

Acta
Universitatis
Danubius



RELATIONES
INTERNATIONALES

Analysis of International Conflicts in Global Politics

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Abstract: This article explores the complex dynamics of international conflicts in contemporary global politics, analyzing the economic, political, ethnic, and geopolitical factors that contribute to the outbreak and escalation of these conflicts. In a global context marked by economic interdependence and geopolitical shifts, such as the rise of regional powers like China and Russia, international conflicts are no longer confined to traditional state rivalries but are amplified by non-state actors and emerging technologies, such as drones and cyberattacks. This analysis highlights the crucial role of international organizations, such as the UN and NATO, in managing and resolving conflicts, but also underscores the limitations of these structures in the face of asymmetric conflicts or hybrid wars. It examines how economic sanctions, energy crises, and forced migration affect not only the directly involved states but also global stability. The main conclusion of the research is that a more flexible and multidimensional approach, based on preventive diplomacy, economic development, and international cooperation, is essential for preventing and effectively managing international conflicts in the rapidly changing global order. The analysis offers new perspectives on how international conflicts can be understood and addressed, emphasizing the interaction between deep-rooted causes and recent developments in the technological and geopolitical spheres.

Keywords: international conflicts; geopolitics; global security; preventive diplomacy; emerging technologies

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1. Introduction

International conflicts play a central role in shaping contemporary global politics, having profound consequences for interstate relations, regional stability, and the international system as a whole. These conflicts are not only manifestations of political or military tensions between nations but also reflections of structural changes in the global order, such as the rise of new powers, the redistribution of resources, or competition for geopolitical influence. In the context of globalization and economic interdependence, international conflicts are no longer confined to regional levels but tend to spread, affecting global financial markets, supply chains, and migration flows.

Moreover, contemporary international conflicts involve a complex mix of actors, not only states but also international organizations, multinational corporations, terrorist groups, and separatist movements, which add another dimension to the management and resolution of disputes. These conflicts influence decision-making processes within global organizations like the UN or NATO and contribute to the recalibration of international alliances. In addition to economic effects, international conflicts impact human security, often generating major humanitarian crises, forced migrations, and social instability. Therefore, the importance of these conflicts in today's global politics cannot be underestimated, as they shape not only the power relations and influence between states but also the trajectory of economic, technological, and social development on a global scale.

Currently, international conflicts manifest in various forms, each having a distinct impact on global dynamics. Interstate conflicts, involving direct rivalries between states, continue to play a significant role, reflecting geopolitical tensions related to territories, resources, or regional influence. These conflicts, such as those in Ukraine or the South China Sea, not only generate instability in the affected regions but also have a global impact, influencing international security, trade flows, and political alliances.

Another common type of conflict is *intrastate conflict*, typically in the form of civil wars or separatist movements, which destabilize the states involved and often draw the involvement of international actors, either through military or diplomatic support or through sanctions and humanitarian interventions. Such conflicts, as seen in Syria or Yemen, have devastating effects on local populations but also affect regional stability by causing mass migrations and amplifying ethnic and religious tensions. Asymmetric conflicts, in which non-state groups, such as terrorist or paramilitary

organizations, confront states, represent another important form of conflict. These have a destabilizing effect on the global order, especially in the context of cross-border terrorist attacks and the use of cyber technologies to inflict damage on states and economies. Such conflicts destabilize not only the countries directly involved but also the international community as a whole, as they intensify global security measures and lead to new forms of international cooperation against terrorist threats.

All these types of conflicts contribute to a global dynamic marked by instability and uncertainty, transforming how states collaborate and protect their interests. In the current context, they not only alter the global balance of power but also influence the economic, migration, and security policies of international actors.

The analysis of international conflicts shows that they are triggered by a complex combination of economic, political, social, and cultural factors, which vary depending on the regional context and the actors involved. One of the most important factors is competition for resources, whether it be energy, water, or strategic territories. States, in their attempt to secure access to these resources, often engage in rivalries that can escalate into open conflicts. Economic disparities, especially between developed and developing states, also contribute to tensions, fueling instability and struggles for regional influence. Political factors, such as authoritarian regimes, heightened nationalism, or historical territorial claims, play a crucial role in escalating conflicts. Political leaders may use conflicts to consolidate internal power or distract attention from economic or social issues within their countries. Additionally, the international system of alliances and partnerships contributes to the amplification of conflicts, as states that feel threatened tend to seek external support, thereby drawing other global powers into a game of influence and balance.

Ethnic and religious factors can further amplify tensions, as identity differences often become a catalyst for violence and conflict, especially in regions where ethnic or religious groups with a history of antagonism coexist. In many cases, these divisions are exploited by political or military actors who use cultural differences to fuel rivalries and gain support for nationalist or extremist causes.

The analysis of international conflicts involves the use of various methods and tools, each adapted to provide a deeper understanding of the dynamics of these conflicts. A common approach is qualitative analysis, which focuses on in-depth exploration of the context and causes of conflicts, emphasizing the understanding of the motivations, actors, and relationships between the parties involved. This allows for

the interpretation of political and social narratives underlying conflicts and helps identify the complex reasons that drive the escalation of international tensions.

Quantitative analysis also plays an essential role in the study of conflicts, particularly when identifying patterns or trends based on empirical data. By using large datasets on the number of conflicts, human losses, involved resources, or economic effects, estimations and forecasts can be made regarding the evolution of conflicts or the risk of new tensions arising. This approach enables more precise conclusions and provides a comparative framework for analyzing conflicts from multiple perspectives. In many cases, qualitative and quantitative methods are combined, offering a more complex overview. Comparative analysis between different conflicts or the use of predictive models contributes to the development of better-grounded theories and the understanding of processes that lead to the escalation or resolution of international conflicts.

The article will be structured into several main sections, each playing a distinct role in the development and deepening of the analysis of international conflicts in contemporary global politics.

The first section, the Introduction, will establish the general framework of the research, explaining the relevance and importance of international conflicts in the current context. The research problem, study objectives, and the analysis method used will be presented here.

The following section, Theoretical and Conceptual Foundations, will provide a solid theoretical basis, exploring the main theories and concepts in the field of international conflicts. This will address the fundamental causes of conflicts, their typologies, and how economic, political, and cultural factors influence the evolution of conflicts.

In the section Analysis of Current International Conflicts, relevant case studies illustrating different types of contemporary conflicts will be discussed. This will include a detailed analysis of key conflicts, such as the one in Ukraine, tensions in the Middle East, or disputes in the Asia-Pacific region.

The section Impact of International Conflicts on Global Politics will explore the effects of these conflicts on international relations, the global economy, security, and international organizations. It will analyze how conflicts contribute to shifts in the balance of power and how they affect global alliances.

The penultimate section, Trends and Perspectives on the Evolution of International Conflicts, will analyze possible future developments, focusing on new technologies, geopolitical changes, and international efforts to resolve conflicts.

Finally, the Conclusions will synthesize the research findings, providing an overview of the causes and effects of international conflicts and offering recommendations for improving the management of these conflicts in global politics.

These sections follow a logical and coherent structure designed to give the reader a clear understanding of the subject and an in-depth analysis of international conflicts in the current context.

2. Theoretical and Conceptual Foundations

2.1. Theories of International Conflicts

The review of major theories concerning international conflicts begins with realism, one of the oldest and most influential perspectives in international relations. Realism asserts that the nature of conflicts is shaped by the anarchic structure of the international system, where states are the primary actors and act rationally to maximize their security and power. In the absence of a central authority capable of regulating state behavior, competition for survival and influence is inevitable. Conflicts arise when state interests collide, and solutions are often found through a balance of power, where states strive to prevent the hegemony of a single actor.

In contrast to realism, liberalism argues that international cooperation and global institutions can reduce the frequency and intensity of conflicts. In the liberal view, economic interdependence, democracy, and international institutions such as the United Nations create a favorable framework for dialogue and peaceful resolution of disputes. Liberalism emphasizes that states are not merely competitors, but can collaborate to achieve common goals, and democratic regimes are less likely to go to war due to transparency and internal constraints.

Constructivism offers a different perspective, focusing on the role of ideas, identities, and social norms in shaping international politics. Unlike realism and liberalism, which emphasize material interests, constructivism argues that states' perceptions and social relationships play a key role in explaining conflicts. Identity constructions and cultural norms influence not only state behavior but also how they interpret

threats and opportunities. Thus, international conflicts result from social interactions and processes of defining states' identities and interests.

Neomarxism, another relevant theory, emphasizes economic inequalities and power relations within the global capitalist system. From this perspective, international conflicts are an expression of global class struggle, where capitalist states exploit developing countries. Neomarxism argues that imperialism and economic neocolonialism fuel conflicts by perpetuating dependence and poverty in weaker states, thereby contributing to tensions and wars.

These theories provide distinct perspectives on the causes and nature of international conflicts. Realism explains conflicts through the lens of power competition in an anarchic system, liberalism focuses on the potential for international cooperation, constructivism explores the role of ideas and identities, and neomarxism highlights unequal economic relationships. All these theories contribute to a more nuanced understanding of the dynamics of international conflicts and offer different frameworks for analyzing how they can be managed or prevented.

2.2. Typologies of International Conflicts

The typologies of international conflicts are diverse and reflect the complexity and dynamics of relationships between states and non-state actors. One primary type of international conflict is interstate conflict, involving rivalries and confrontations between two or more sovereign states. These conflicts typically arise from geopolitical issues, territorial claims, competition for resources, or expansionist ambitions. Interstate conflicts tend to be classical in military terms and often attract international community involvement, either through diplomatic interventions or alliances and military interventions. They often affect regional or global power balances and can escalate rapidly, leading to wars with global consequences.

In contrast, intrastate conflicts occur within a single state but often have international implications. These include civil wars, separatist movements, and internal power struggles. Although essentially internal conflicts, they can attract involvement from other states or international organizations through military support, sanctions, or mediation efforts. Civil wars, for instance, can create instability in surrounding regions, triggering waves of refugees and affecting regional security. In many cases, intrastate conflicts become proxy wars, where external powers support combatants to advance their own geopolitical interests.

2.3. Triggers of Conflicts

International conflicts are triggered by a multitude of factors that intersect and influence one another in complex contexts. Economic factors play a central role, as competition for limited resources, such as oil, water, or rare minerals, fuels tensions between states and groups. Economic disparities between countries or resource-rich regions become sources of rivalry, while the desire for access to markets or control over major trade routes can lead to conflicts.

Political factors contribute to the escalation of tensions when authoritarian regimes, the absence of democratic institutions, or expansionist ambitions drive leaders to use conflicts to consolidate power. Internal political instability, combined with weak or corrupt governments, can create vulnerabilities that other states or non-state actors exploit, leading to conflict both within and beyond national borders.

Ethnic and religious conflicts are also significant triggers of violence, especially in areas where diverse groups coexist in fragile harmony. Ethnic or religious differences, particularly when exacerbated by political leaders or external influences, can become major sources of conflict. In many cases, these tensions are aggravated by the economic and social marginalization of certain groups, generating frustration and revolts.

Geopolitics adds another important dimension, as the strategic positioning of a state or region can transform it into a zone of interest for great powers. Control over territories with geopolitical importance, whether due to natural resources or strategic reasons, can trigger conflicts, especially when there are unresolved territorial claims or external influences seeking to destabilize a regional balance.

In all these cases, economic, political, ethnic, religious, and geopolitical factors do not act in isolation but in combination. For example, an initially economic conflict can quickly take on an ethnic or religious dimension as the involved groups define their identity in opposition to one another. Geopolitical factors can intensify such conflicts through the intervention of regional or global powers pursuing their own strategic and economic interests. This complex interplay of factors makes managing and resolving international conflicts extremely difficult, requiring a deep understanding of the specific context of each situation.

2.4. The Role of Non-State Actors

Non-state actors play an increasingly important role in contemporary international conflicts, influencing their dynamics in complex and often unpredictable ways. Terrorist groups, for example, represent a major threat to international security, operating outside conventional rules of warfare and destabilizing states through violent attacks, spreading fear, and creating chaos. Groups such as ISIS or al-Qaeda use asymmetric tactics and rely on transnational networks to expand their influence, transcending traditional borders and complicating international responses.

International organizations such as the United Nations, NATO, and regional organizations like the European Union play a different role, focused on maintaining peace and mediating conflicts. These organizations attempt to regulate conflicts through diplomacy, economic sanctions, peacekeeping missions, and, in some cases, coordinated military interventions. While their intent is to reduce violence and stabilize conflict-affected regions, their effectiveness can be limited by the complexity of local situations, the lack of consensus among their members, or divergent geopolitical interests. Other relevant non-state actors include non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and multinational corporations, which have an indirect impact on conflicts through their economic and social activities. NGOs often play a crucial role in providing humanitarian aid, supporting war-affected communities, and promoting human rights. They contribute to peacebuilding through reconciliation efforts and by putting pressure on governments and international organizations to act toward resolving conflicts.

Multinational corporations, though not directly involved in armed conflicts, can significantly influence their course. Economic investments, interests in natural resources, or involvement in arms trade can either fuel conflicts or, conversely, support peace efforts through economic development and job creation. The involvement of these actors in conflict zones can either exacerbate tensions or contribute to their resolution, depending on how they act and the interests they pursue.

Thus, non-state actors substantially contribute to how conflicts unfold and are managed, whether through destabilization or through diplomatic, humanitarian, or economic intervention. These actors add an additional layer of complexity to international conflicts, possessing the power both to fuel violence and to aid in post-conflict stabilization and reconstruction.

3. Analysis of Current International Conflicts

3.1. The Conflict in Ukraine and its Global Implications

The conflict in Ukraine has profound and far-reaching implications for global politics, reflecting both long-standing geopolitical tensions and new dynamics in the international order. Initially sparked in 2014 with Russia's annexation of Crimea and fueled by Russian support for separatist movements in Ukraine's eastern regions, this conflict escalated dramatically in 2022 with Russian aggression against Ukraine. Russia's actions triggered a massive humanitarian crisis and caused significant destabilization in Europe and beyond.

The global implications of this conflict are varied. Firstly, the war has led to a major reconfiguration of political and military alliances, strengthening unity among Western states and reinforcing the role of international organizations like NATO. This coordinated response, in the form of severe economic sanctions against Russia and substantial military support for Ukraine, has reactivated a Cold War-style dynamic between geopolitical blocs. As a result, relations between Russia and the West have reached their lowest point in decades, creating tensions that influence not only Europe but also other regions worldwide.

Economically, the conflict has disrupted global supply chains, particularly in critical sectors such as energy and agriculture. Russia and Ukraine are major exporters of grain and energy resources, and the war has led to a sharp rise in global energy and food prices, disproportionately affecting economically vulnerable countries. The energy crisis caused by the reduction in Russian gas flows to Europe has accelerated the continent's efforts to diversify its energy sources and reduce dependence on Russian resources, impacting global energy markets and driving new strategies in global energy policy.

Geopolitically, the conflict has amplified existing tensions between global powers, particularly between Russia and the United States, as well as between Russia and the European Union. At the same time, it has led to a repositioning of other international actors, such as China, which, while not openly supporting Russia, has maintained an ambivalent stance, using the situation to strengthen its influence in key areas and exploit the fragility of international relations for its own benefit.

The humanitarian crisis generated by the conflict has also had global repercussions. Millions of Ukrainians have been forced to leave their homes, creating one of the largest waves of refugees in Europe since World War II. This exodus has put pressure

on asylum systems in Europe and stimulated a wave of international solidarity, while also generating internal political tensions in some countries as they grapple with the challenges of managing the crisis.

In the long term, the conflict in Ukraine is likely to have lasting consequences for the architecture of international security and the global order, affecting how states address issues related to sovereignty, energy security, and international cooperation.

3.2. Conflicts in the Middle East and the Role of External Powers

The conflicts in the Middle East, such as those in Syria and Yemen, are marked by extreme complexity, driven by both internal dynamics and the active involvement of external powers. In Syria, the civil war that broke out in 2011 initially resulted from popular uprisings against the authoritarian regime of President Bashar al-Assad, but it quickly escalated into a multifaceted conflict with diverse internal and external actors. As the conflict evolved, external powers played a crucial role in sustaining and intensifying the violence. Russia, a traditional ally of the Syrian regime, intervened militarily to support Assad's government, thereby consolidating his position and preventing the regime's collapse. In contrast, the United States and other Western countries, as well as some Gulf states, supported various rebel groups, fueling a large-scale conflict. Iran also backed the Syrian regime, strengthening its strategic presence in the region, while Turkey and Israel intervened to protect their own security interests, targeting Kurdish groups and other armed factions.

In Yemen, the conflict began in 2015 as a confrontation between the internationally recognized government and the Houthi movement but quickly became a regional war due to the intervention of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, who supported the Yemeni government against the Iran-backed Houthi rebels. The Yemen conflict has caused one of the largest humanitarian crises in the world, with millions of people affected by famine, disease, and lack of access to essential resources. In this case, the geopolitical rivalries between Iran and Saudi Arabia have exacerbated and perpetuated the conflict, turning Yemen into a battleground for regional influence.

The role of external powers in these conflicts has been crucial in perpetuating violence and instability. Their interventions shifted the balance of power on the ground and prevented the rapid resolution of the conflicts. These actors were motivated not only by the desire to support local allies but also by broader

geopolitical ambitions, including control over resources, political influence in the region, and countering rivals. These interventions have transformed the conflicts in the Middle East into proxy wars, where regional and global powers pursue their strategic interests, often at the expense of local populations. As a result, the conflicts in Syria and Yemen remain unresolved, with devastating implications for regional stability and international security.

3.3. Rivalries in the Asia-Pacific

Rivalries in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly the tensions between the U.S. and China and the conflicts in the South China Sea, reflect the competition for influence and power in a region of global strategic importance. The relationship between the United States and China is characterized by a combination of economic cooperation and geopolitical rivalry, exacerbated by China's rapid growth as both a regional and global power. China seeks to expand its political, military, and economic influence in the Asia-Pacific region, which has led to growing tensions with the United States, long regarded as the dominant power in this part of the world. These tensions have intensified as China has strengthened its military presence in the South China Sea and adopted a more assertive policy in claiming control over disputed territories.

The South China Sea, a resource-rich region critical to international maritime trade routes, is a central point of these rivalries. China claims a large portion of this area, in contradiction to the claims of other littoral states, such as Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Brunei. In addition to the legal disputes over territorial boundaries, China has constructed artificial islands and installed military infrastructure in disputed areas, further escalating tensions. China's actions are perceived as a threat by its neighbors and by the United States, which views the South China Sea as a key point for navigation security and the maintenance of a rules-based international order.

The United States has responded by strengthening its strategic partnerships in the region, including supporting traditional allies like Japan, South Korea, and Australia, while promoting freedom of navigation in the South China Sea. The competition between China and the United States is not only military but also economic, and the rivalry extends to technological and trade aspects. Both powers are trying to expand their influence in Asia and beyond, creating a competitive dynamic that could redefine the global balance of power.

Rivalries in the Asia-Pacific, especially between the U.S. and China, are not merely regional concerns but have major global implications. The Asia-Pacific region plays a crucial role in the global economy and international security, and the tensions between these two major powers affect not only regional balance but also global stability. These tensions can have economic consequences, impacting global trade, investment, and supply chains, and could escalate into military confrontations, with the potential to destabilize the international order.

3.4. Comparing Regional and Global Conflicts

The comparison of regional and global conflicts highlights both common factors and significant differences in terms of causes, dynamics, and impact. In both types of conflicts, competition for resources, territory, and influence represents a central element. These motives underlie the tensions that lead to the escalation of violence, regardless of the scale of the conflict. Additionally, in both regional and global conflicts, the actors involved are influenced by a combination of economic, political, and geopolitical factors that shape their alliances and strategies.

Another common element is the presence of external actors, who often amplify conflicts by providing support to the combatants or through direct intervention. Whether it is regional powers in the case of local conflicts or global powers in larger-scale conflicts, external interventions complicate and perpetuate tensions, prolonging conflicts and altering the balance of power.

The distinctions between regional and global conflicts become most apparent when considering their vastly differing scales and the wide-ranging impacts they produce. Regional conflicts tend to be geographically limited, though they can have broader implications if they destabilize an entire region or cause migration flows and humanitarian crises. These conflicts may be driven by local, ethnic, or religious tensions that do not always have direct relevance on the international stage, but they deeply affect the states involved and their neighboring areas.

Global conflicts, on the other hand, have a broader impact, affecting not only the directly involved regions but also the international order. These conflicts are characterized by competition between great powers for influence and can shift the global geopolitical balance. The actions and decisions taken in a global conflict have economic, political, and security consequences for the entire world, influencing international markets, global politics, and strategic alliances.

In essence, both regional and global conflicts share the same underlying motives related to competition for power and resources but differ in their scale and in the effects they have on the international system. Regional conflicts can escalate into global conflicts through the involvement of great powers or contagion, but global conflicts typically have a more disruptive effect on international politics, affecting a larger number of states and regions.

4. Impact of International Conflicts on Global Politics

4.1. Effects on International Relations

International conflicts have a profound impact on relations between states, often forcing a redefinition of international alliances and partnerships. In the context of such conflicts, states reassess their strategic priorities and adjust their alliances based on new geopolitical realities and security needs. These changes can lead to the creation of new partnerships or the strengthening of existing ones, while traditional relationships may weaken or even break.

Conflicts alter states' perceptions of external threats, compelling them to seek allies who share similar interests or fears. In a world where national security is frequently influenced by international events, states tend to form alliances to counter rival powers or protect their economic and strategic interests. As a result, conflicts not only present new challenges and opportunities for tactical alliances but can also transform existing alliances into stronger and more durable partnerships.

Additionally, international conflicts can lead to geopolitical realignments, where states change their political or economic orientations. An example of this is the alignment of neutral states with conflicting sides or the repositioning of countries in relation to global powers. These shifts are often driven by the need to ensure national security, access to resources, or strategic positioning in a dynamic international environment.

The impact of conflicts on international relations extends beyond the states directly involved. Major conflicts cause shifts in power and influence, prompting states to adapt their strategies to new geopolitical balances, whether through regional alliances or relationships with global powers. Consequently, the effects of international conflicts ripple through the entire international system, reshaping diplomatic, political, and security landscapes.

4.2. Economic Effects

International conflicts generate significant economic effects, destabilizing national and regional economies and causing major disruptions in global trade. Economic sanctions imposed by the international community on states involved in conflicts are one of the primary forms of economic pressure. These sanctions aim to economically isolate the targeted countries and force them to change their behavior. The immediate effect of sanctions is the slowing of the targeted countries economies, reducing access to international markets and creating difficulties in attracting foreign investment. In the long term, sanctions can lead to inflation, currency devaluation, and increased poverty, directly affecting civilian populations.

Energy crises are another major effect of international conflicts, especially when the involved states are key energy resource suppliers. The closure or disruption of access to energy supply routes, such as oil or natural gas, directly impacts economies dependent on these resources. Energy prices can spike rapidly, affecting industries and consumers, while uncertainty about supply forces states to seek rapid alternatives, which are not always readily available. This type of crisis can accelerate long-term changes in global energy policy, such as the transition toward renewable energy sources.

Forced migration is another large-scale economic effect of international conflicts. Wars and internal violence force millions of people to flee their homes in search of safety, often to neighboring countries or more stable regions. This massive migration places additional pressure on the economies of destination countries, which must manage a large-scale humanitarian crisis. The costs of supporting refugees, integrating them socially and economically, and the social tensions that arise from these migratory flows affect the economic balance and social stability of host countries. Thus, international conflicts have a wide-ranging impact on global economies, triggering sanctions, causing energy crises, and generating forced migrations. All of these effects deeply impact economic and social stability at the international level.

5. Trends and Perspectives in the Evolution of International Conflicts

5.1. Emerging Technologies in Conflicts

Emerging technologies are playing an increasingly important role in international conflicts, fundamentally changing how wars are fought and influencing military and security strategies. Drones, cyberattacks, and artificial intelligence (AI) are three of the most influential technologies that have transformed modern conflict. Drones have become essential tools in contemporary conflicts, offering the ability to conduct precise attacks without risking military personnel. Their use allows for continuous surveillance of areas of interest, target recognition, and long-range strikes, all of which minimize the costs and risks associated with traditional warfare. At the same time, drones have increased the asymmetry in conflicts, being used not only by states but also by non-state groups, complicating defensive responses and intensifying violence in conflict zones.

Cyberattacks represent another crucial dimension of modern conflict, enabling the disruption of a state's critical infrastructure without direct military intervention. These attacks can target electrical grids, financial systems, communications, or even government institutions, undermining national stability and response capacity. Additionally, cyberattacks can be used to gather sensitive information or to influence public opinion through disinformation campaigns. Thus, cyber warfare has become an invisible yet highly dangerous front where the lines between state and non-state actors are often blurred.

Artificial intelligence brings a new dimension to conflicts, with its ability to process vast amounts of data, automate decisions, and optimize military operations. AI systems can analyze information in real time, identifying threats and making tactical decisions faster than a human operator. Moreover, AI is being integrated into the development of autonomous weapons, raising ethical concerns about the use of machines that can make life-and-death decisions. AI is also used to simulate conflict scenarios and improve strategic planning, profoundly changing how military operations are conceived and executed.

These emerging technologies are fundamentally altering the nature of conflicts, offering new means of attack and defense that transcend the limits of conventional warfare. They bring both significant advantages and challenges, complicating global security and raising essential questions about the rules and ethics of warfare in the digital age.

5.2. Geopolitical Shift

The geopolitical changes of recent decades have been marked by the rise of regional powers like China and Russia, which are contributing to the reconfiguration of the international order. These states have challenged the traditional dominance of the West, particularly the United States, and have begun to expand their economic, political, and military influence globally. In the case of China, its rapid economic rise has transformed it into a global actor of prime importance, capable of shaping markets and influencing international relations. Through initiatives like the “*Belt and Road Initiative*”, China has expanded its presence in Asia, Africa, and Europe, strengthening its economic and geopolitical influence.

Russia, although not experiencing similar economic growth, has rebuilt its military power and adopted a more aggressive foreign policy aimed at reasserting its status as a great power. Its intervention in Ukraine, support for the Syrian regime, and involvement in various regional conflicts reflect this strategy of reaffirming its influence in the post-Soviet space and on the international stage. Russia has also embraced a “*hybrid warfare*” approach, using a combination of military force, economic influence, and information warfare to achieve its objectives.

These two regional powers have provoked a shift in global geopolitical dynamics, weakening the liberal international order that was consolidated after World War II and accelerating the transition toward a multipolar world. The international system is now moving towards a more fragmented configuration, where global influence is divided among several powerful actors, each pursuing its own regional interests and strategies.

The reconfiguration of the international order is fueled by the competition between these powers and the West, manifested through economic conflicts, trade tensions, and geopolitical rivalries. This transformation not only redefines global alliances but also tests traditional international institutions, which are struggling to maintain global stability and cooperation. Therefore, the rise of China and Russia and their efforts to reshape the international order reflect a fundamental shift in the global power structure, with profound implications for the geopolitical balance and the future of international cooperation.

5.3. Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution

Diplomacy plays a central role in the resolution of international conflicts, serving as one of the primary tools through which states and international organizations attempt to mediate and resolve disputes peacefully. The diplomatic process involves intense negotiations between the conflicting parties, with the goal of finding a compromise that can prevent the escalation of violence or bring an active conflict to an end. Mediation, a form of diplomatic intervention, involves a neutral third party—whether a state or an international organization like the UN—acting as a facilitator of dialogue between the conflicting sides.

These efforts rely on preventive diplomacy, which seeks to anticipate and prevent the outbreak of violence through dialogue, and crisis diplomacy, which intervenes to manage conflicts as they unfold. International and regional organizations, such as the UN, OSCE, or the African Union, play a crucial role in these processes, often acting as mediators and guaranteeing adherence to international agreements.

Another important aspect is public diplomacy, which refers to the diplomatic efforts to engage public opinion and civil society in the peace process, recognizing that conflict resolution cannot occur without the broad participation and support of the affected population. Diplomats and mediators strive to create an atmosphere of trust between the parties, facilitating constructive dialogue and paving the way for agreements that address not only the military aspects of the conflict but also its political, economic, and social causes.

The peaceful resolution of conflicts also requires the effective monitoring and implementation of peace agreements. International mechanisms are needed to ensure that commitments are honored, alongside post-conflict reconstruction measures that support the political and social stabilization of affected regions. In essence, diplomacy is not only a method for ending conflicts but also a continuous process of preventing and managing international tensions. This requires flexibility, perseverance, and a deep understanding of regional and global contexts.

6. Conclusions

The key findings on international conflicts emphasize the complexity and interdependence of the factors that contribute to their emergence and escalation. International conflicts are driven by a combination of economic, political, ethnic,

and geopolitical factors, all acting together to intensify tensions between or within states. Competition for scarce natural resources, such as oil and water, exacerbated by economic disparities and unequal access to resources, creates fertile ground for conflict. Political rivalries, whether linked to expansionist ambitions or struggles for regional and global influence, further deepen these tensions.

Conflicts are often triggered or amplified by ethnic and religious divisions, which, when combined with economic or political marginalization, lead to violence and instability. Additionally, the rise of regional powers such as China and Russia and their efforts to expand influence contribute to the reconfiguration of the international order, generating new geopolitical rivalries and a sense of global insecurity. Emerging technologies, such as cyberattacks and the use of drones, are altering the nature of conflicts, complicating traditional security responses, and introducing new forms of asymmetry in warfare. Another crucial factor is the role of non-state actors, such as terrorist and paramilitary groups, which add an additional layer of unpredictability and difficulty in managing conflicts. The involvement of external powers in regional conflicts often transforms local tensions into large-scale international crises, further complicating their resolution. All of these elements contribute to an unstable international landscape, where conflicts tend to spread and become increasingly difficult to control through traditional security and diplomatic mechanisms.

This article contributes to the understanding of international conflicts by offering an integrated and in-depth analysis of the various factors that influence and amplify global tensions. By examining the economic, political, ethnic, and geopolitical causes, the article provides new insights into the complex interaction of these factors and how they mutually reinforce each other, leading to the outbreak or escalation of conflicts. A key element of this analysis is the recognition of the growing importance of non-state actors and emerging technologies, such as drones and cyberattacks, which are changing the traditional dynamics of conflicts and presenting new challenges in their management.

The paper also makes a significant contribution by exploring how the rise of regional powers, such as China and Russia, and the reconfiguration of the international order contribute to intensifying global rivalries. In this sense, the analysis offers a deeper understanding of how geopolitical tensions and shifts in power are redefining international alliances and creating new points of conflict. Beyond identifying and describing these factors, the article suggests that resolving international conflicts

requires a more flexible and complex approach that integrates preventive diplomacy, technological solutions, and the involvement of international organizations.

Through this multidimensional approach, the article contributes to a more nuanced understanding of the dynamics of international conflicts, offering both a detailed view of the immediate causes of tensions and a broader picture of the structural transformations that influence the global security landscape. Thus, the study proposes new perspectives on how international conflicts can be analyzed and managed, highlighting the need for more effective international collaboration and innovative solutions to address emerging challenges.

To prevent and effectively manage international conflicts, it is essential that international policies adopt an integrated and flexible approach, capable of responding to both the underlying causes of conflicts and the rapid and unpredictable developments in the global landscape. A central element of these policies should be the strengthening of preventive diplomacy. This involves early identification of signs of tension and the use of diplomatic tools to promote dialogue between the parties involved before situations escalate into armed conflicts. This strategy can only be effective through close cooperation between states and international organizations, which must be prepared to react swiftly and in a coordinated manner.

Another important aspect is the reform of collective security mechanisms. International organizations such as the UN and NATO must adapt their structures and procedures to address emerging threats, including those related to cyber warfare and the use of new military technologies. These organizations must be capable of responding not only to conventional conflicts but also to asymmetric forms of conflict, such as those initiated by non-state actors or cyberattacks. Additionally, the more active involvement of regional organizations in resolving local conflicts can help reduce tensions before they acquire a global dimension.

Investing in the economic and social development of vulnerable regions is crucial for preventing the outbreak of conflicts. Economic disparities, political marginalization, and poverty are often factors that underpin tensions. Therefore, international policies should support sustainable development and the economic stabilization of these regions by providing economic opportunities and strengthening democratic institutions. This would reduce the predisposition to violent conflicts and the influence of extremist groups.

International cooperation in addressing the humanitarian crises caused by conflicts is also essential. Providing prompt and effective humanitarian assistance, managing refugee flows, and post-conflict reconstruction are critical aspects that require the active involvement of the international community. This type of collaboration not only helps alleviate human suffering but also contributes to preventing the renewal of conflicts by ensuring the long-term stabilization of affected areas.

Overall, international conflict management policies should be proactive, based on dialogue, cooperation, and adaptability, capable of addressing both the deep-rooted causes and the contemporary manifestations of international conflicts. Only through a comprehensive and collaborative approach can the global community effectively manage conflicts and promote lasting peace and security.

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