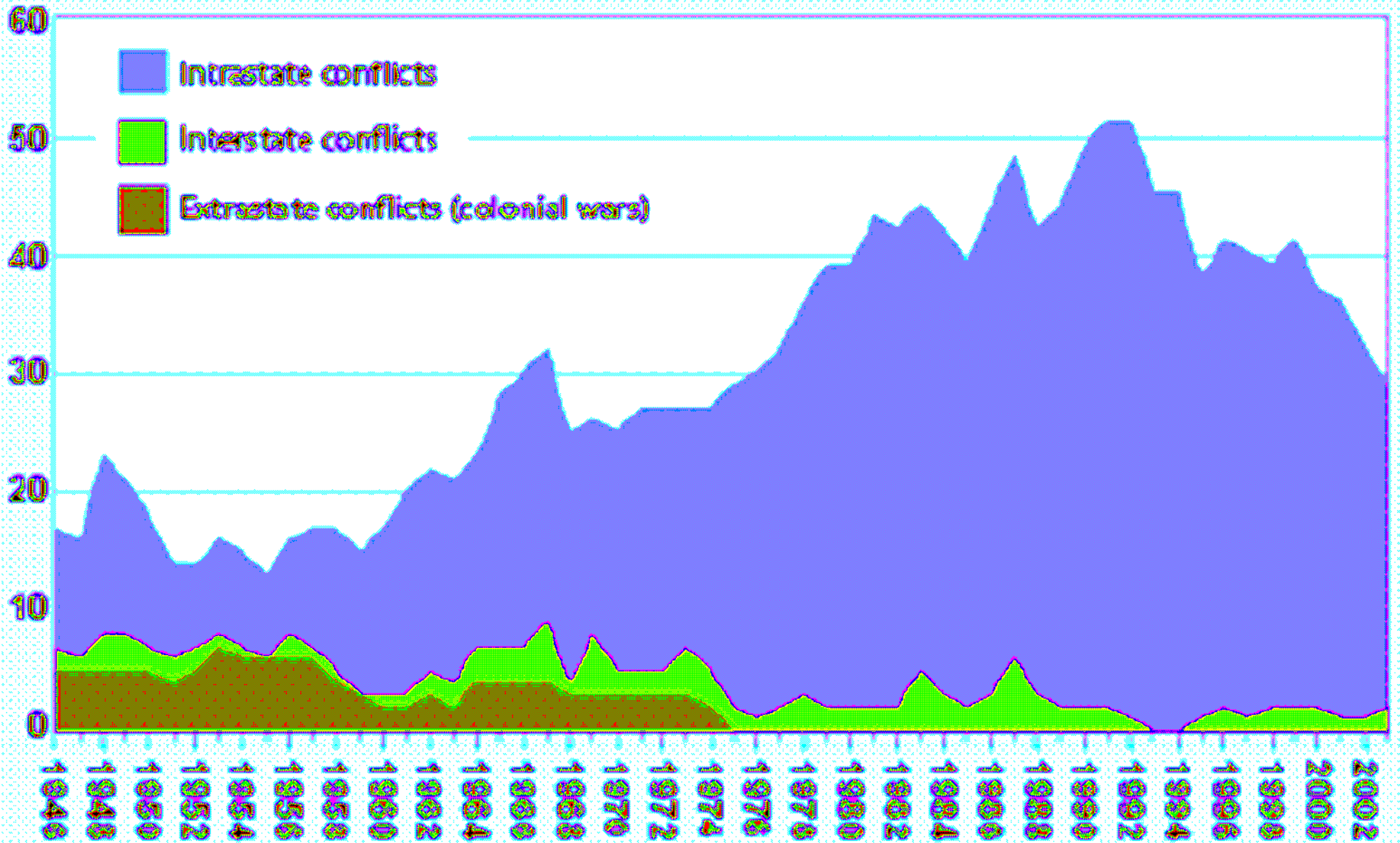


Calling for Military Intervention – A Humanitarian Act?

**Panel Contribution
8th Humanitarian Congress
Theory and Practice of Humanitarian Action**

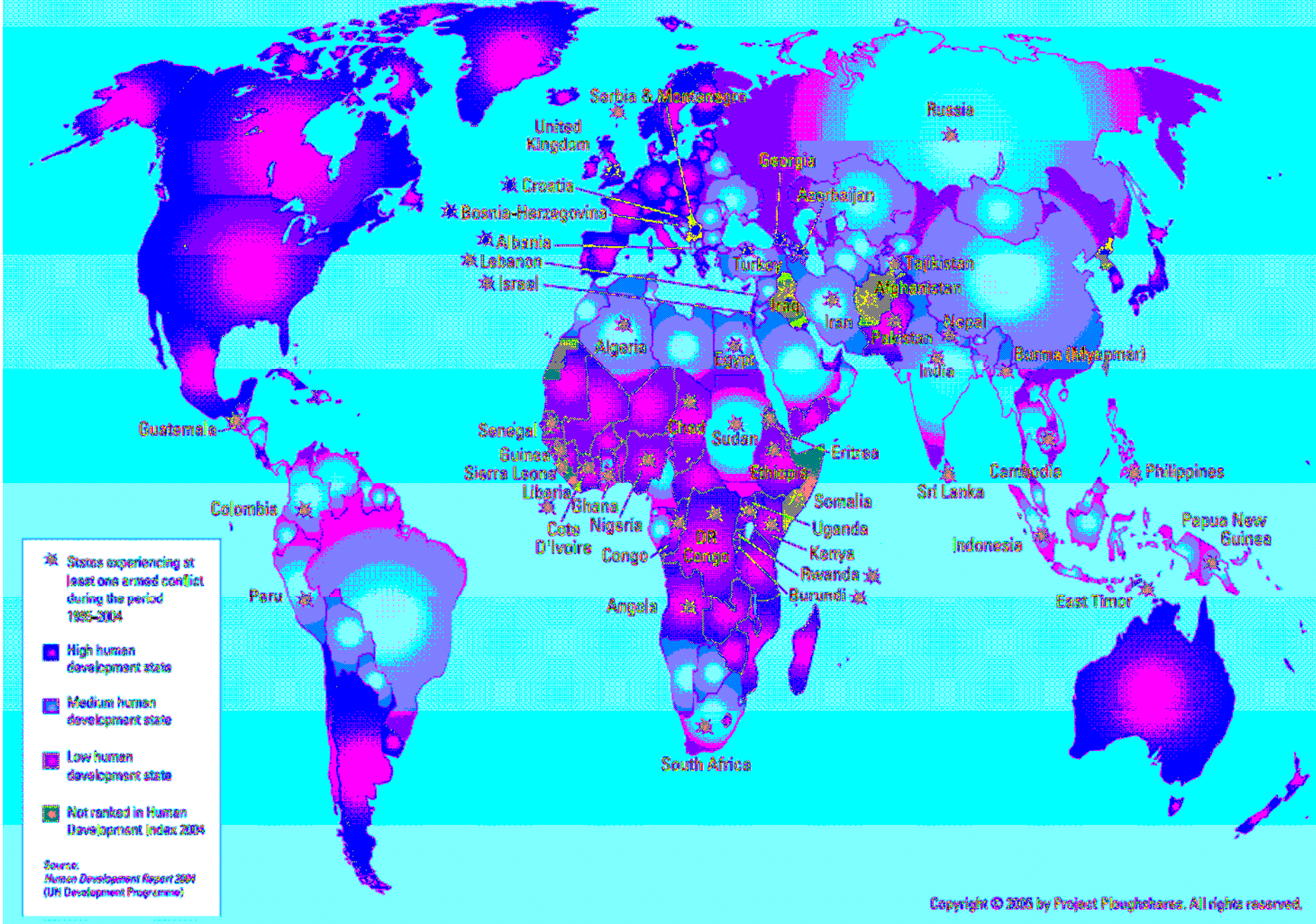
**Hans-Joachim Preuß,
Deutsche Welthungerhilfe**



Number of Wars and armed conflicts declined

1. Extra-state wars disappeared after the end of colonialism
 2. There are fewer inter-state wars
 3. The number of intra-state wars dropped remarkably after the end of the Cold War
- However, 60 wars are still being fought around the world, marked by major humanitarian emergencies, gross violations of human rights and war crimes.
 - No reason for optimism.

Human Development and Armed Conflict



(„Humanitarian“) Military Intervention

1. There is a relationship between human development and the prevalence of armed conflict in a given country.
2. There is a relationship between increased UN-led or UN-approved military interventions and the decrease of armed conflicts.
3. Those who are interested in long-term development are thus tempted to call for military intervention to discontinue armed conflict and end the suffering of the population.

The Dilemma of Humanitarian Actors – Two Positions (Traditionalist vs. New Humanitarianism)

Humanitarian engagement will not call for military intervention because a clear position might lead to a situation jeopardizing the implementation of humanitarian activities (obstacles, attacks, removal).

Humanitarian engagement must be linked to political ambitions aiming at improving the living conditions of the suffering population in order not to fight the symptoms of starvation alone but to create the preconditions for long-term development.

Deutsche Welthungerhilfe

1. Deutsche Welthungerhilfe is implementing humanitarian programmes in a number of complex emergencies.
2. Deutsche Welthungerhilfe is following the „linking relief – rehabilitation – development“ approach and has no means to escape from this dilemma.
3. Deutsche Welthungerhilfe has called for military intervention of AU in Sudan, asked UN for law enforcement in DRC, and withdrew from South Sudan when SPLA forced humanitarians to sign a repressive MoU.

Calling for military intervention ...

1. ... means to confess that prevention and alert have not worked.
2. ... means that political and developmental activities had virtually little impact.
3. ... means that human lives will be lost and is, thus, a decision very difficult to take.

Questions remain

1. Conflict analysis: what will happen without military intervention?
2. Pre-intervention assessment: what will be the outcome of a military intervention?
3. Intervention criteria: a) the just cause, b) the legitimacy of the intervening power, c) the *ultima ratio* question, d) restriction of commensurability, e) peace building objectives, f) probability of success.