

Long-term legacies of wars

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War, peace, and political violence

UC3M, Fall 2023



The consequences of wars

- Economic

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- Social and institutional

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- Social processes of war

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- **Differences** between interstate and civil wars?

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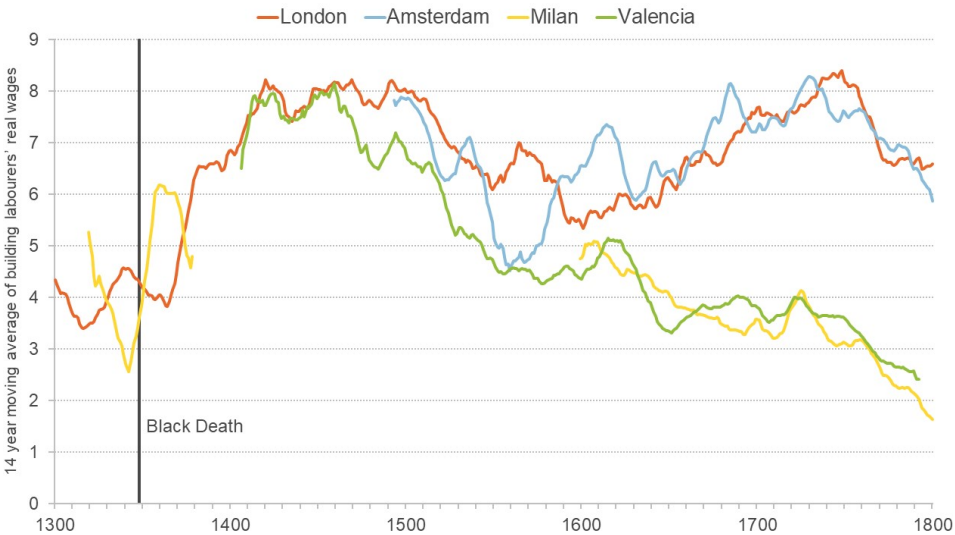
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 - Different conflicts, different effects?

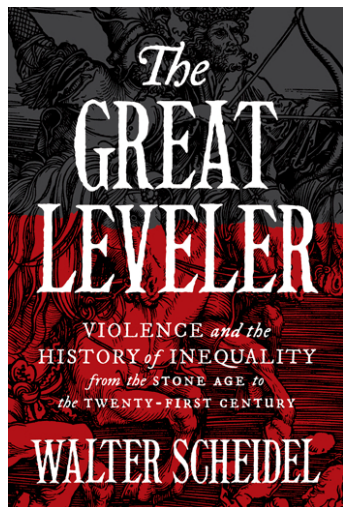
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 - Different conflicts, different effects?
 - How long its legacies last? How?





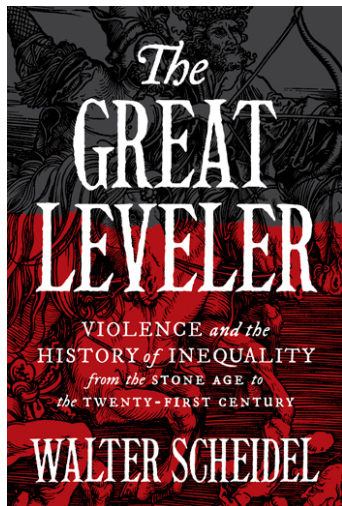
Economic consequences of war



Walter Scheidel (2018)

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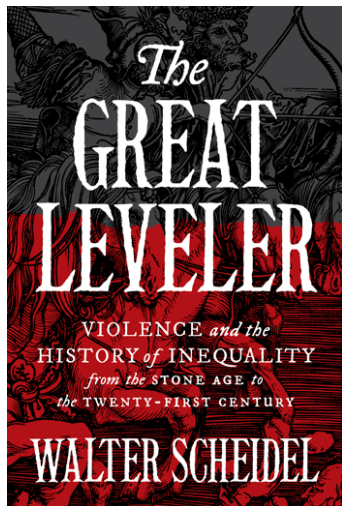
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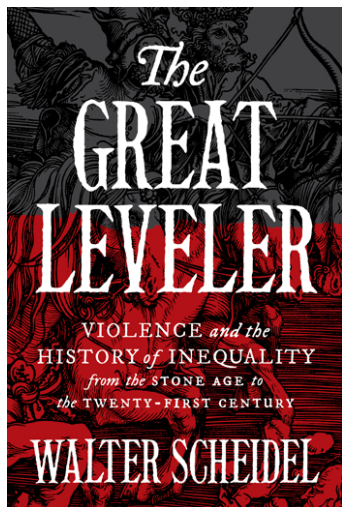
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Economic consequences of war

- Main argument: inequality only decreases after mass violence or catastrophes
- The 'Four Horsemen' of leveling: mass-mobilization warfare, transformative revolutions, state collapse, and catastrophic plagues
- Situations when the rich have more to lose and/or the poor increase their relative power



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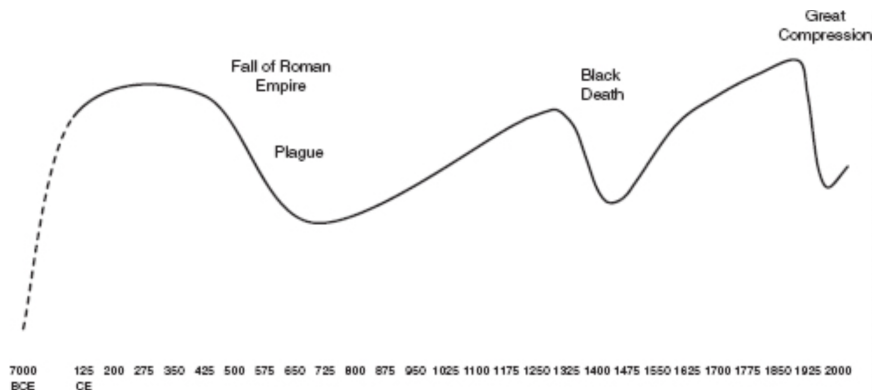
Scheidel's *The great leveler*

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- Different to pre-modern wars (winners win, losers lose, more inequality)

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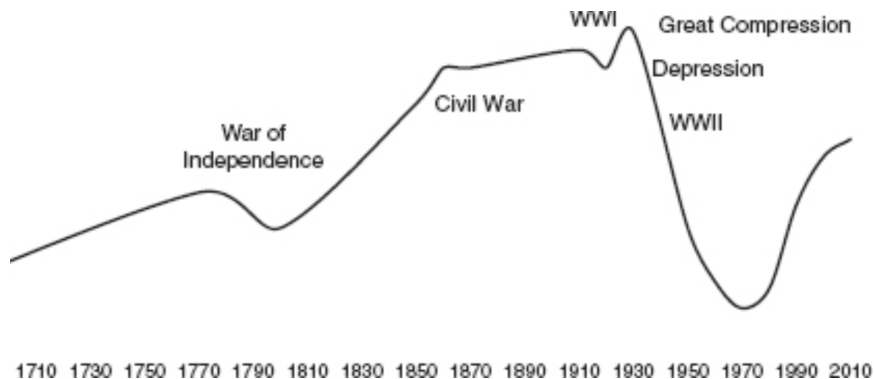
- Inter-state wars that involve **mass-mobilization** decrease inequality
- Different to pre-modern wars (winners win, losers lose, more inequality)
- **What about civil wars?** Similar to pre-modern wars, inequality increases: increased value of capital, war confiscations, etc
 - Civil war \neq revolution, but often go together

Inequality over time



Europe

Inequality over time



United States

Social and institutional legacies

- How do wars impact macro-level sociopolitical institutions?
- Probably the most important thing and what we know less about

Social and institutional legacies

- War and state development in medieval Europe, but does that apply to civil war?

Social and institutional legacies

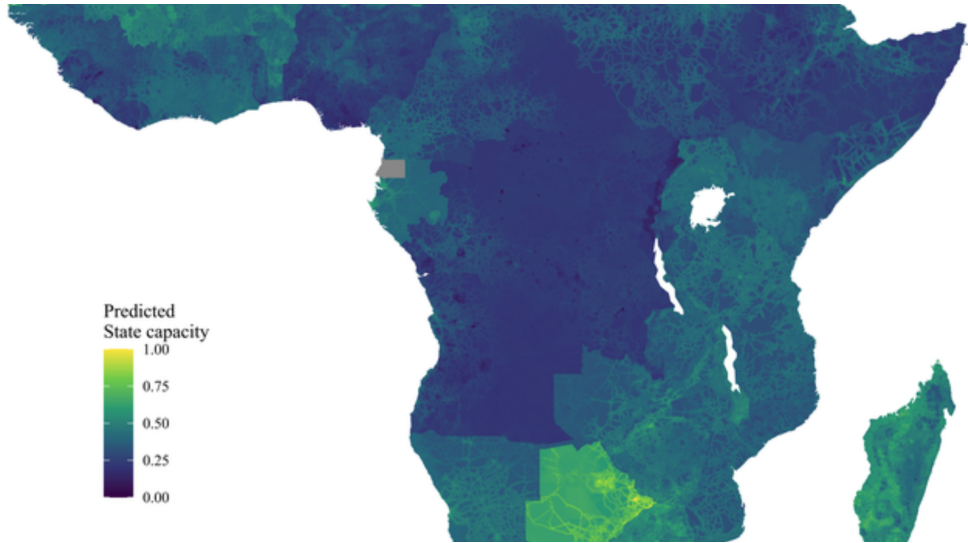
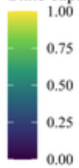
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Social and institutional legacies

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- Unclear, in many cases, a weak state is the product of civil wars
- But for example, the case of **Uganda**: Museveni established local councils during the civil war, which were later scaled up in the post-war period



Predicted
State capacity



Social and institutional legacies

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 - Do conflicts polarize societies? What are the consequences of different outcomes? etc
 - E.g. military victory seems to lead to stronger postwar states

Social and institutional legacies

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- Influence of the focus on the micro-dynamics of conflicts
- Local- or region-level legacies of wars: how do wars develop at the local level? Wartime institutions, rebel governance?
- Legacies of violence: do specific events have consequences?

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 3. Gender roles

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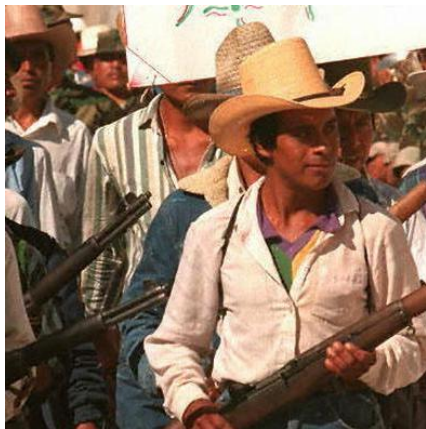
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- Civilians get much more involved in politics during wars, not only in terms of recruitment, but also in other forms of collective action, offering non-military support, etc
- Mobilization varies a lot and depends on armed groups (collaboration networks vs coercion or forced recruitment, etc), wartime events (e.g. reaction to civilian victimization), civilian social structures, etc

Social processes of civil wars



Patrullas de Autodefensa Civil
(Guatemala)



Rondas campesinas (Peru)

Lynching Persists in Guatemala

BY DANIEL ALTSCHULER | DECEMBER 15, 2009

Lynchings are wreaking havoc again in rural Guatemala. In a recent 15-day span, **nine people have been lynched here by citizens** who chose to take justice into their own hands. And in the past year, lynch mobs have attacked **over 250 people**, resulting in at least 42 deaths. The numbers are scary, and they reflect the reality that Guatemala has not forgotten a crucial part of its grisly past. In addition to the deaths caused, the lynchings reflect the inadequacy and inaccessibility of state justice institutions and the legacies of violence from civil war and state-sponsored genocide.

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- Variation within a single conflict: Getting caught 'between two fires'? Is it possible to stay neutral? etc

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Social processes of civil wars

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- Women combatants comprised more than a quarter of the insurgent force in many civil wars (Peru, Sri Lanka, ...), which introduces a huge change to their traditional social roles
- Also: women from rural, isolated areas becoming interlocutors with the state, looking for detainees, etc



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The legacies of violence

- What are the long-term consequences of specific events of violence?







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 - If my relative, friend, neighbor was killed, would that change the way I think politically?
- A lot of this depends on what we think about **how wartime violence happens** and **whether what happens in a war leaves legacies**

Thinking about legacies of wars

		Wartime attitudes?	
		Pre-determined	Endogenous
Does wartime behavior prevail?	Yes		
	No		

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Long-term consequences of violence

- The thing is violence **does** have an effect, and it lasts

Long-term consequences of violence

- The thing is violence **does** have an effect, and it lasts
- How to measure this?

Long-term consequences of violence

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- Old idea: "The seed of revolution is repression" (W. Wilson)

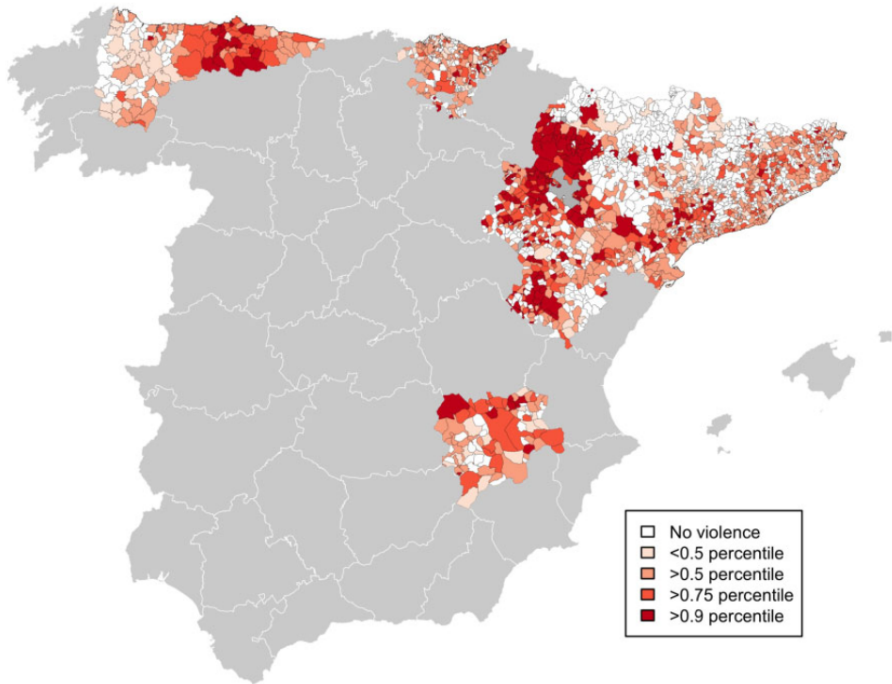
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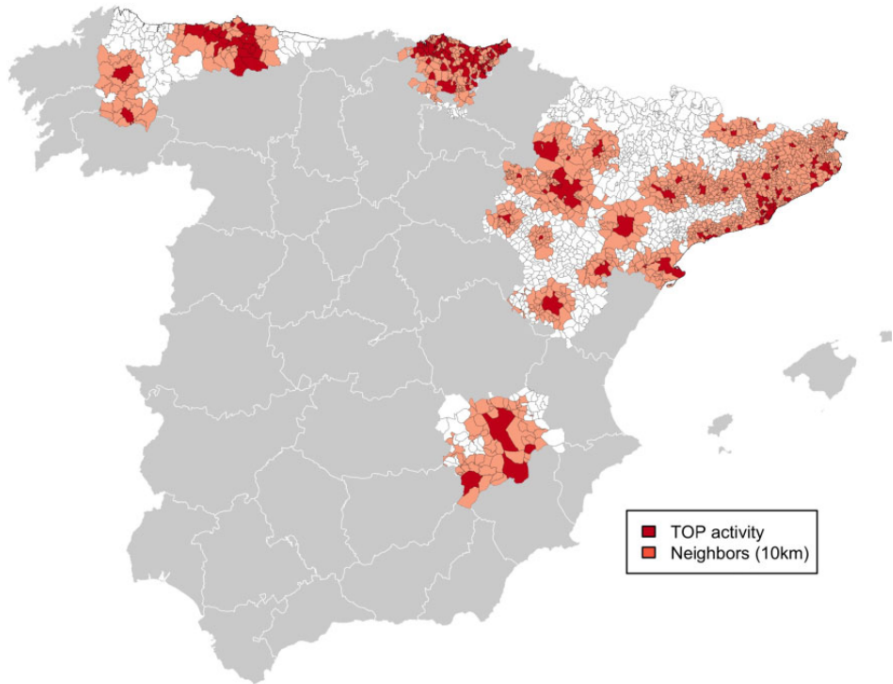
- If we do focus on how violence affects people's preferences in the long time, what usually happens is a **backfiring effect**
- Old idea: "The seed of revolution is repression" (W. Wilson)
- But does this happen all the time?

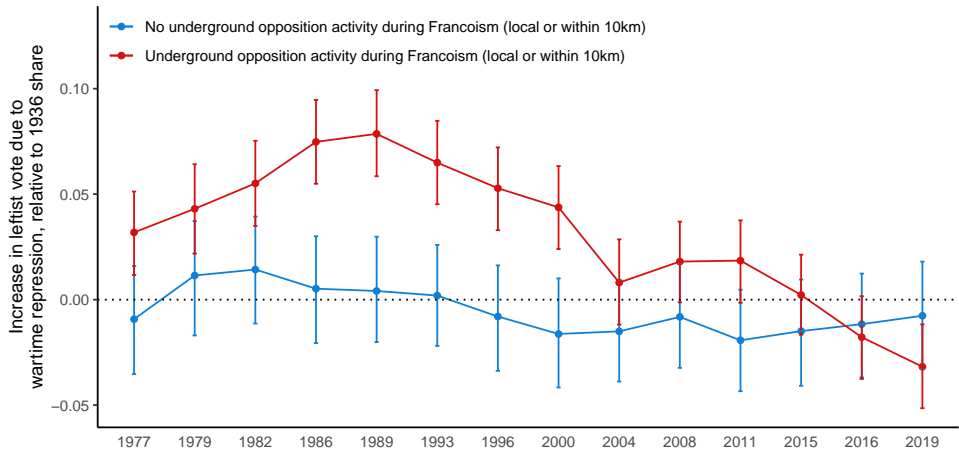
Long-term consequences of violence

The family had come to accept their secret, and silence helped them to reconcile their experiences with their present reality. They did not dream of revenge [...], neither did they did dream of freedom. **They even thought that Franco was a good man who knew nothing of the crimes, injustices, and miseries committed against people like themselves.** When Franco came to Almeria, they went to cheer him.

(Account of a victimized family in Almeria, 1957. Cazorla-Sánchez 2009, 3)







Long-term legacies

- It's not only about the consequences of wartime violence





ASESINO

ASESINO



The consequences of postwar measures

- The way these events are remembered and memorialized also has consequences, related to effects of TJ policies
- Tomorrow's seminar
 - [The Fight Over Virginia's Confederate Monuments](#)