



Sex and World Peace

Valerie M. Hudson and Chad Emmett
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What are the sources of conflict and instability within and between states?

Standard IR/Security Studies lists would include:

- + Ethnonationalism/Clash of civilizations
- + Democracy deficit
- + Poverty, resource scarcity
- + Ideological conflict
- + Power imbalances and power vacuums

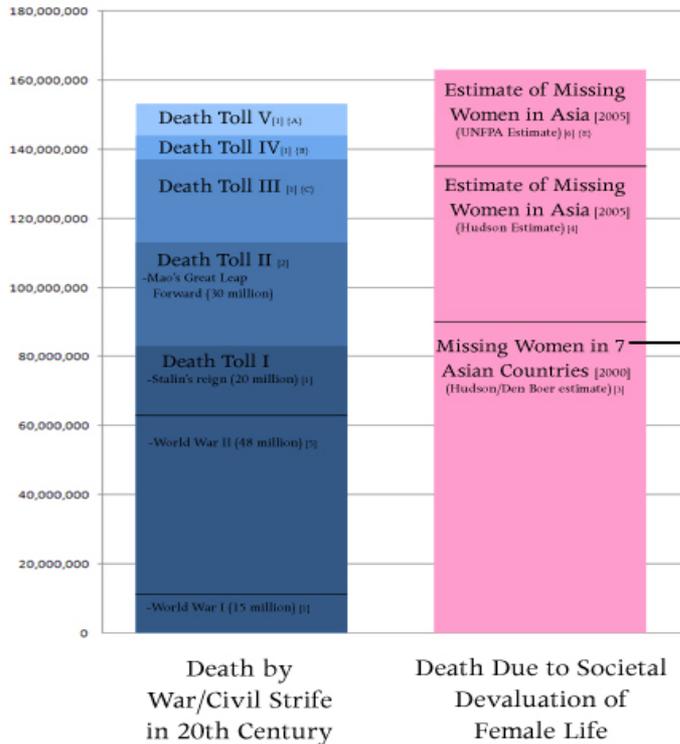
What about the situation and security of women within nation-states?

- + The realms of IR and treatment of women may at first blush not appear to inhabit the same conceptual space at all.
- + And yet . . . “The world is starting to grasp that there is no policy more effective in promoting development, health and education than the empowerment of women and girls. And I would venture that no policy is more important in preventing conflict, or in achieving reconciliation after a conflict has ended.”

--Kofi Annan, 2006

Consider “blood spilt and lives lost” . . .

Deaths



{A}

Death Toll V

- Brazil (1.1 million)
- Russo-Japanese War (.13 million)
- Balkans (.14 million)
- German East Africa (.18 million)
- Libya (.13 million)
- Greco-Turkish War (.25 million)
- Spanish Civil War (.47 million)
- Abyssinia (.4 million)
- Russo-Finnish War (.15 million)
- Greek Civil War (.16 million)
- Tito (.2 million)
- First Indochina War (.4 million)
- Columbia (.2 million)
- Indian partition (.5 million)
- Romania (.15 million)
- Burma/Myanmar (.13 million)
- Algeria (.7 million)
- Guatemala (.2 million)
- Indonesia (.4 million)
- Uganda (.6 million)
- Angola (.6 million)
- East Timor (.2 million)
- Lebanon (.15 million)
- Iraq (.7 million)
- Liberia (.15 million)
- Bosnia (.18 million)
- Somalia (.4 million)
- Israel/Arab (.07 million)
- Angola (.08 million)
- Sierra Leone (.08 million)

{B}

Death Toll IV

- Tibet (0.6 million)
- Mexican Revolution (1 million)
- Ethiopia (1.4 million)
- Nigeria (1 million)
- Mozambique (1 million)
- Sudan (1.9 million)

{C}

Death Toll III

- Pre-PRC 20th century China (4 million)
- Congo, 20th century (3.8 million)
- Vietnam (3.5 million)
- Korea (2.8 million)
- Afghanistan (1.8 million)
- Khmer Rouge, Cambodia (1.65 million)
- Estimated Armenian genocide (1.5 million)
- Russian Civil War (1.4 million)
- Rwanda/Burundi (1.35 million)
- Bangladesh (1.25 million)
- Iran/Iraq War (1 million)

Surely the security of the state
impacts the security of women

...

But might the security of
women impact the security of
states?

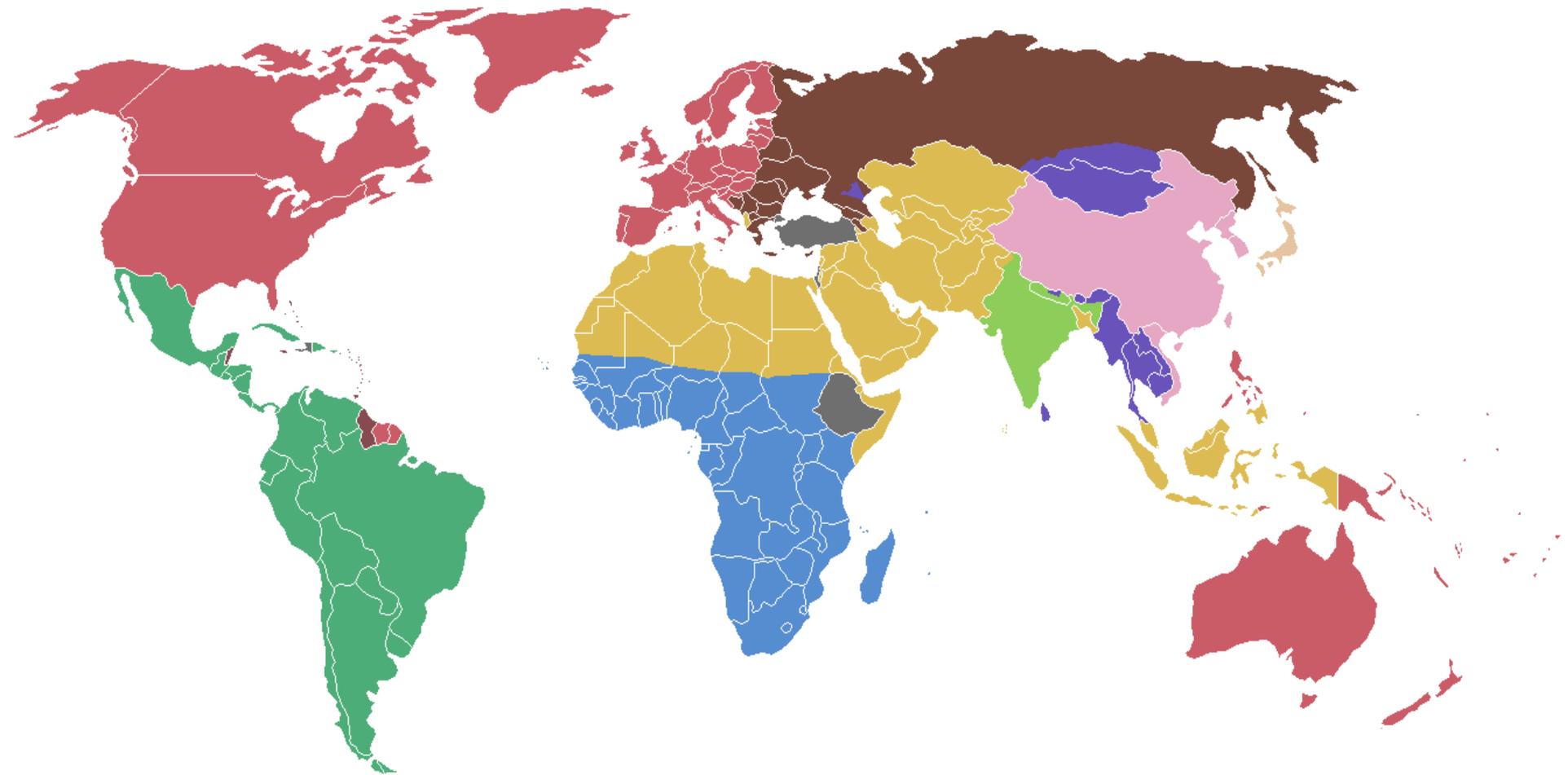
Mitigated and unmitigated male dominance hierarchies

- + Male-bonded groups are at the heart of society as an evolutionary legacy
- + Authoritarian
- + Inherently unstable
- + Violent
- + Violence towards outgroups serves as a male bonding mechanism, dampening within-group tensions between males
- + Key tension: Higher ranked males must keep subordinate males under control and loyal to the group, but subordinates may become complete reproductive failures if they are successful
- + Key indicators: high gender differentiation, high levels of violence against women, highly inequitable family law favoring men

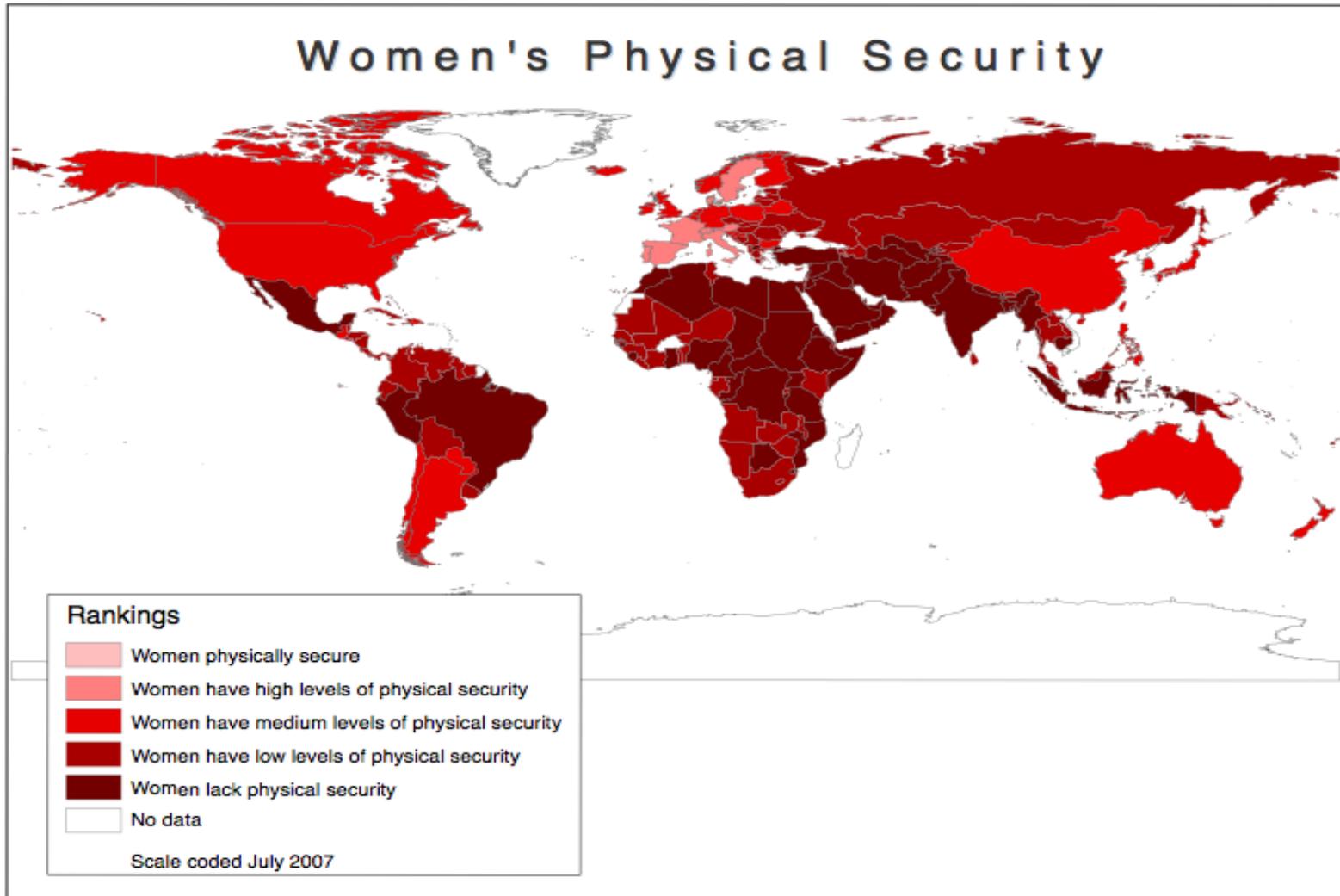
Mitigation is possible . . .

- + Mitigation of male dominance hierarchies as the primary form of social organization is possible, and does dampen state instability and conflict
- + Hajnal-Hartman thesis on the origins of democracy in northwestern Europe
- + Hudson et al. demonstrate that the level of violence against women in society is a better predictor of state peacefulness, both internally and internationally, than level of democracy, level of wealth, or prevalence of Islamic religion.

Instead of Huntington's civilizations as the engine of state conflict . . .



Might we gain greater insight by examining the clash of *Gender Civilizations*?



Consider what researchers have found concerning the link between the situation and security of women and the situation and security of nation-states . . .

Food Security and Women

- + In sub-Saharan Africa, women perform 80% of agricultural labor, and over 50% worldwide
- + But worldwide, women only own 2% of land
- + Women are expected to process and cook food, find fuel and potable water, on top of all their other responsibilities for children and agricultural work
- + Land extension agents are usually men, who only speak to men
- + Remuneration for cash crops is given to the men
- + In studies, 95% of a woman's earnings go to her family, while only 40-60% of a man's earnings go to his family. In agricultural societies, women are responsible to see that women and children do not starve: Men find it deeply culturally shameful to help their wives, and so do not assist them
- + Two-thirds of all malnourished children are female children, and in many societies women and girl children are expected to eat last

Might inequitable treatment of women make famine and malnutrition more likely?

Economic Prosperity and Women

- + The larger the gender gap, the lower the GDP per capita of a nation
- + The larger the gender gap, the lower the rate of national economic growth
- + Lower investment in female education is linked to lower national income
- + Economic development projects with a gender component are more successful than those without

Might inequitable treatment of women make poverty more likely?

Health and Women

- + The smaller the gender gap, the lower the infant and child mortality rates
- + The smaller the gender gap, the lower the level of child malnutrition
- + The smaller the gender gap, the lower the share of household income spent on cigarettes and alcohol
- + The larger the gender gap, the higher the AIDS rate
- + The larger the gender gap, the higher the infectious disease rate
- + The larger the gender gap, the lower the life expectancy for both men and women

Might inequitable treatment of women make disease and ill health more likely?

State Conflict and Women

- + The higher the level of violence against women, the more likely a nation-state is to be non-compliant with international norms
- + The higher the level of violence against women, the worse a nation-state's relations with its neighboring countries
- + The larger the gender gap, the more likely to be involved in inter- and intra-state conflict, and to use violence first in a conflict.
- + The higher the level of violence against women, the less peacefully the nation-state will behave in the international system.

Might inequitable treatment of women make conflict more likely?

Governance and Women

- + The larger the gender gap, the higher the levels of both perceived and actual government corruption
- + The lower the gender gap, the greater the level of trust in government, and the greater the degree of transparency in government
- + When the representation of women in the councils of humanity is higher, more attention is given to
 - + Social welfare
 - + Fighting corruption
 - + Improving legal protections for citizens
- + When women are represented in peace negotiations, participants are more satisfied with the outcome, and the agreement is more durable.

Might inequitable treatment of women make poor governance more likely?

Demographics and Women

- + When marriage is hierarchical between men and women, and women have few rights in marriage, unsustainably high levels of population growth result
- + When society makes caregiving economically irrational for women, subreplacement birth rates are the result

Might inequitable treatment of women make demographic problems more likely?

Might one great key to the Structural and Physical Violence we see around us in this world be the inequitable treatment of Women?

If we concentrated more on mitigating male dominance hierarchies and resulting inequitable treatment of women, and less on the export of democracy or free market capitalism, would we have a better chance of achieving sustainable development and good governance, and lower levels of poverty, disease, and conflict?

Secretary of State
Hillary Rodham Clinton:

“The subjugation of women is a direct threat to the security of the United States.”

March 12, 2010

at the United Nations

Sex and World Peace

- + Ten years of empirical research went into its making
- + Commitment to interdisciplinarity
- + Structure
 - + Key Terms
 - + The Three Wounds: A Descriptive Survey
 - + Scaling and Mapping the Situation of Women Worldwide
 - + Theoretical Framework
 - + Aggregate Statistical Testing
 - + Top-Down Approaches
 - + Bottom-Up Approaches
 - + R2PW: We are Less Helpless Than We Think

Postscript: The WomanStats Database

- + Free online access; over 130,000 data points, with more added daily. Largest compilation of information on the status of women in the world today
- + Over 325 variables for 175 countries
- + Maps and scales
- + Data is viewable onscreen, or can be downloaded.
- + Homepage: <http://womanstats.org>