

The Politics of Reconstructing Iraq

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Conflict

- ❑ Over 50 countries have experienced significant periods of conflict since 1980.
- ❑ 15 of 20 poorest countries have had a major conflict in the past 15 years.
- ❑ Nearly every low-income country is adjacent to a country that has experienced breakdown and war.
- ❑ 2003 saw a total of 36 armed conflicts in 28 countries.

...Conflict

In early 2004, war and persecution resulted in:

- 10 million refugees
- 25 million internally displaced people worldwide.

Categories of Conflict

Categories

- ❑ Territorial conflict (Succession conflicts in decolonized territories)
- ❑ Ethnic/sectarian/tribal conflict (Civil wars)
- ❑ Political and Ideological Conflict
- ❑ Intensive external intervention

Countries and Conflict

Types of Country-Conflict

- countries that are vulnerable to conflict
 - Levels of poverty

- countries that are affected by conflict

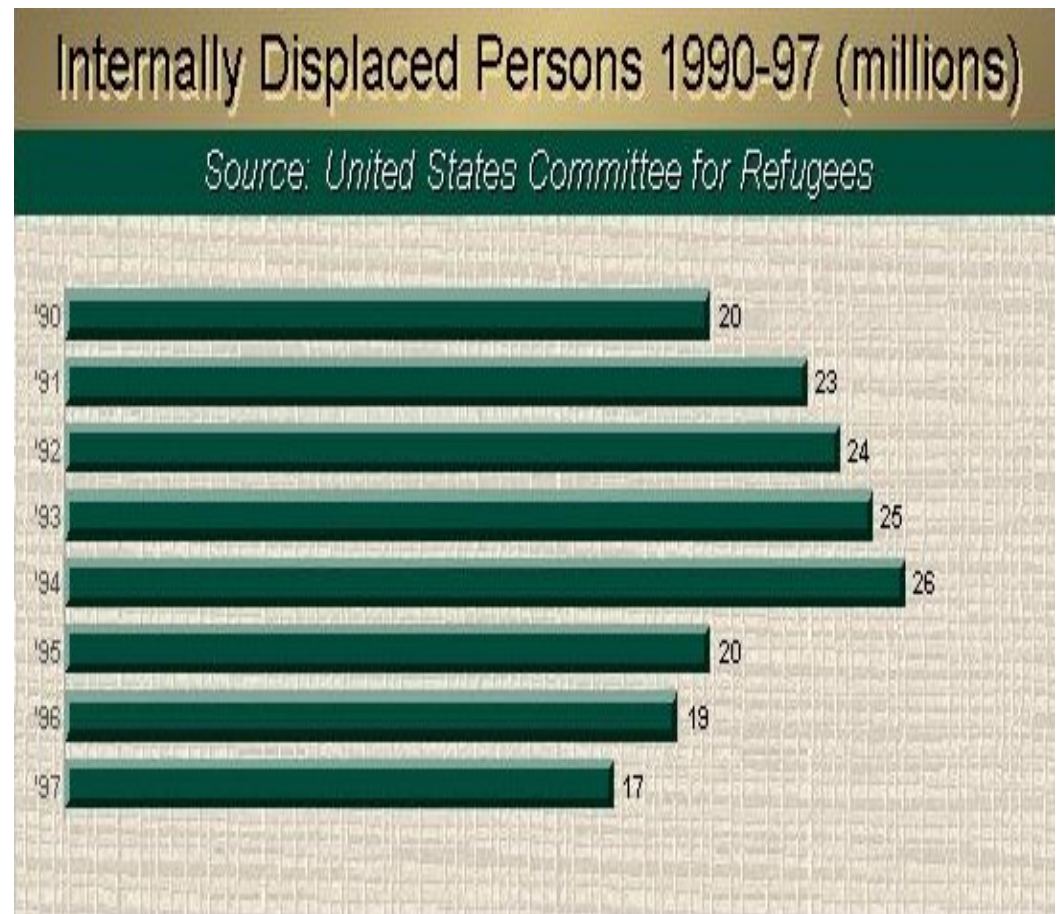
- countries in transition from conflict (post-conflict)

Features of Post-Conflict Countries

- Insecurity
- Uncertainty
- Violence and repeated cycles of violence
- Increase in poverty
 - Conflict has impoverished countries and wiped out the achievements of decades of economic development
- Loss of human life
- Physical destruction

Features of Post-Conflict Countries...

- Population displacement
 - 30 countries have had more than 10% of their population displaced through conflict
 - In 10 countries the proportion is more than 40%



Global Map of Displaced People

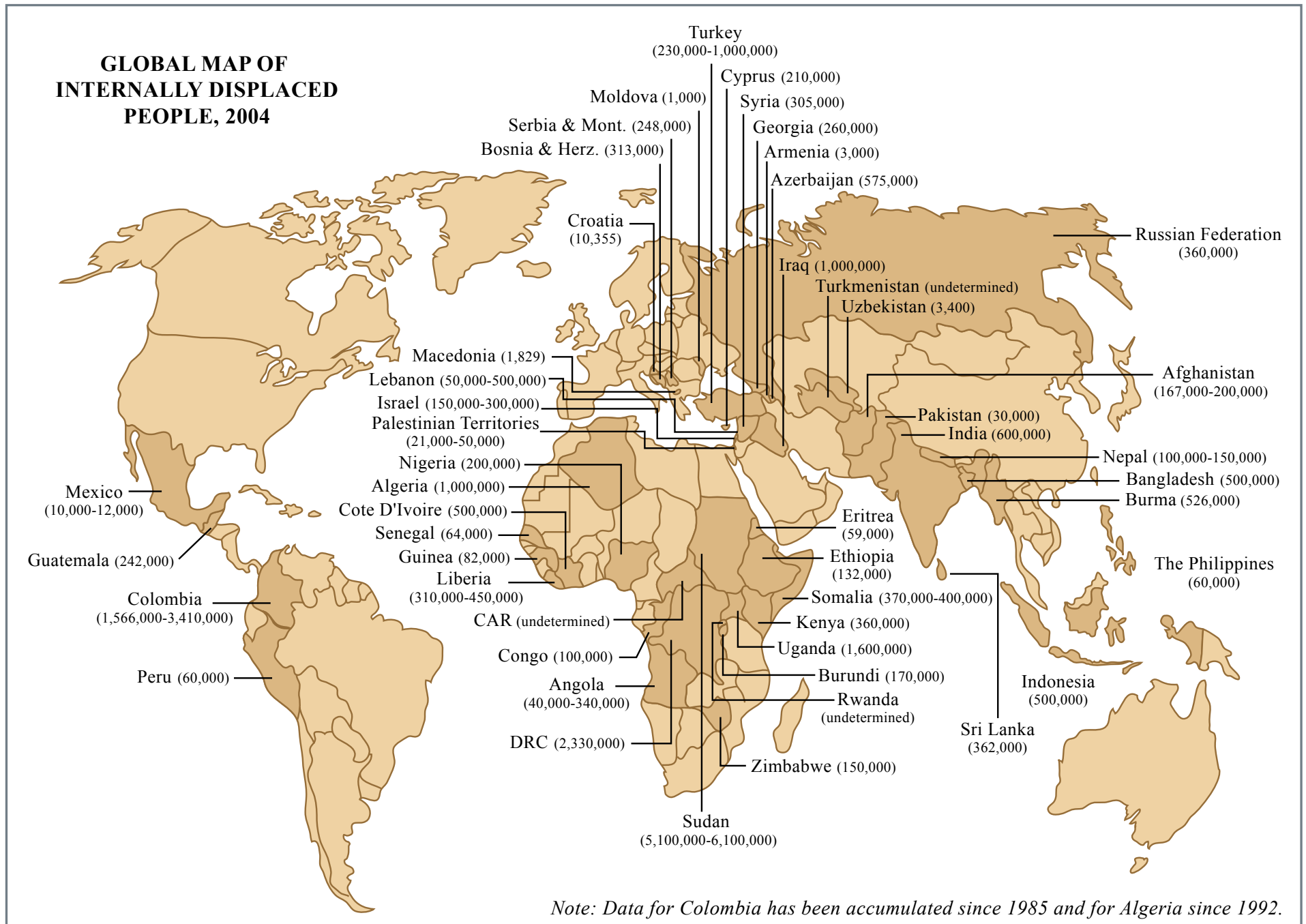
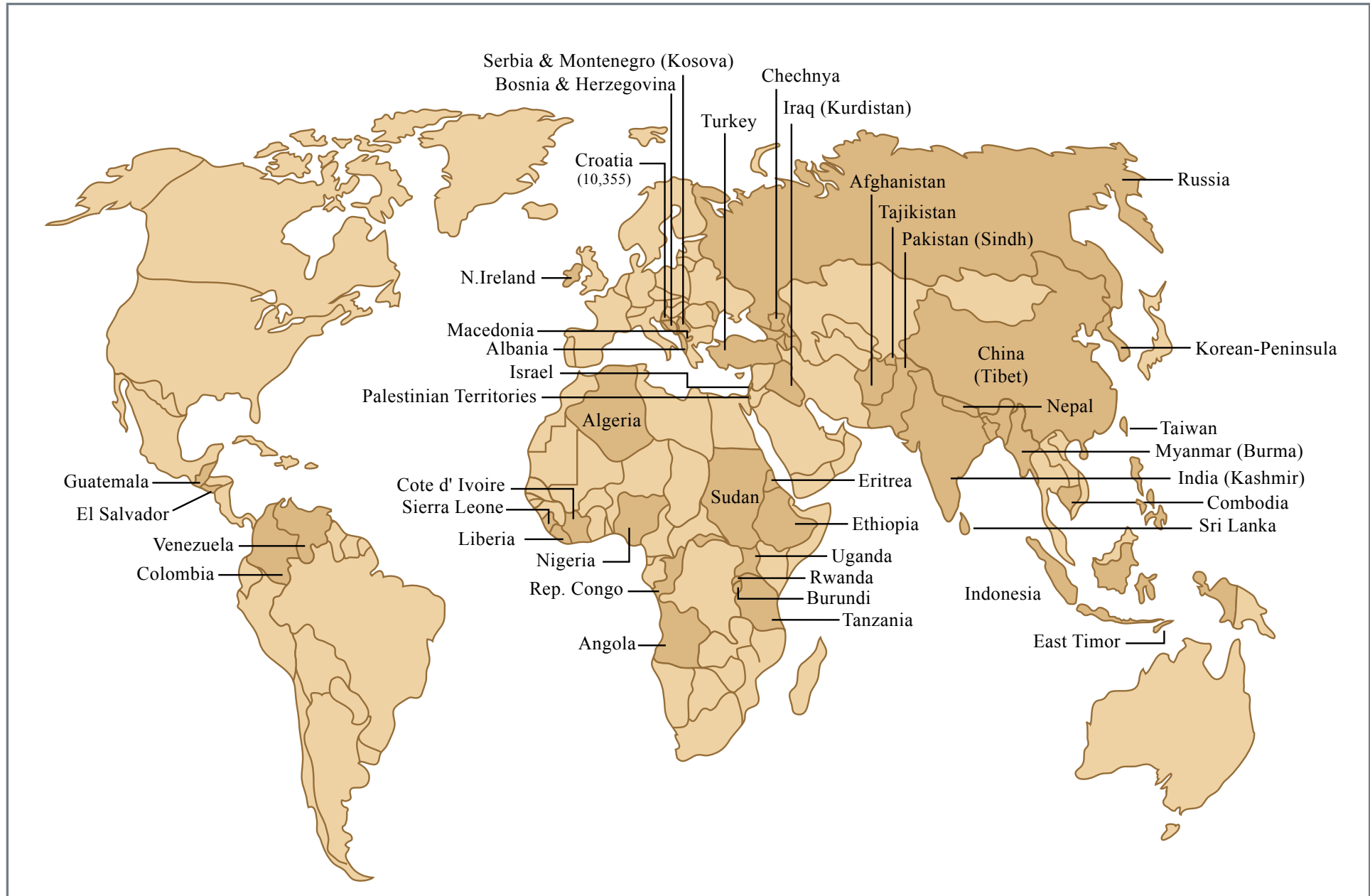


Figure by MIT OCW.

Global Map of Conflicts



Post-Conflict Reconstruction (PCR)

Definition of the World Bank

PCR “supports the **transition** from conflict to peace in an affected country through the rebuilding of the socioeconomic framework of the society.”* □

* (The World Bank, 1998, Post-Conflict Reconstruction: The Role of the World Bank, p. 14)

What is Post-Conflict Reconstruction

Definition of the World Bank

- ❑ Does not refer only to the reconstruction of physical infrastructure.
- ❑ Does not necessarily signify a rebuilding of the socio-economic framework that existed in a country prior to the onset of conflict.
- ❑ Conflicts, particularly long-lasting conflict, transform societies, and a return to the past may NOT be possible or desirable.
- ❑ Often, the inequities and fragility of the economies and weak governance structures of such societies have played a significant role in creating the conditions for conflict.
- ❑ In such cases, what is needed is a reconstruction of the enabling conditions for a functioning peacetime society in the economy and society and in the framework of governance and rule of law.

What is Post-Conflict Reconstruction...

- Since the early 1990s, the reconstruction of war-torn societies has become a subspecialty within the broader development agenda.
- Post-conflict reconstruction is a critical step in a continuum between humanitarian relief and longer-term development assistance.
- “Good development, or development that addresses inequity, exclusion, and indignity, is in itself the best form of conflict prevention.” (Nat Colletta, Manager, Post-Conflict Unit, World Bank)

What is Post-Conflict Reconstruction...

- ❑ Post-conflict development is something that defies the exact boundaries of traditional forms of assistance: it is neither sustainable development nor is it humanitarian response.” (Mark Malloch Brown, Vice President, WB)
- ❑ Flexibility. Flexible enough to meet the emergency needs. Yet visionary enough to create the foundation for further development.
- ❑ Beside the immediate relief, reconstruction is supposed to meet and contribute to long run objectives of development

Post War Reconstruction vs. Post-Conflict Reconstruction

- ❑ Post-war reconstruction has focused on rebuilding infrastructure; it is easier to rebuild roads and bridges than it is to reconstruct institutions and strengthen the social fabric of a society.
- ❑ Many difficulties are associated with restoring trust and social cohesion after violent conflict

Post-Conflict Reconstruction: The Lack of Theory

- ❑ Fragile political and social conditions endemic to war-torn societies complicate the use of traditional methods of structural adjustment
- ❑ A new field needs redefinition

Post-Conflict Reconstruction

Post 9/11 Definition

Large scales of international intervention in Post-conflict countries in order to change drastically the arenas of the Political, institutional, legal, economic, social, cultural, and spatial settings.

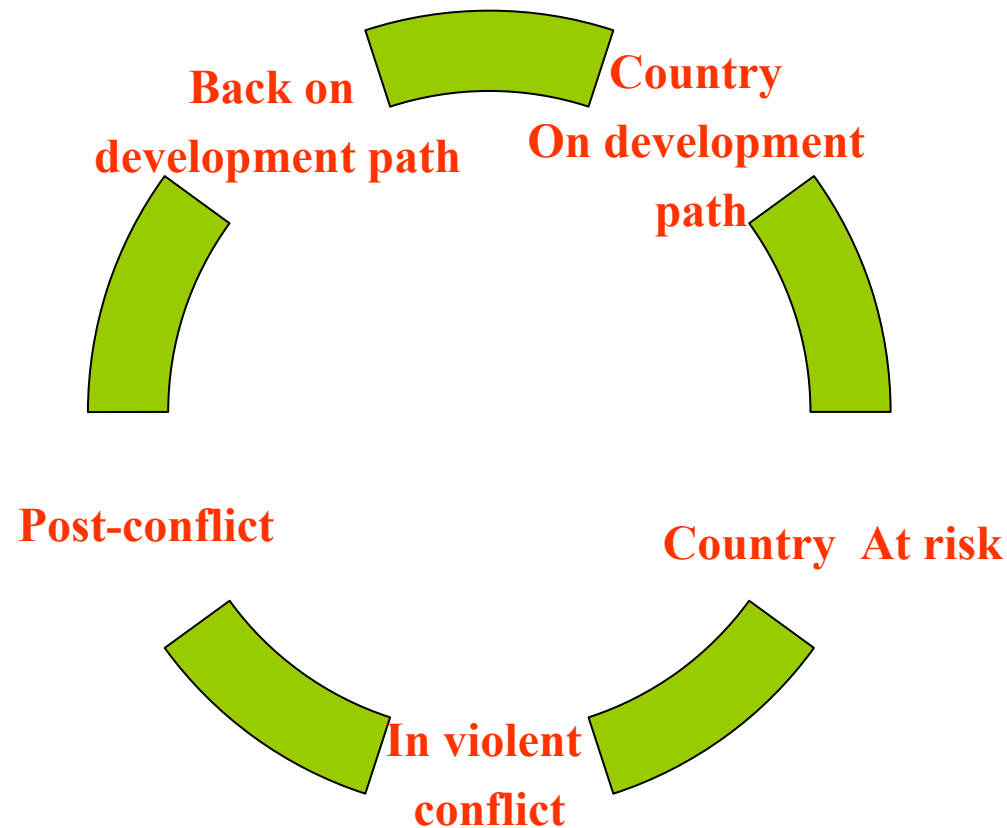
The Concepts behind Post-Conflict Reconstruction



“Building Peace Through Development”

(The World Bank Group)

Development, Cycle of Conflict, and Post-Conflict Reconstruction

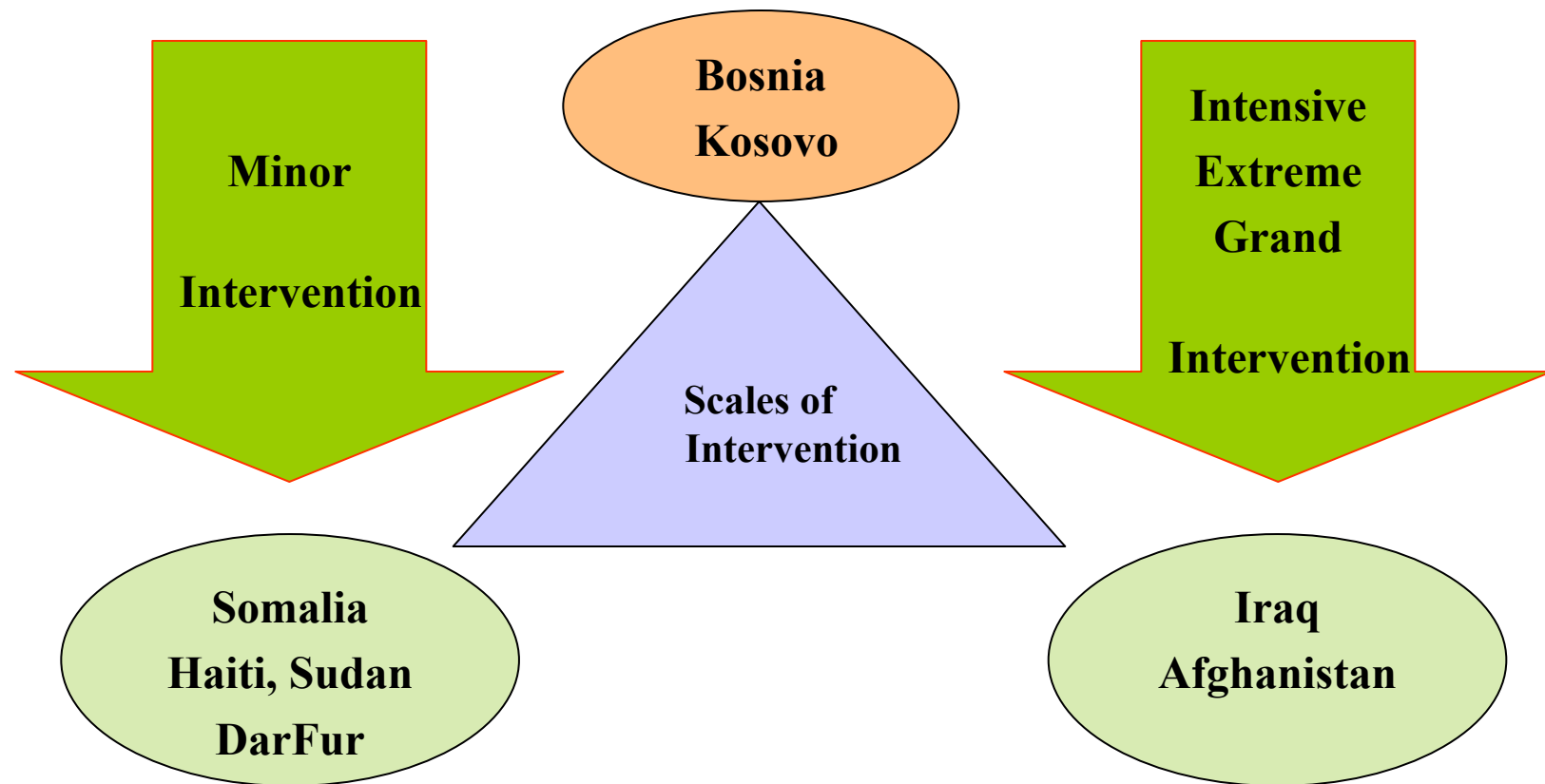


Fields of Intervention in Post-Conflict Countries

- ❑ **Social Intervention**
- ❑ **Political**
- ❑ **Humanitarian**
- ❑ **Security**
- ❑ **Institutional and legal (the role of law)**
- ❑ **Economic**
- ❑ **Civil Society**
- ❑ **Human rights**
- ❑ **Cultural**
- ❑ **“Women” (Gender issues)**

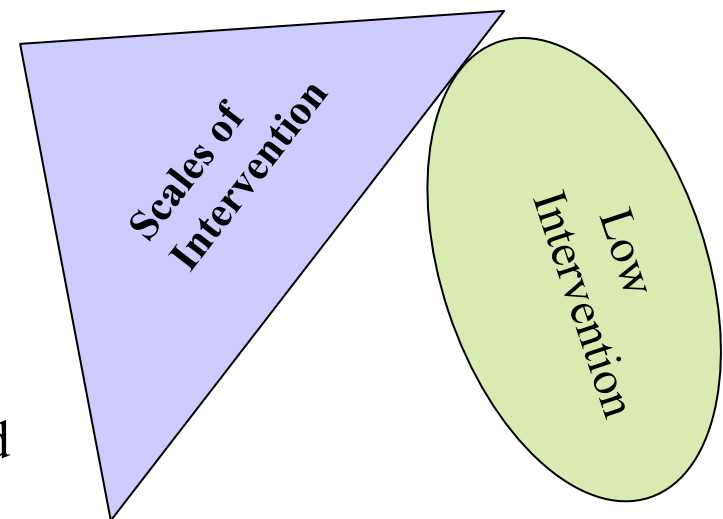
Scales of Political and Institutional Interventions

Different scales in terms of Political and Institutional interventions



Scales of Interventions: The Case of Rwanda

- ❑ Between April and June 1994, **800,000** people were killed in a programmed genocide
- ❑ GDP fell by 50 percent
- ❑ Stability was restored after a new government took over in July 1994
- ❑ On the economic front, the country registered a very high level of growth in the immediate aftermath of the conflict, before stabilizing it at a steady 6 to 7 percent a year.
- ❑ It took until 2002 to reach again the GDP of 1992 – and it may take until 2020 to reach the level of income per capita it had in 1990.



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**were killed
in the 1994
Rwanda
genocide**

**The world
watched
and listened**

Agenda of Post-Conflict Reconstruction

- Managing conflicts
- Promoting reconciliation and peace
 - “Agenda for Peace”*
 - Quickly became a milestone for peace after the end of the Cold War
- Preventing conflict reoccurrence
- Avoiding future conflicts

* [Boutros Boutros Ghali, the Secretary General; January, 31 1992)

The Concepts Post-Conflict Reconstruction: Critiques

- ❑ Western Concepts of Justice, Statehood, and Culture
- ❑ American Hegemony Neocolonialist
- ❑ Control and a New-Order
- ❑ Modernist Concept

- ❑ In fact, post-conflict countries still experience high levels of social, ethnic, and religious conflicts, violence, human rights abuse and a large scale of population displacement
- ❑ “In-Conflict countries”?