many countries are in a security dilemma?
2. Could standardized sanctions help against the exportation of weapons?
3. How can countries better regulate how the sold weapons are used? And how can they enforce the use of weapons so they are purely used for defence?
4. What changes can be made with existing agreements to limit the production of weapons in the first place?

Connections to SDGs



SDG 16 has the strongest connection, target 16.1 speaks about reducing all forms of violence and death rates in conflict areas everywhere. Target 16.4 emphasizes the need to limit illicit financial arms flows and to combat organized crime in other ways instead of violence. Reducing access to weapons in conflict areas can lead to more humane agreements and help achieve this goal. Goal 17 talks about effective partnerships with countries for sustainable development, creating agreements to stop the use of weapons can deal with issues more effectively. This can connect to target 17.17 which is about making collaborative efforts



between governments which can be attributed to addressing the roots of conflicts. This can stop the need for weapons in the first place. Conflicts being fueled by constant imports



affect civilians the most and are an endless situation especially if weapons are being given to all sides of the conflict. SDG 1 being no poverty connects with this since war creates economic, social, and environmental shocks, stopping the destruction of populated areas can improve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by increasing opportunities and achieving all targets in SDG 1. SDG 3 speaks about the importance of good well-being, and target 3.9 mentions the goal of reducing deaths and illnesses poisoning due to hazardous chemicals. Many ongoing wars include the use of dangerous banned chemical bombs. Wars also commonly lead to the destruction of hospitals, if disarmament is focused on, access to quality essential healthcare services can be improved helping achieve 3.8. (“THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development,” n.d)



Useful sources

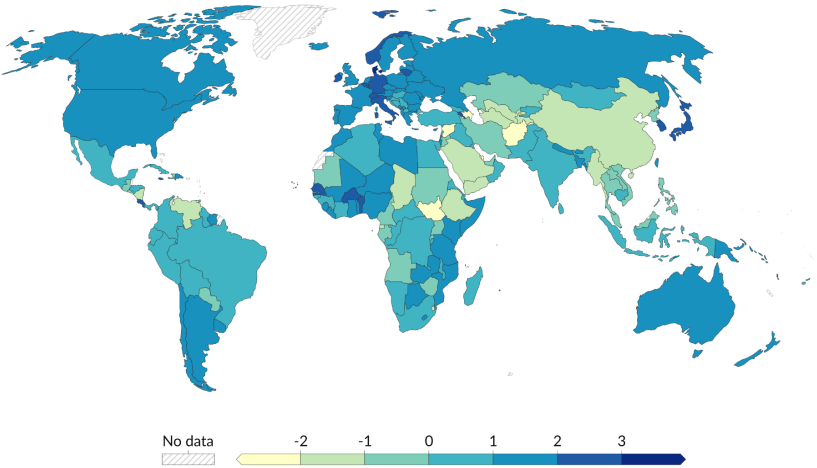
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Graphs and data

Equality of political power across social groups index, 2022



Based on the expert assessments and index by V-Dem¹. It captures the extent to which social groups – defined by language, ethnicity, religion, race, region, and/or caste – are irrelevant to politics, or have similar political power. Higher scores mean more equality.



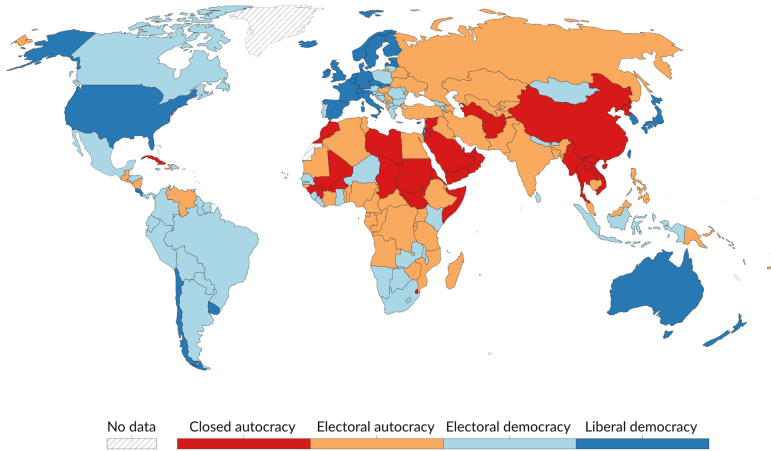
Data source: V-Dem (2023)

OurWorldInData.org/human-rights | CC BY

1. V-Dem: The Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) project publishes data and research on democracy and human rights. It relies on evaluations by around 3,500 country experts and supplementary work by its own researchers to assess political institutions and the protection of rights. The project is managed by the V-Dem Institute, based at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden. Learn more: Democracy data: how do researchers measure democracy? The 'Varieties of Democracy' data: how do researchers measure democracy? The 'Varieties of Democracy' data: how do researchers measure human rights?

Political regime, 2022

Based on the criteria of the classification by Lüthmann et al. (2018) and the assessment by V-Dem's experts.

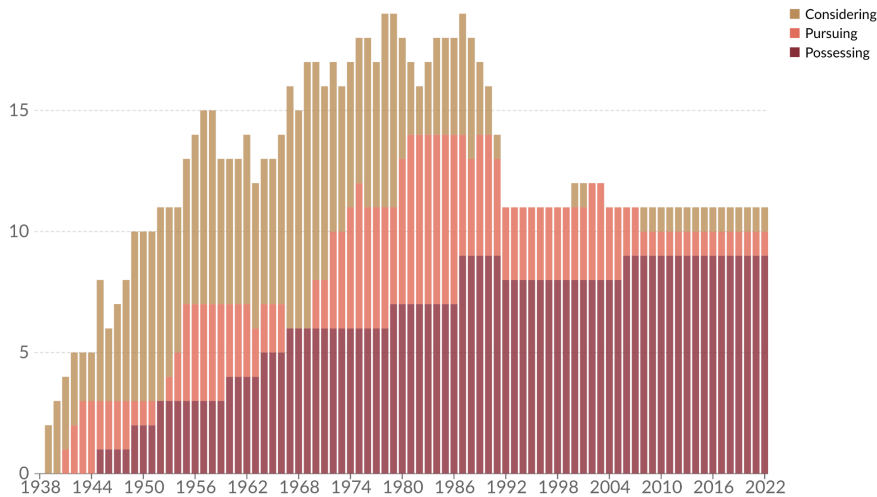


Data source: V-Dem (2023) OurWorldInData.org/democracy | CC BY
 Note: The Chart tab uses numeric values, ranging from 0 for closed autocracies to 3 for liberal democracies.

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Nuclear weapons proliferation

Number of countries that consider, pursue, or possess nuclear weapons.

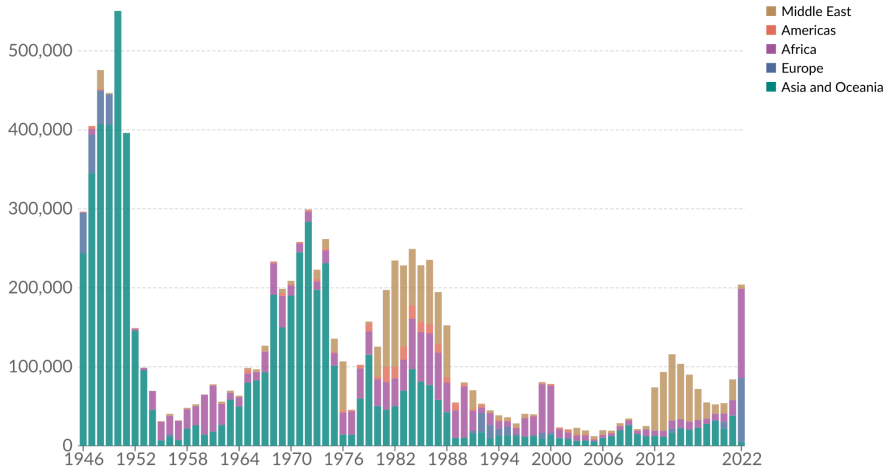


Data source: OWID based on Bleek (2017) and Nuclear Threat Initiative (2022)
OurWorldInData.org/nuclear-weapons | CC BY

Deaths in state-based conflicts by region



Included are deaths of combatants and civilians due to fighting in interstate¹, intrastate², and extrasystemic³ conflicts that were ongoing that year.



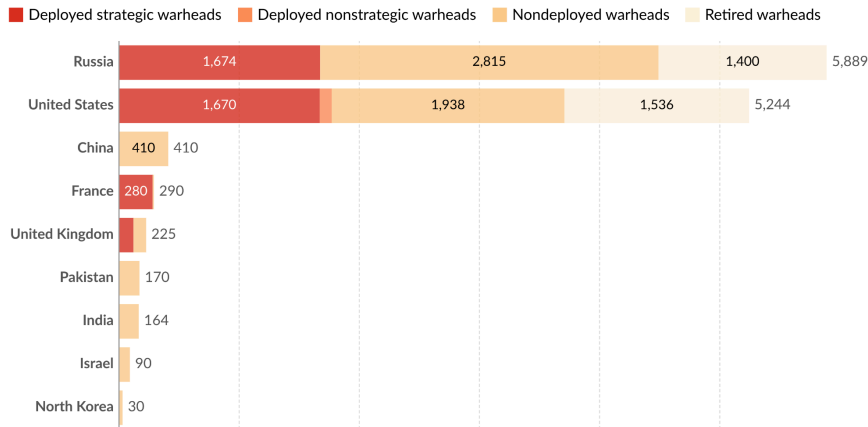
Data source: Uppsala Conflict Data Program (2023); Peace Research Institute Oslo (2017)
OurWorldInData.org/war-and-peace | CC BY

- Interstate conflict (UCDP and PRIO):** A conflict between states that causes at least 25 deaths during a year. This includes combatant and civilian deaths due to fighting.
- Intrastate conflict (UCDP and PRIO):** A conflict between a state and a non-state armed group that causes at least 25 deaths during a year. This includes combatant and civilian deaths due to fighting. If a foreign state is involved, it is called "internationalized", and "non-internationalized" otherwise.
- Extrasystemic conflict (UCDP and PRIO):** A conflict between a state and a non-state armed group outside its territory that causes at least 25 deaths during a year. This includes combatant and civilian deaths due to fighting.

Estimated nuclear warhead inventories, 2023



Strategic warheads are designed for use away from the battlefield, such as against military bases, arms industries or infrastructure. Deployed are those on ballistic missiles, submarines, or bomber bases. Retired are those queued for dismantlement.



Data source: Federation of American Scientists (2022) OurWorldInData.org/nuclear-weapons | CC BY
 Note: The exact number of countries' warheads is secret, and the estimates are based on publicly available information, historical records, and occasional leaks. Warheads vary substantially in their power.

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