

Security and Peace in an Uncertain World

Case Study 4: Conflicts in the Eastern Mediterranean

The Method and the Platform

The course employs a mixed learning approach, with online preparation (colored items) and offline classroom seminar (grey item) utilizing digital solutions, employing the flipped classroom concept. The online solutions are hosted on the Moodle LMS supplied by the University.



Theoretical Background

Transnational Conflicts

Ramsbotham et al. (2016) argues that today transnational drivers determine the dynamics of armed conflicts. Transnational drivers can be identified at the global, regional, national, group and individual levels. As discussed in Module 1 (class 3), a number of particular conflict drivers can be identified at each level, ranging from geopolitical rivalries between Great Powers to the personality characteristics of individual leaders.

Contemporary conflict resolution struggles to resolve (frozen or ongoing) armed conflicts because it is unable to address the root causes at all individual levels. Underlying causes for such failures can be identified at different levels of transnational conflicts and are generally linked to obstacles related to lack of substantive political will, financial resources and legal basis. These obstacles lead to fragile conflict resolution operations, whereby some key factors are effectively addressed at certain levels, but other drivers of conflict remain unaffected at other levels.

Therefore, an efficient contemporary conflict resolution strategy must be as globalized and interconnected as contemporary transnational conflicts.

Task 1.

Read the following chapter:

Ramsbotham, Oliver; Woodhouse, Tom; Miall, Hugh: *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*. Polity Press, 4th edition, 2016, pp. 120-143.

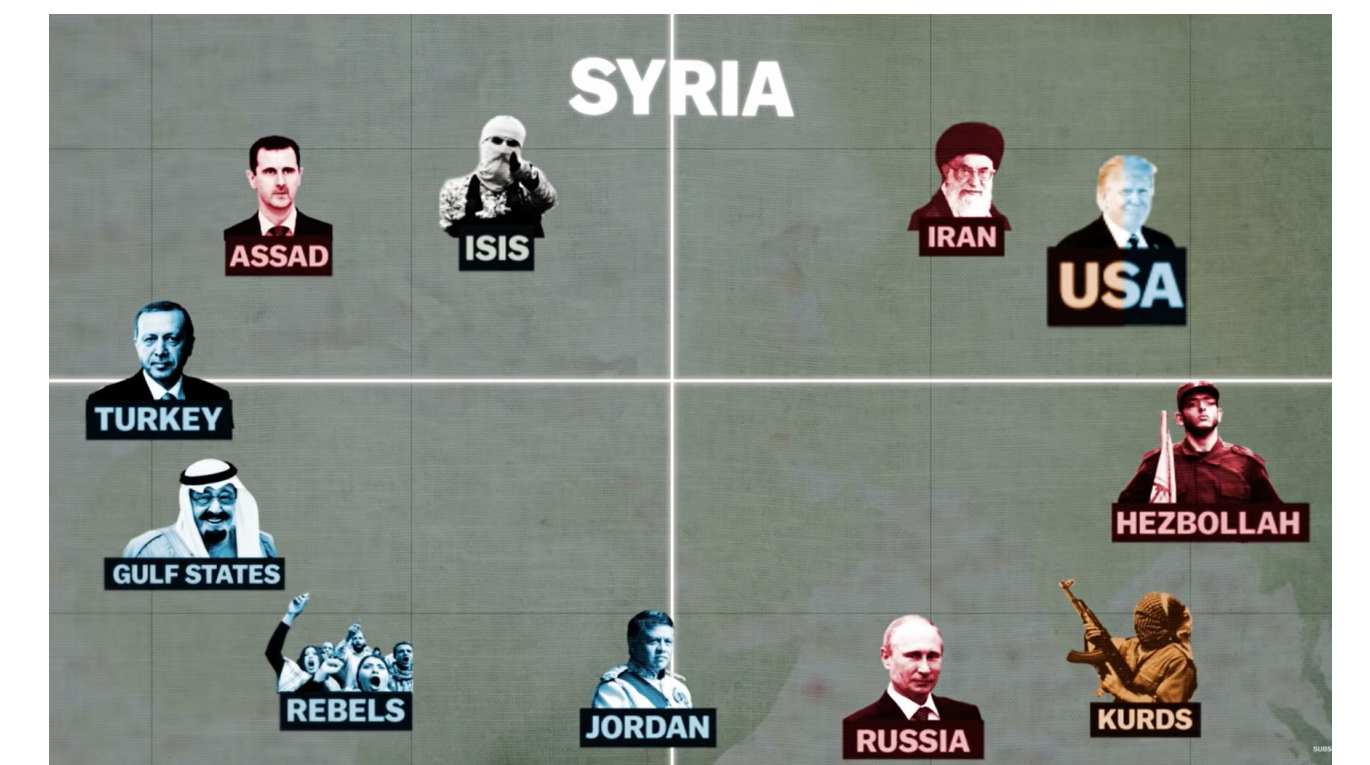
Frozen or Active Armed Conflicts in the Region

Identify at least 10 frozen or active armed conflicts in the region.



Example: The Syrian Civil War

Watch this video and identify the layers and actors of the Syrian civil war.



Read this article to understand the background:

Zachary Laub (2023): *Syria's Civil War: The Descent Into Horror*. Council on Foreign Relations



Multilevel Analysis of Transnational Conflicts

	Selected conflict				
	Global level	Regional level	State level	Group level	Not relevant
Key actors					
Goals of the main actors					
Most important conflict drivers					
Most affected levels					
Most important root causes					
Root causes are related to revolution/ideology conflicts					
Root causes are related to identity/secession conflicts					
Root causes are related to economic/resource conflicts					
The main beneficiaries of the conflict					
Actors promoting conflict resolution and peace					
Most important obstacles to conflict resolution					
Drivers that (could) help conflict resolution					

Assignments and Discussions

Task 1. Identify at least ten frozen or active armed conflicts in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Task 2. Select one conflict from the list

Discussion 1. Identify the main conflict drivers of the selected conflict.

Discussion 2. Identify the possible peace facilitating factors of the selected conflict.

Apply the Conflict Analysis Framework

Task 1. Form groups and choose an Eastern Mediterranean conflict.

Task 2. Complete the multilevel analysis framework addressing all the topics.

Task 3. Submit your answers in Moodle.

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