

INTRODUCTION

CIVIL WAR AND INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMS

WILLIAM SPANIEL

<http://williamspaniel.com/classes/pscir-265-2015/>





Agenda

1. Motivation
2. Macro Trends in Civil War
3. Overview of Class
4. What Is a Civil War?
5. Grading/Policy

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لا إله إلا الله محمد رسول الله



لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ



لبيك يا محمد







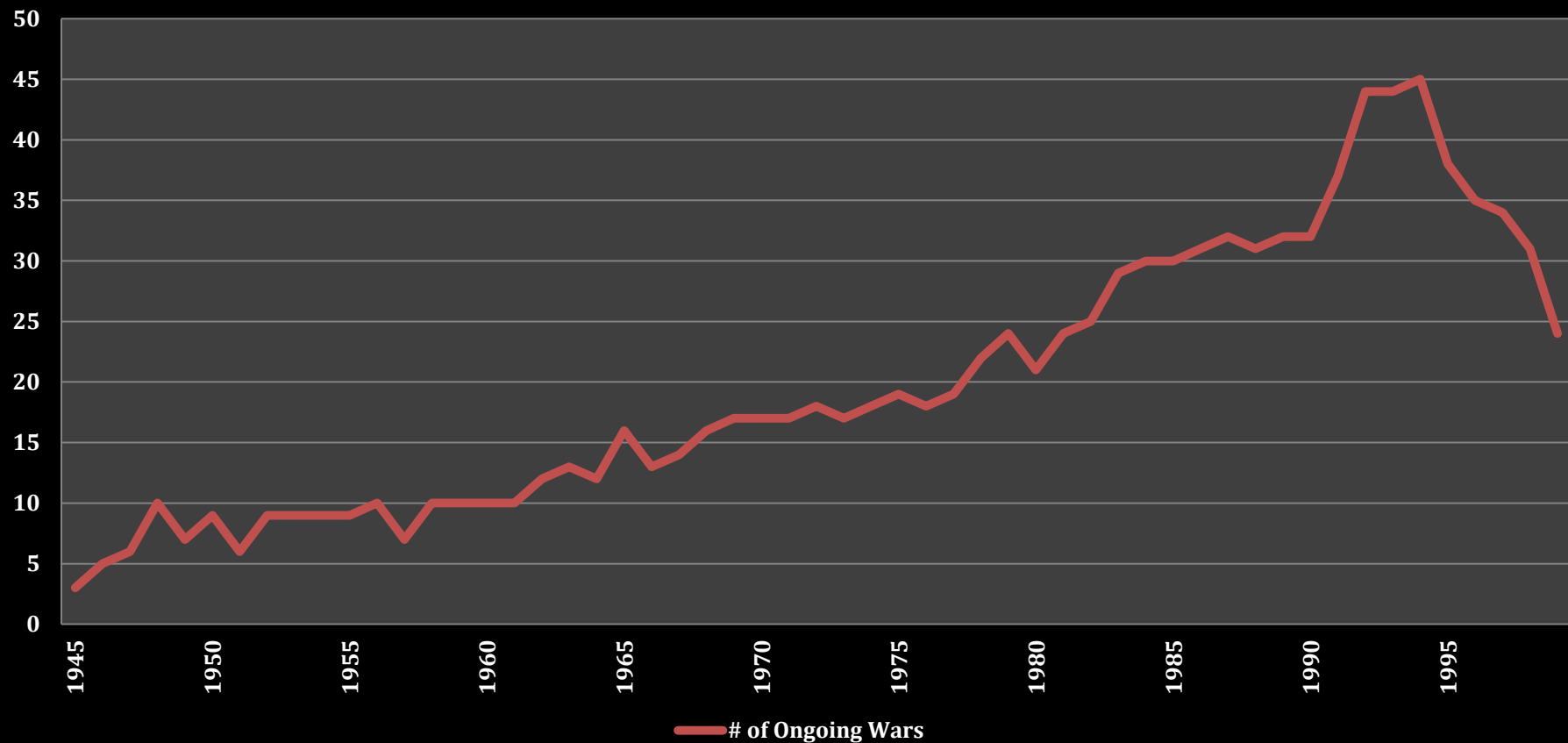
**WE DO THIS. A
LOT.**

America's Next War?

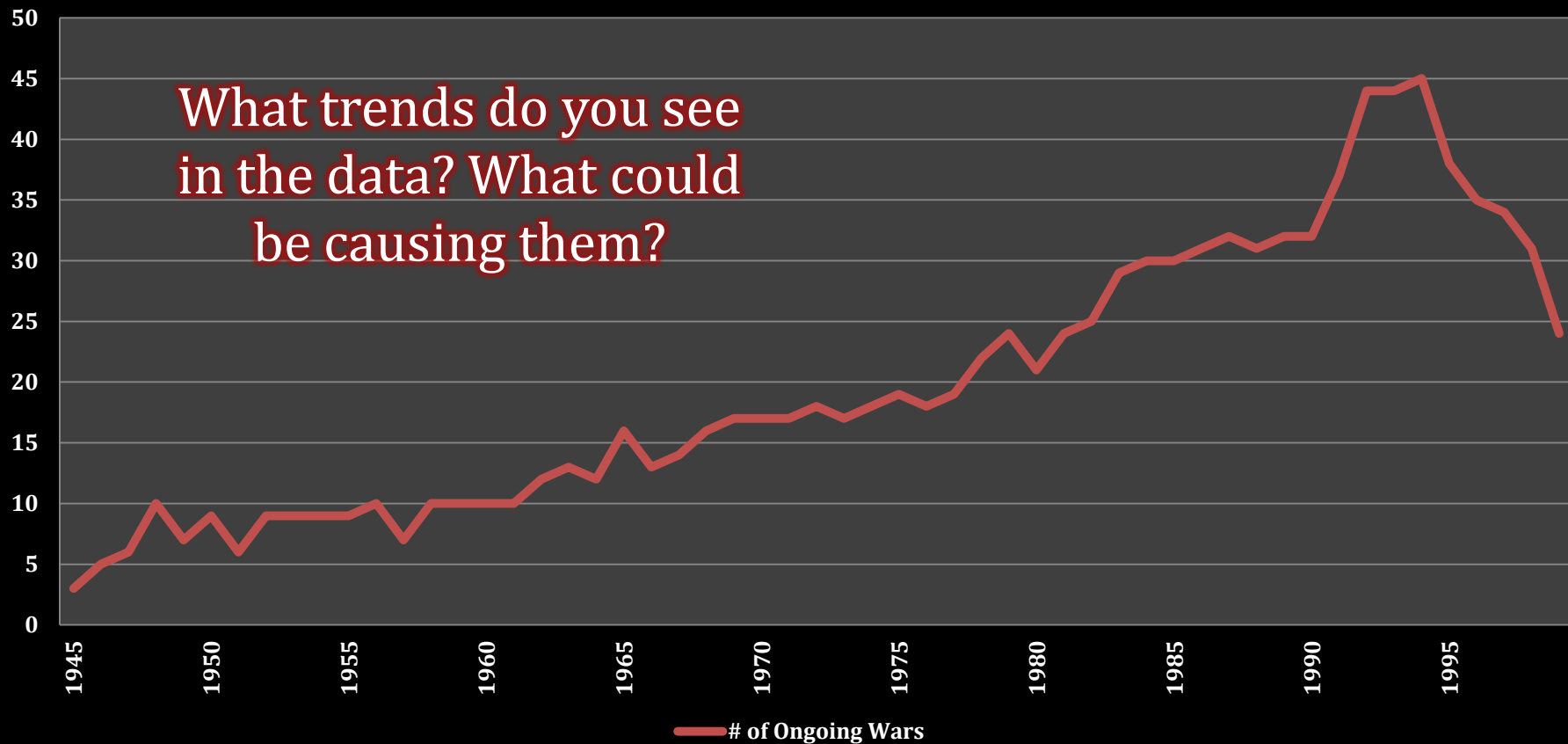


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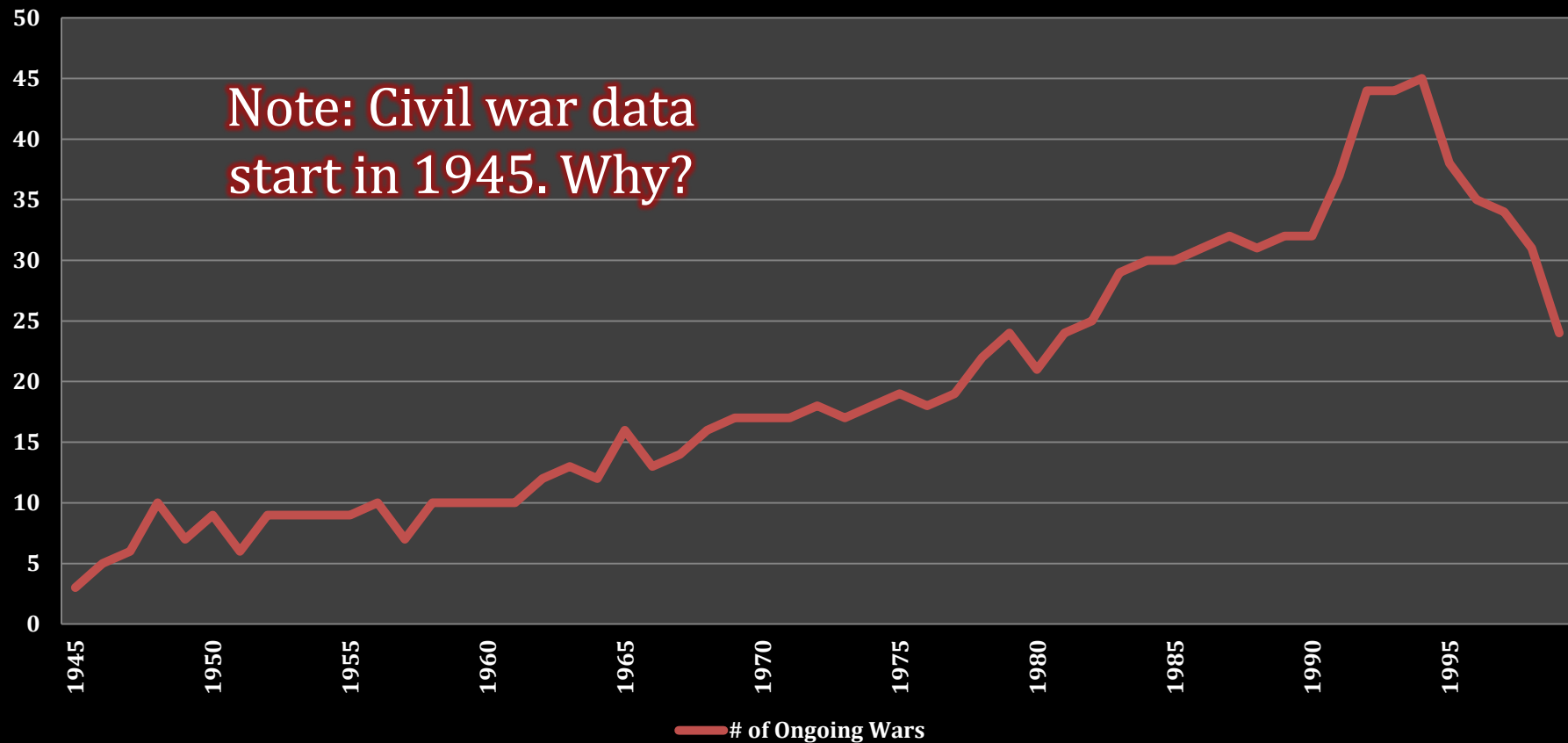
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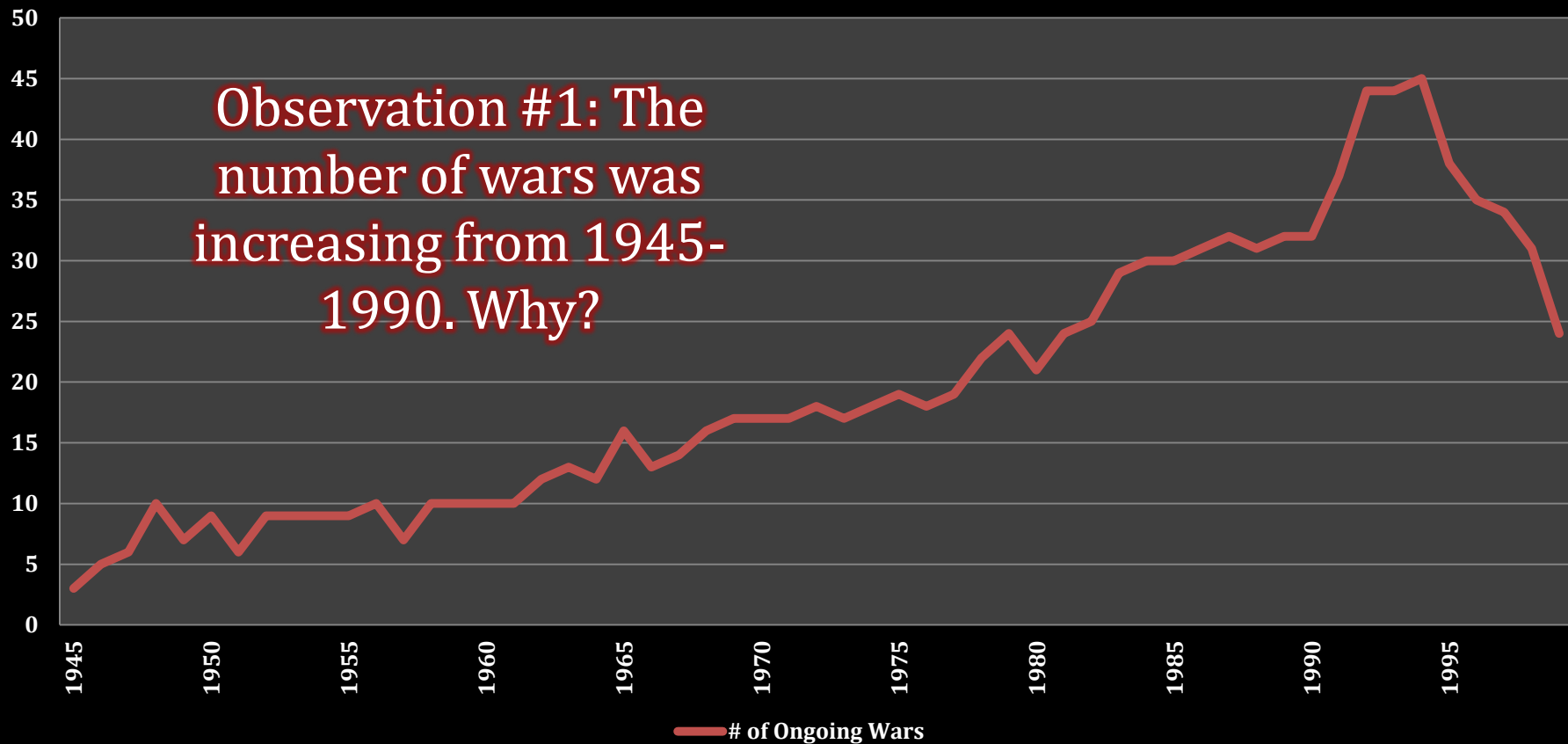
What trends do you see
in the data? What could
be causing them?



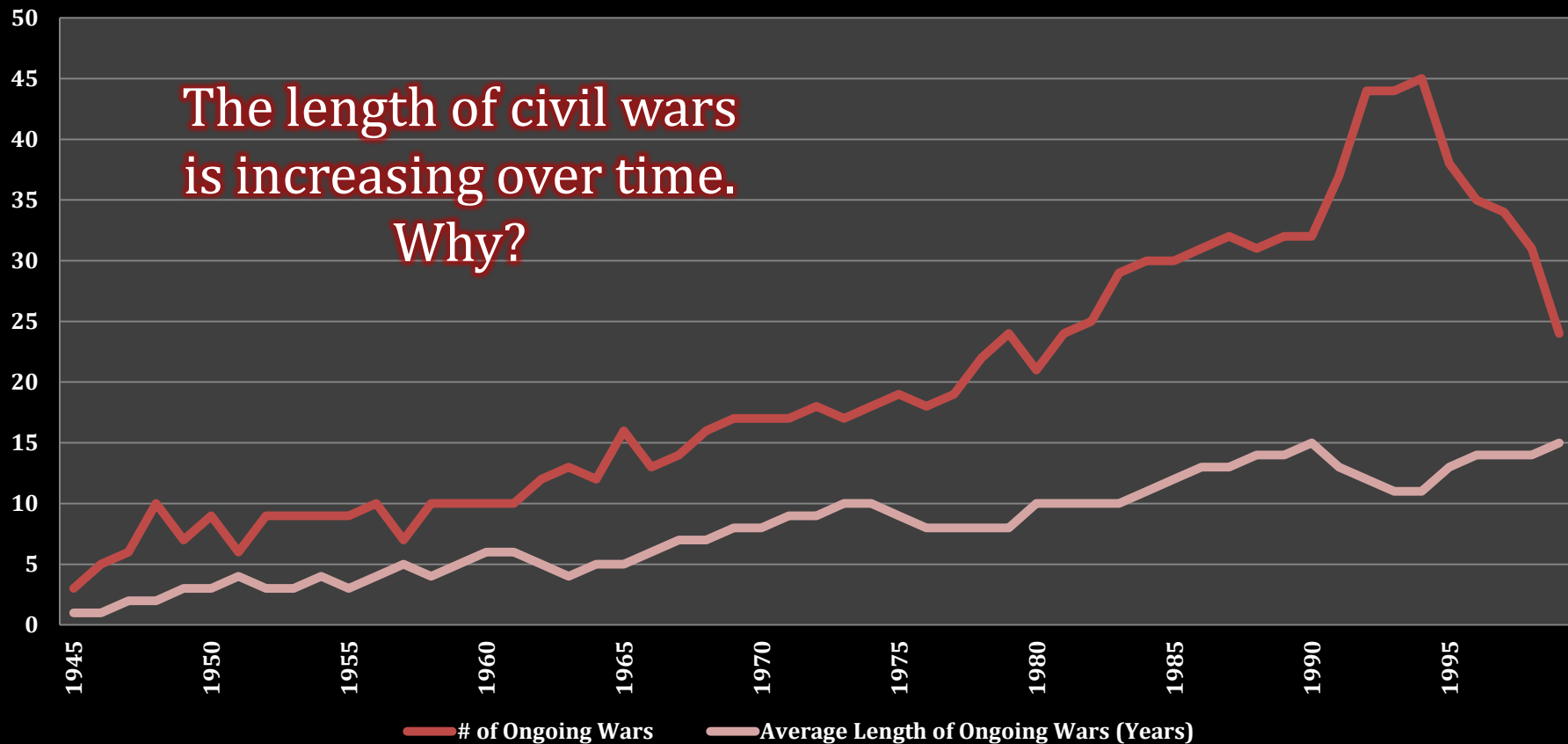
Note: Civil war data
start in 1945. Why?



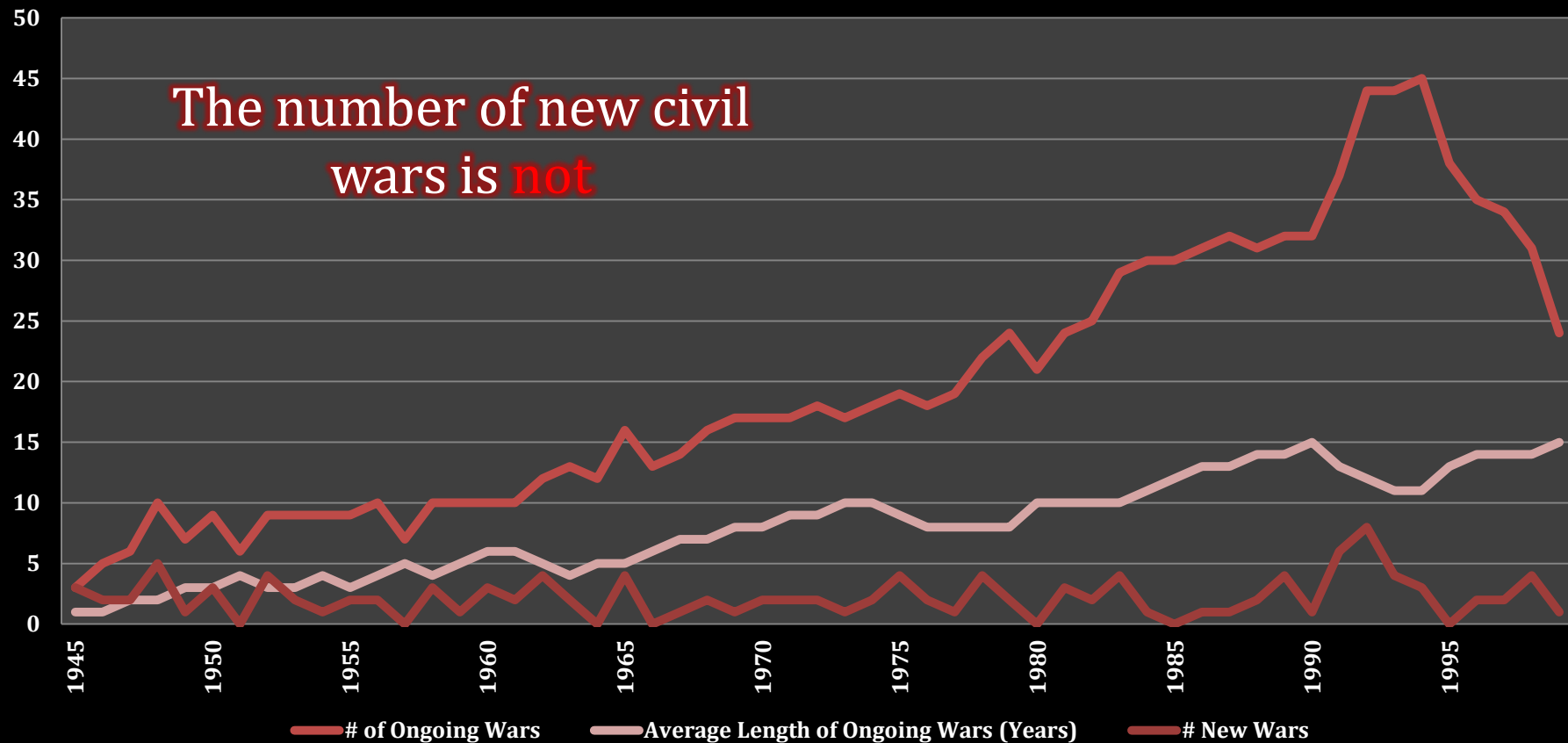
Observation #1: The
number of wars was
increasing from 1945-
1990. Why?

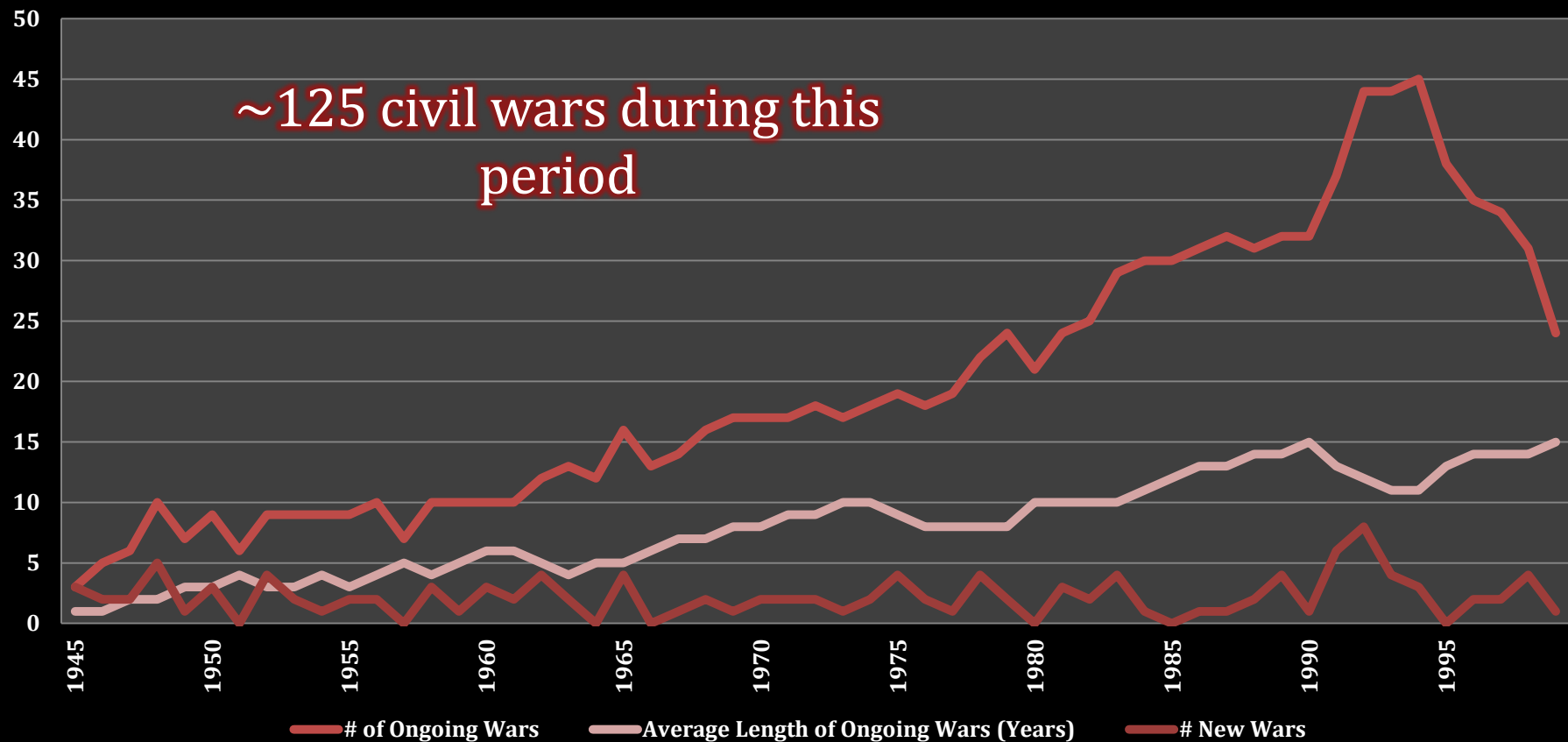


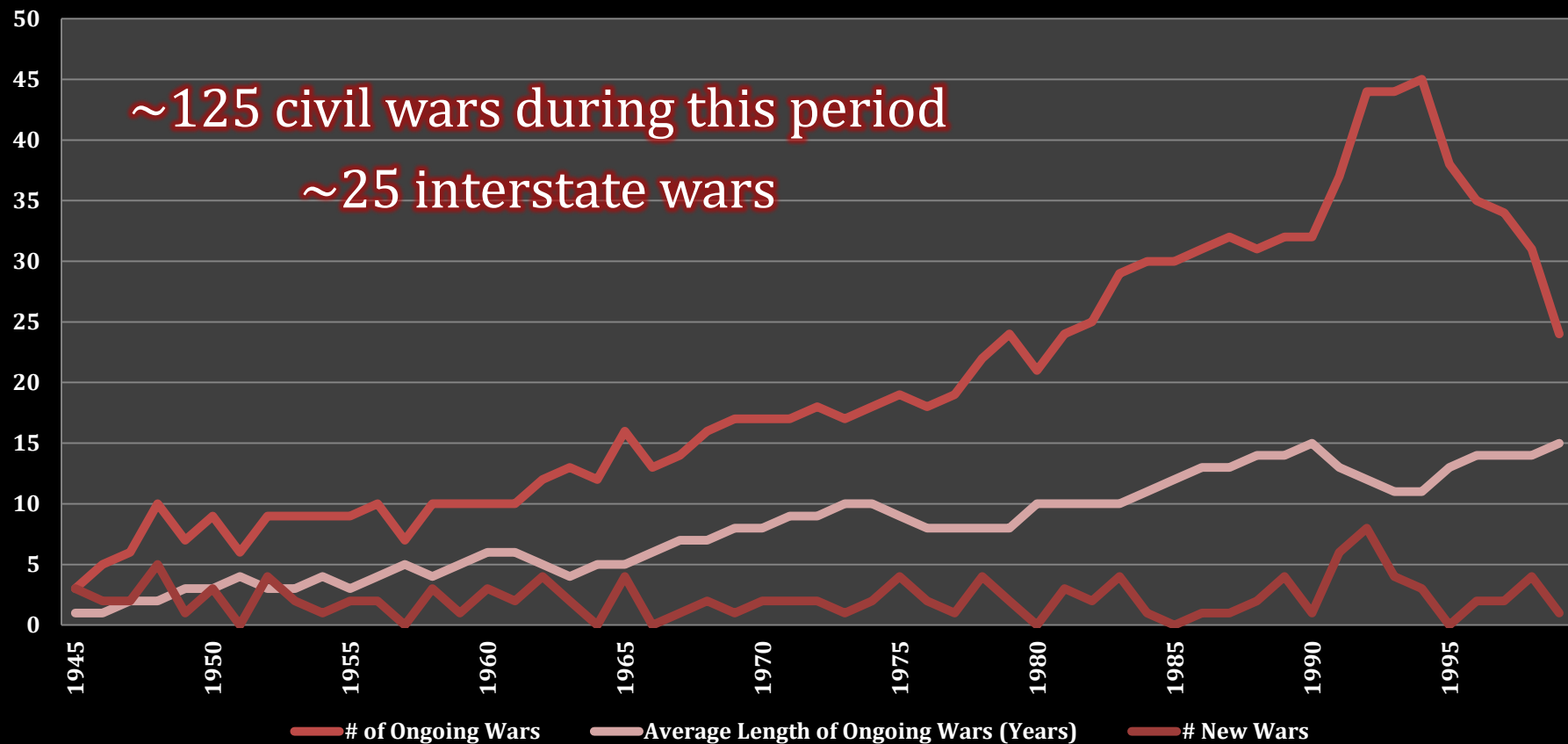
The length of civil wars
is increasing over time.
Why?



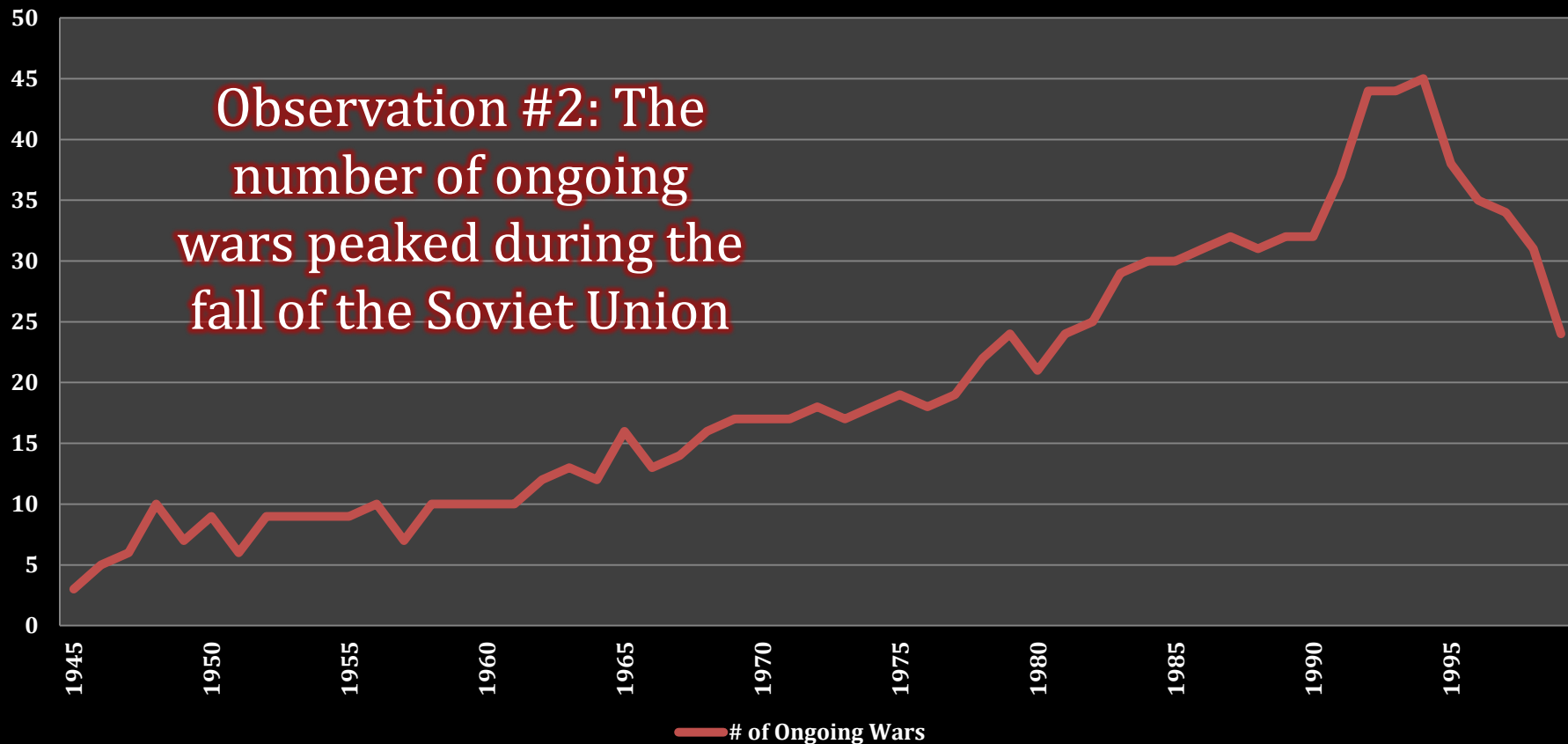
The number of new civil wars is not



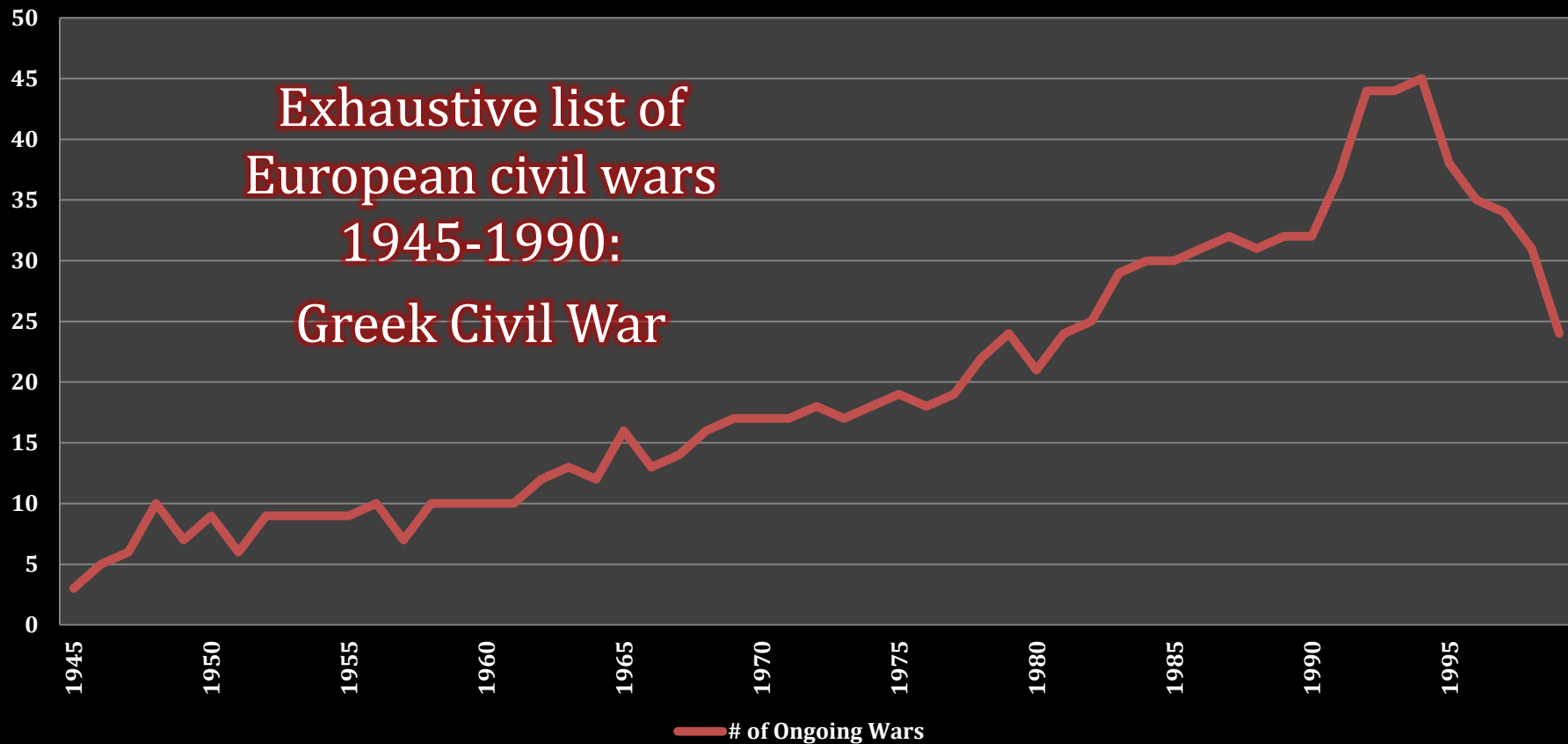


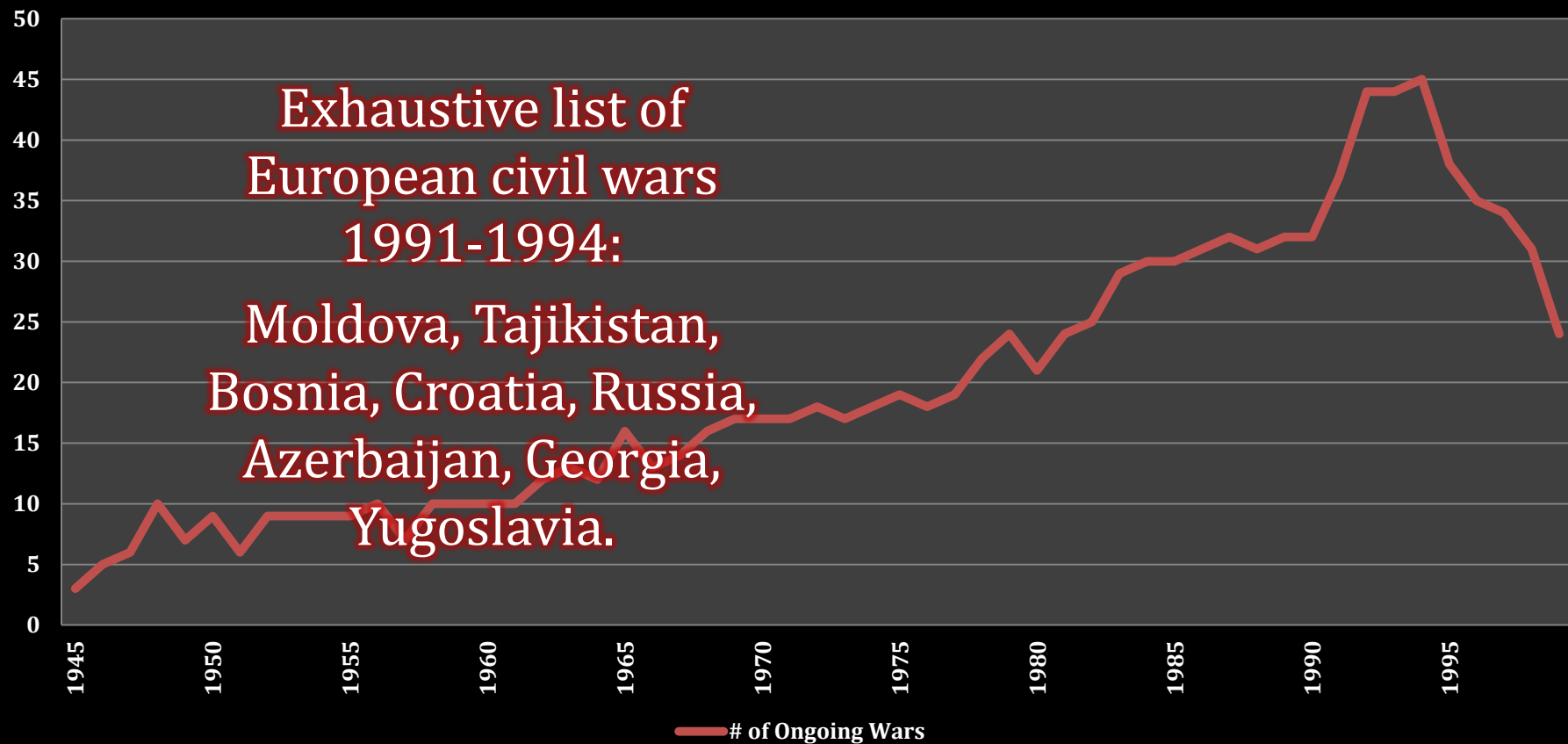


Observation #2: The
number of ongoing
wars peaked during the
fall of the Soviet Union

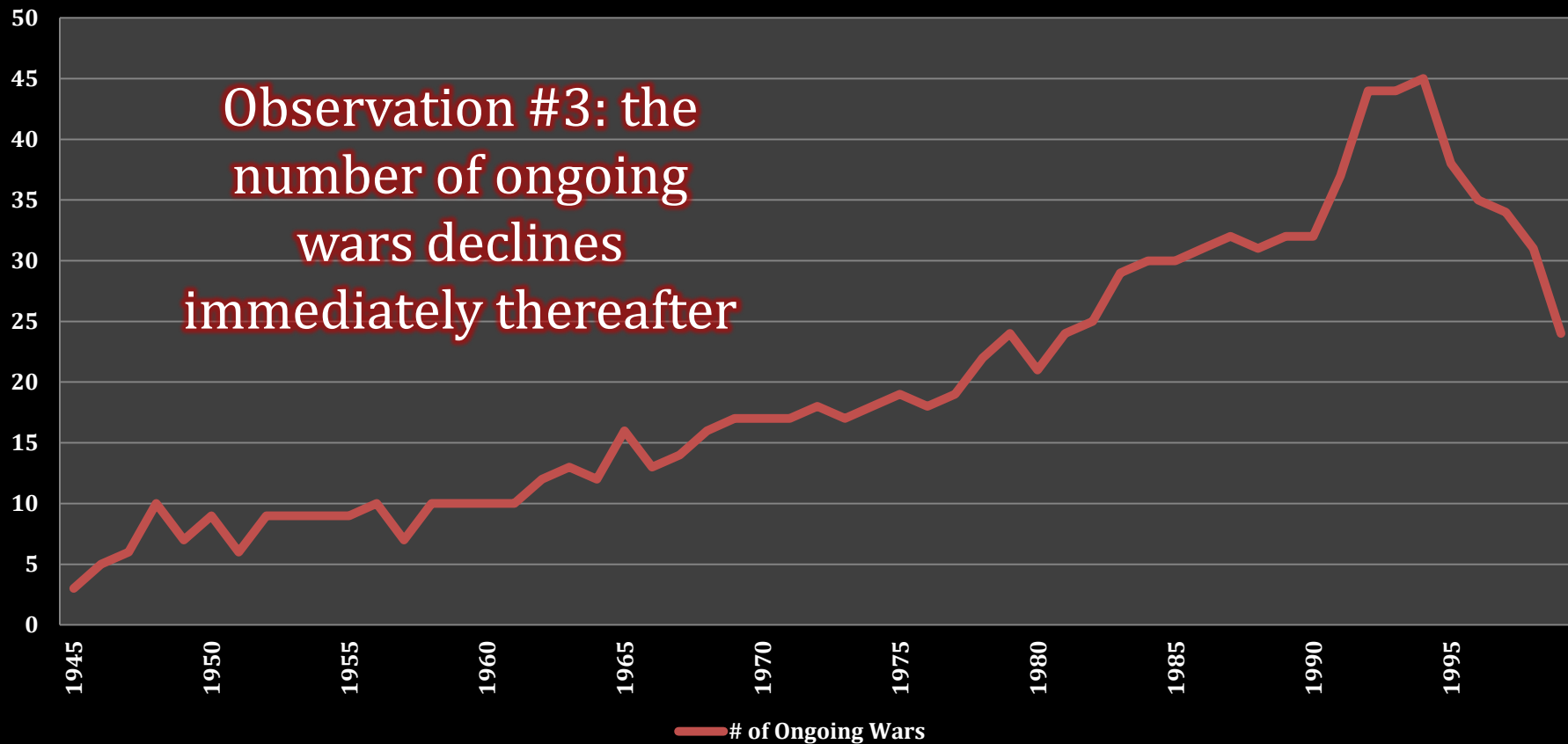


Exhaustive list of
European civil wars
1945-1990:
Greek Civil War





Observation #3: the
number of ongoing
wars declines
immediately thereafter



Questions Raised

- How did superpower competition affect the occurrence and duration of civil war?
- Why did eastern Europe become a mess in 1991?
- How have things changed in the “American” era?

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Two Units

- What's the game?
- How do you change the game?

Bargaining

- The “background” unit
- If want to mess with someone else’s business, you first need to know what game the are playing

Coercion/Meddling/Intervention

- Do sanctions work?
- Does the United Nations do anything useful?
- Is there a “responsibility to protect” innocents?
- Can intervention even work?

General Themes

- Civil wars are not fought in a vacuum
- Combatants must anticipate how third parties will act and strategize accordingly
- Strategies affect international outcomes even if no civil wars occur

Strategy vs. Wikipedia Summaries

- War is **strategic**
- If nothing else, you will learn how to think strategically in this class
 - Lots of demos! Real **money** at stake!
 - I am not going to recite Wikipedia to you

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The Basics

- Armed conflict between two or more parties within a state
 - This has a “I know it when I see it” flavor
 - Exact details often debated

Common measures

- Organized on both sides
- Involves non-state actor
- Involves a government
- Political goals
- Sufficiently deadly

Why Organized?

- Massacres aren't wars. They are massacres.



Why Organized?

- Lone wolves aren't war makers. They are lone wolves.



Why Non-State Actor?

- If everyone is a state, it's an interstate war
 - Puts the “civil” in civil war



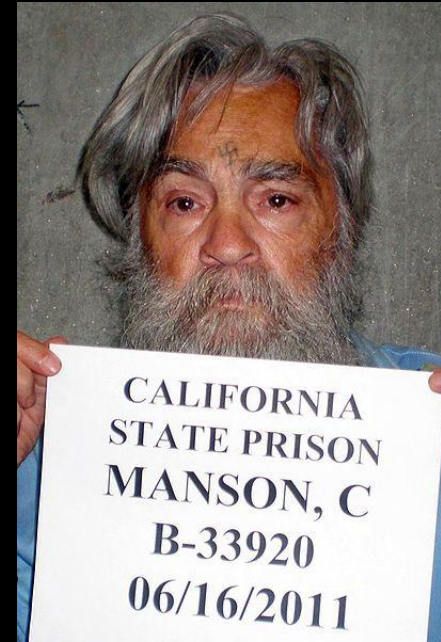
Why Government?

- Focus is on political goals
- Problematic when there is no government



Why Political Goals?

- Rules out psychopaths, financially motivated individuals
 - Mexican drug war feels like a civil war, though



Why Sufficiently Deadly?

- Rules out accidents, inactive conflicts, and unknown battles
- Common measure: 1000 battle deaths, at least 100 on each side



TL;DR

- We are focused on situations where people are negotiating over benefits within a state
- Good news: lots of research done on this type of bargaining

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Grades

- Problem sets: 20% each
- Two midterms: 30% each

Yes, This Class Has Problem Sets

- Strategic thinking requires active thinking
 - Active thinking requires doing problems
- This is an upper division class
 - Your work should at least resemble the work of political scientists

Yes, This Class Has Problem Sets

- Historically, grades are higher on the problem sets than the exams
- More points off on the English questions than the math questions
- It decreases the amount of points on the midterms
- Group work is encouraged

**IF YOU START THE PROBLEM SETS
THE DAY BEFORE THEY ARE DUE**



YOU'RE GONNA HAVE A BAD TIME

**IF YOU START THE PROBLEM SETS
THE DAY BEFORE THEY ARE DUE**

ISN'T IN CLASS

WOULDN'T HEED MY WARNING ANYWAY

YOU'RE GONNA HAVE A BAD TIME

Emailing

- My email: williamspaniel@gmail.com
- Reserve email for short questions only
 - Rule of thumb: three sentence question, three sentence answer
 - Any more? Great! Come to office hours

Office Hours

- Wednesdays, 2:15-4:15, Harkness 320B
 - Or by appointment
- I will generally float around for A few minutes after class

Teaching Assistant

- Justin Nicholson, j.nicholson@rochester.edu
- OH: Tuesdays, 9-11 am, Harkness 305

Syllabus

PSC/IR 265: Civil War and International Systems

William Spaniel
willspaniel@gmail.com

University of Rochester
Spring 2012
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:25-4:40
McGraw 203
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 2:15-4:15

Civil wars are now the most common form of armed combat in the world. However, in recent American history in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya have illustrated, civil wars are rarely fought in isolation. Each side looks to foreign actors for military support or outright intervention. Meanwhile, international organizations like the United Nations mediate conflicts and initiate peacekeeping missions. As such, this course analyzes how the international system interacts with civil conflict.