

Armed Forces at War 1945-2004



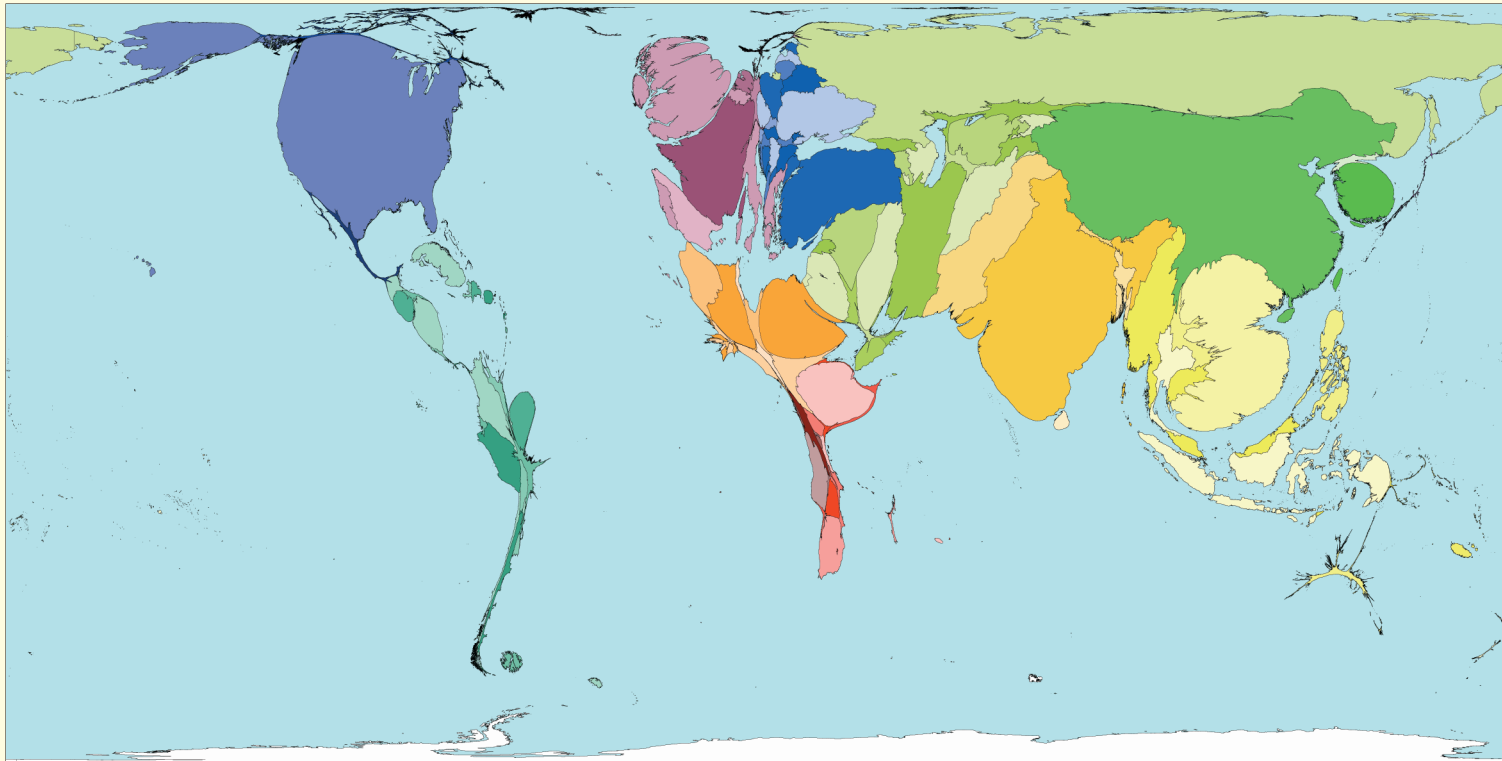
The University of Sheffield



The Leverhulme Trust



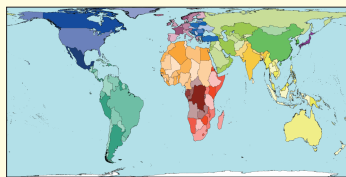
Produced by the SASI group (Sheffield) and Mark Newman (Michigan)



This map shows time spent at war by armed forces. A large area on the map could mean small forces fighting for many years; large forces fighting for a few years; or something in between. Years not at war, when armed forces were on stand-by, are not included.

Between 1945 and 2004 on average almost 12 million people were employed in the armed forces of territories at war for all or part of each year, over half were in just 4 territories. 22% were in the Russian Federation, 14% in China, 11% in the United States, and 8% in India. The largest territory that avoided war throughout was Japan, followed by Sweden, Austria and Singapore.

Territory size shows the proportion of time spent at war by armed forces worldwide from 1945-2004.



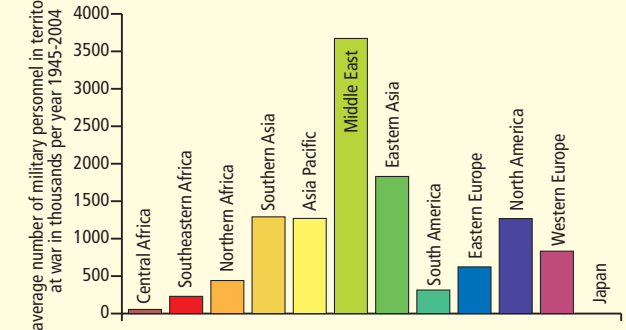
Land area

HIGHEST RATES OF MILITARY PERSONNEL IN TERRITORIES AT WAR

Rank	Territory	Value	Rank	Territory	Value
1	Russian Federation	18.3	11	Turkey	4.5
2	Israel	13.5	12	Azerbaijan	4.3
3	Nicaragua	8.2	12	Armenia	4.3
4	Viet Nam	7.3	14	United States	4.3
5	Syrian Arab Republic	6.2	15	Tajikistan	4.1
6	Lao People's Dem Republic	6.2	16	Cuba	4.1
7	France	5.4	17	Uzbekistan	4.0
8	United Kingdom	5.3	18	Islamic Republic of Iran	3.9
9	Iraq	5.3	19	Myanmar	3.8
10	Afghanistan	5.1	20	Georgia	3.5

people in armed forces and at war per 1000 people per year, 1945-2004*

ARMED FORCES IN STATES AT WAR



Technical notes

- Data are from Kidron & Smith's, 1983. 'The War Atlas'; Gleditsch et al. 2002. 'Armed Conflict 1946-2001'; and Smith & Braein's 2005 'The Atlas of War and Peace'.
- *Armed forces assessed at zero for each year throughout which a territory has not been at war. 49 territories not at war for 60 years.
- See website for further information.

“War goes deeper than bombardment, and the more we pretend it doesn't concern us, the more it invades us ... bringing out things we didn't know about ourselves.”

Slavenka Drakulic, 1999