



ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΜΕΤΑΠΤΥΧΙΑΚΩΝ ΣΠΟΥΔΩΝ  
ΣΤΡΑΤΗΓΙΚΕΣ ΔΙΑΧΕΙΡΙΣΗΣ ΠΕΡΙΒΑΛΛΟΝΤΟΣ, ΚΑΤΑΣΤΡΟΦΩΝ & ΚΡΙΣΕΩΝ

POST GRADUATE PROGRAM  
ENVIRONMENTAL, DISASTER & CRISES MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

## Μεταπτυχιακή Διατριβή Ειδίκευσης

Master Thesis

**Εμπόλεμες συγκρούσεις και φυσικό περιβάλλον. Ποιες οι συνέπειες της μαζικής χρησιμοποίησης συμβατικών όπλων για το φυσικό περιβάλλον; Πως αναμένεται να επηρεαστεί το φυσικό περιβάλλον από πολεμικές συγκρούσεις τα επόμενα 20 χρόνια;**

War conflicts and natural environment. What are the consequences of the mass use of conventional weapons for the natural environment? How the natural environment is expected to be affected by war conflicts over the next 20 years?

ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΣ ΑΛΠΟΥΣ / GEORGIOS ALPOUS

A.M. / R.N. : 17005

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Athens, March 2019



ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΜΕΤΑΠΤΥΧΙΑΚΩΝ ΣΠΟΥΔΩΝ  
ΣΤΡΑΤΗΓΙΚΕΣ ΔΙΑΧΕΙΡΙΣΗΣ ΠΕΡΙΒΑΛΛΟΝΤΟΣ, ΚΑΤΑΣΤΡΟΦΩΝ & ΚΡΙΣΕΩΝ

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Mechanism

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## **Abstract**

Human history is plunged by armed conflicts, which have determined its course. Their interdependence is so strong that it is possible to say that the very human history is the story of war on earth. Apart from the impact on human history, armed conflicts significantly affect the natural environment in which they take place. Assuming that almost all armed conflicts break out with a view to controlling or acquiring natural resources, the conclusion is reached, is that natural environment is the target and the silent victim of armed conflicts. The impacts on the natural environment are multi-level and not only include land, sea and air, but extend to the upper atmosphere and of course touch human societies as well. From the study of major armed conflicts such as the Second World War, the Vietnam War and the Persian Gulf wars, it is obvious that the more the art of war evolves, the more radically the natural environment is affected. A common feature of all the consequences is the fact that while an armed conflict is limited politically or geographically, it cannot be restricted but diffused almost everywhere. As far as predicting what is expected to happen in the future, this paper sets a study period for the next twenty years as all think tanks consider that the global political-economic situation is not expected to change dramatically. Against this background, it is common belief that future armed conflicts will continue to be carried out to control natural resources but will be smaller in number and less likely to occur between states. Thus, an increase in internal conflicts that is expected to be caused by the evolution of climate change, which scientists now characterize as an existential danger to humanity, is expected to grow. This paper concluding sets out a series of arguments on how humanity should cope with the environmental consequences of armed conflicts, following the example of successfully tackling the problem of the ozone hole, a global challenge that has been successfully addressed at global level.

**Keywords:** War and natural environment, War conflicts and natural environment, Climate change, War conflicts over the next 20 years, Human societies and war

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 (3,600)  
 Lancaster, Halifax, De Havilland Mosquito -17  
 (Scott & Major, 2018).

(Torpex) 50%  
 (Scott & Major, 2018).



**2.2** Lancaster RAF H: worldwarphotos.info

4,000 1,800  
 (Scott & Major, 2018).

2.1 1943 1945.



2.2.1.2



2.3 : forecastweather.gr



1944/04/11	22:42	22:45	1442*	Aachen	5,2	4,8
1944/04/19	02:20	02:31	1160*	Rouen	4,8	4,8
1944/04/21	02:09	02:15	1518*	Cologne	no data	4,8
1944/04/23	01:15	01:27	2150	Düsseldorf	5,1	4,8
1944/04/24	23:45	01:05	2577*	Karlsruhe	4,5	4,8
1944/04/27	01:30	01:37	1975*	Essen	4,6	4,8
1944/04/28	02:06	02:14	1234	Friedrichshafen	3,5	4,8
1944/04/29	11:11	12:08	709	Berlin	no data	4,8
1944/04/30	23:53	00:13	488*	Maintenon	5	4,8
1944/05/02	01:05	01:16	315*	Lyons	3,9	4,8
1944/05/04	00:25	00:32	1465*	Mailly	4,5	4,8
1944/05/07	10:34	11:44	1370	Berlin	no data	4,8
1944/05/08	10:38	11:36	858	Berlin	4,5	4,8
1944/05/08	00:18	00:18	231*	Rennes	no data	4,8
1944/05/10	00:11	00:12	1590*	Mardyck	5,1	4,8
1944/05/11	23:50	00:04	164*	Hasselt	5,2	4,8
1944/05/20	00:43	00:56	503*	Orleans	4,6	4,9
1944/05/24	10:30	11:34	430	Berlin	no data	4,9
1944/05/25	02:23	02:30	1760*	Aachen	4,8	4,9
1944/05/28	02:25	02:31	687*	Aachen	5,2	4,9
1944/06/03	00:30	00:34	1053*	Calais	4,8	4,9
1944/06/05	01:14	01:18	1003*	coastal	5,2	4,95
1944/06/05	23:34	23:37	5000	Normandy	5,2	4,95
1944/06/07	01:22	02:30	3488	Acheres	no data	4,95
1944/06/10	03:15	03:27	1571*	airfields	no data	4,95
1944/06/11	01:09	01:18	1299*	railways	5	4,95
1944/06/13	00:59	01:09	1216*	Gelsenkirchen	4,6	4,9
1944/06/14	22:33	23:34	1230	Le Havre	4,6	4,8
1944/06/16	01:20	01:27	1265*	Sterkrade	4,6	4,8
1944/06/21	09:25	11:12	1220	Berlin	4,7	4,8
1944/06/22	15:44	15:52	912*	v-weapons	5	4,75
1944/06/24	02:00	02:15	856*	railways	4,5	4,7
1944/06/25	03:17	03:24	2929*	v-weapons	no data	4,7
1944/06/27	03:31	03:39	2849*	v-weapons	4,5	4,7
1944/06/30	07:55	08:06	433*	Oisemont	5,3	4,75
1944/07/02	14:14	14:21	1580*	v-weapons	4,7	4,7
1944/07/05	01:21	01:44	1189*	railways	no data	4,7
1944/07/06	01:50	02:01	647*	Dijon	no data	4,7
1944/07/06	20:58	21:03	2139*	v-weapons	no data	4,7
1944/07/07	21:50	22:02	2276	Caen	4,7	4,7
1944/07/13	01:52	02:02	1594*	railways	5,1	4,7
1944/07/18	05:45	05:55	6800	Caen	4,7	4,8
1944/07/19	01:30	01:40	672*	Scholven	5,3	4,75
1944/07/20	21:00	21:01	1405*	v-weapons	4,4	4,8
1944/07/23	01:06	01:34	2583*	Kiel	4,7	4,9
1944/07/25	01:46	01:53	2540*	Stuttgart	5	5
1944/07/26	01:57	02:11	2275*	Stuttgart	5	5
1944/07/29	01:47	02:10	2078*	Stuttgart	no data	4,95
1944/07/30	08:31	08:38	2753*	Normandy	4,9	4,95
1944/08/01	19:59	20:03	1405*	Le Havre	no data	4,95
1944/08/03	14:16	20:02	4479*	v-weapons	no data	5

1944/08/04	18:01	18:08	1144*	v-weapons	5,2	5
1944/08/05	19:04	19:09	1286*	oil plants	5,1	5
1944/08/06	11:46	13:00	229	Berlin	no data	5
1944/08/08	23:19	23:24	684*	oil plants	5	5
1944/08/10	12:00	12:06	416*	Dugny	5	5
1944/08/11	16:14	16:25	1816*	railways	no data	5
1944/08/12	15:10	15:13	287*	u-boats	4,5	5
1944/08/13	02:15	02:19	541*	Falaise	4,7	5
1944/08/14	15:29	15:39	3146*	Normandy	5,2	5
1944/08/15	12:02	12:04	4048*	airfields	4,7	5
1944/08/26	01:01	01:12	1732*	Rüsselsheim	5,6	5,1
1944/08/26	23:10	23:14	1571*	Keil	5,6	5,1
1944/08/30	02:00	02:13	1690*	Stettin	4,6	5,2
1944/08/31	15:20	15:33	2364*	v-weapons	5,5	5,2
1944/09/03	17:28	17:33	2712*	airfields	5,7	5,2
1944/09/05	18:12	18:43	1339*	Le Havre	no data	5,2
1944/09/06	09:20	09:38	1331*	Le Havre	4,9	5,2
1944/09/08	08:45	08:45	458*	Le Havre	5,6	5,2
1944/09/10	18:55	19:30	3902*	Le Havre	5,4	5,25
1944/09/12	22:54	23:13	1589*	Frankfurt	5,7	5,25
1944/09/16	23:45	23:47	859*	airfields	5,4	5,3
1944/09/17	11:35	12:05	3000	Boulogne	6,3	5,4
1944/09/17	18:15	18:18	487*	Flushing	6,3	5,4
1944/09/20	15:59	17:06	2534*	Calais	5,2	5,4
1944/09/23	21:19	21:30	2208*	Neuss	4,4	5,5
1944/09/26	12:21	12:27	2804*	Calais	5,1	5,7
1944/09/27	10:11	10:15	1292*	Calais	5,9	5,5
1944/09/28	01:04	01:04	909	Kaiserslautern	no data	5,5
1944/10/03	14:37	14:45	1065*	Walcheren	7,3	5,7
1944/10/05	22:28	22:40	2248*	Saabrücken	6,6	5,9
1944/10/06	11:40	13:01	545	Berlin	5,9	6
1944/10/07	14:00	14:28	1437*	Emmerich	6,3	6,15
1944/10/11	16:40	16:56	1172*	Breskens-Flushing	no data	6,2
1944/10/14	08:08	08:57	3574	Duisburg	5,7	6,3
1944/10/15	01:20	01:33	4040	Duisburg	no data	6,3
1944/10/15	19:45	19:55	2031*	Wilhelmshaven	no data	6,3
1944/10/19	20:30	20:37	2389*	Stuttgart	6,9	6,5
1944/10/23	19:30	19:53	4084	Essen	7,6	6,6
1944/10/25	15:29	15:46	4182	Essen	6,1	6,6
1944/10/28	15:46	16:04	2940*	Cologne	7,6	6,4
1944/10/30	21:02	21:21	3431	Cologne	no data	6,5
1944/10/31	21:00	21:15	1972*	Cologne	6,7	6,5
1944/11/02	19:15	19:35	3957*	Düsseldorf	7	6,4
1944/11/04	19:39	19:52	2947*	Bochum	no data	6,5
1944/11/09	10:42	10:47	1093*	Wanne-Eickel	5,9	6,2
1944/11/11	19:02	19:06	894*	Dortmund	5,5	6,2
1944/11/16	15:30	15:34	9400	Düren, Jülich, H	6	6,2
1944/11/18	19:03	19:03	1217*	Wanne-Eickel	6,6	6,2
1944/11/21	19:15	19:25	1159*	Aschaffenburg	6,2	6
1944/11/27	20:01	20:08	1900	Freiburg	6,4	6
1944/11/29	14:58	15:10	1249*	Dortmund	6,6	6
1944/12/04	19:34	19:47	2167*	Karlsruhe	4,9	5,8
1944/12/05	10:28	11:38	1060	Berlin	5,5	5,9
1944/12/06	20:40	20:53	2006*	Leuna	5,5	5,9
1944/12/12	19:37	19:43	2131*	Essen	6	5,95
1944/12/15	18:28	18:36	1386*	Ludwigshafen	5,2	6
1944/12/24	18:30	18:35	412*	Cologne/Nippes	no data	6,15
1944/12/29	18:58	19:06	1379*	Scholven Buer	6	6,1

1944/12/31	18:46	19:00	640*	Osterfeld	5,9	6,15
1945/01/02	19:30	19:30	2166*	Nuremberg	6,4	6,25

The table above shows the dates, times, and locations of the nuclear tests conducted by the US and USSR in 1944 and 1945. The values in the last two columns represent the maximum height of the nuclear fireball (foF2) in kilometers. The value 2.1 for the Osterfeld test is significantly lower than the values for the Nuremberg tests (6.4 and 6.25 km).

The foF2 values for the Nuremberg tests are approximately 6.4 km and 6.25 km, which are significantly higher than the 2.1 km value for the Osterfeld test. This indicates that the Nuremberg tests were much more powerful than the Osterfeld test.

The foF2 values for the Nuremberg tests are also significantly higher than the 1.000 km value for the Osterfeld test. This indicates that the Nuremberg tests were much more powerful than the Osterfeld test.

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(Scott & Major, 2018).

The speed of the nuclear fireball (foF2) for the Osterfeld test was approximately 300 km/h, while the speed for the Nuremberg tests was approximately 100 km/h. This indicates that the Osterfeld test was much faster than the Nuremberg tests.

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(Scott & Major, 2018).

The energy released by the Osterfeld test was approximately  $4.184 \times 10^9$  J, while the energy released by the Nuremberg tests was approximately  $2.1 \times 10^9$  J. This indicates that the Osterfeld test was much more powerful than the Nuremberg tests.

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1954, 1960, 1975



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Ezilon.com

1975, 10 (Nguyen, 2009).

1990,

77  
 25%  
 (Nguyen, 2009).



2.5

: timesnews.gr

2.2.2.1

(Hanson & Machlis, 2011).

(Mekong).

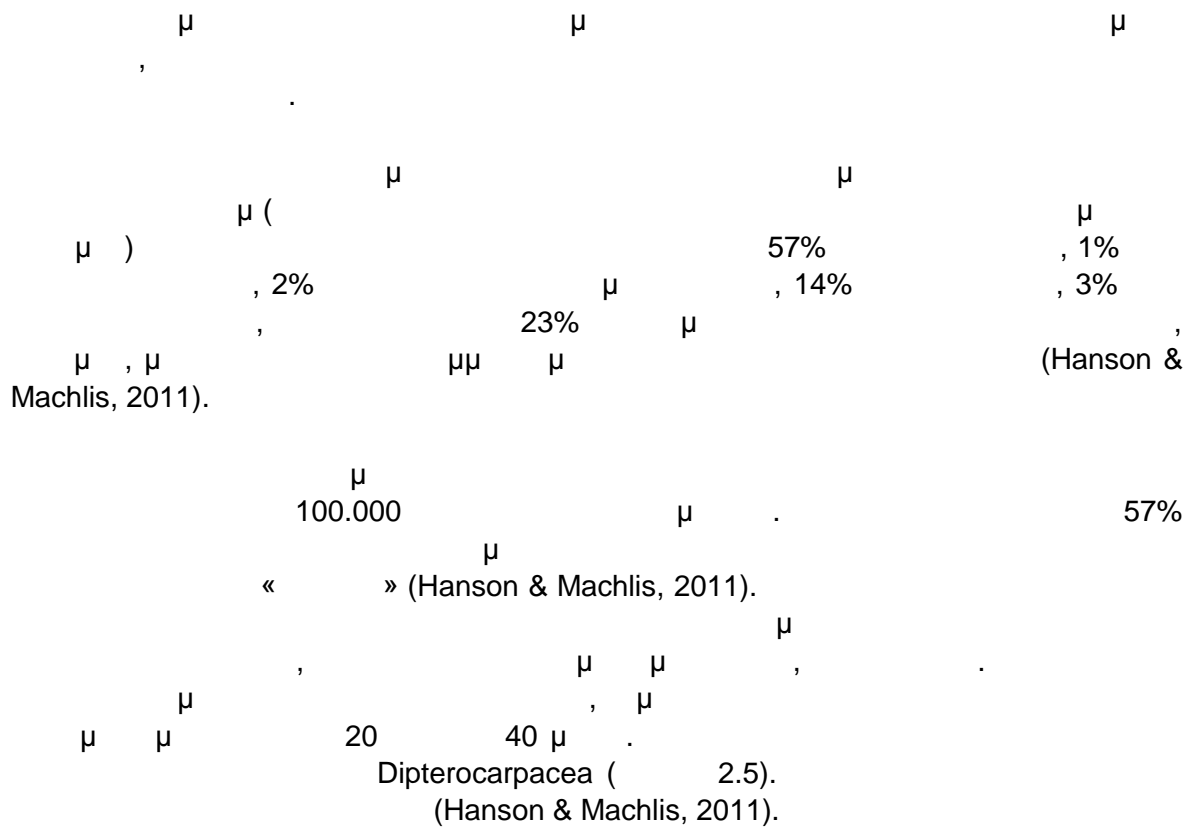
40.000

2.2

(Mart & Coclanis, 2011).

2.2 : Environmental Change and Agricultural Sustainability in the Mekong Delta

Industry, agriculture, and fishery statistics	Mekong Delta*	Percent in country
Gross industry output (Billion VND) <sup>b</sup>	460,993	31
Net business turnover (Billion VND) <sup>c</sup>	1,194,230	35
Planted area of paddy rice ('000 Ha)	3,889	52
Production of paddy rice ('000 tons)	20,788	53
Number of farms	58,896	49
Number of fish farms	25,770	74
Aquaculture water surface ('000 Ha)	762	72
Aquaculture shrimp production (tons)	315,691	81
Aquaculture fish production (tons)	1,428,972	77
Gross output of fisheries (Billion VND)	34,407	69
Production of fisheries (tons)	2,744,145	60







2.6 Dipterocarpacea  
 : biotik.org

2.2.2.2

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 1965 1973.  
 600.000  
 (Hanson & Machlis, 2011).

3/10  
 (Hanson & Machlis, 2011).

(Hanson & Machlis, 2011)





**2.7** Environmental Change and Agricultural Sustainability in the Mekong Delta

The Mekong Delta is a vast, fertile region in Southeast Asia, characterized by a complex network of waterways and extensive agricultural land. This area is a major rice-producing region, contributing significantly to the food security of the region. However, the delta is facing significant environmental challenges, including land subsidence, saltwater intrusion, and deforestation. These changes are threatening the long-term sustainability of the agricultural sector.

According to Hanson & Machlis (2011), the delta is experiencing a loss of agricultural land at a rate of 12,5% per year. This is primarily due to land subsidence, which is caused by the extraction of groundwater and the compaction of soil. Additionally, saltwater intrusion from the South China Sea is increasingly affecting the delta's soil quality, rendering large areas of land unsuitable for rice cultivation.

The impact of these environmental changes is particularly severe in the coastal areas of the delta, where the land is already at a low elevation. In some areas, the land is subsiding at a rate of 51% per year, which is a significant loss of agricultural potential. The loss of land is also leading to a decrease in the number of farmers, as many are unable to sustain their livelihoods in the face of these environmental challenges.

(Hanson & Machlis, 2011).



2.8

Environmental Change and Agricultural Sustainability in the Mekong Delta

The map illustrates the impact of ecological warfare on the Mekong Delta, showing the progression of damage from north to south. The legend indicates that the degree of damage increases from Region I to Region IV. This damage is linked to environmental changes that affect agricultural sustainability. Key species mentioned include *Hopea*, *Lagerstroemia*, and *Dipterocarpus*. The text also references Anisoptera (Hanson & Machlis, 2011).



2.9 : Environmental Change and Agricultural Sustainability in the Mekong Delta

The image shows a landscape of charred, skeletal trees and a large, fallen log in the foreground. Several people are visible in the scene, some appearing to be working or observing the area. The background shows a hilly, forested area under a cloudy sky.

(Hanson & Machlis, 2011).

carpet bombing).

carpet bombing

(Hanson & Machlis, 2011).



2.10

bluebeerriver.blogspot.com

#### 2.2.2.4

Herbicide application in forestry is often done using aircraft. This method allows for efficient coverage of large areas. However, the use of herbicides like 2,4-D and Picloram has raised concerns about their impact on the environment. These chemicals are persistent and can affect non-target species. Research conducted in the 1960s and 1970s, including studies by Hanson and Machlis (2011), has shown that herbicide application can lead to soil contamination and the death of nearby plants and animals. For example, the application of 2,4-D and Picloram in the 1960s led to the death of several birds and fish. The herbicide Cacodylic is also mentioned as a concern.

The use of herbicides like 2,4-D and Picloram is a common practice in forestry. However, the potential for herbicide application to harm the environment is a major concern. Research has shown that these herbicides can persist in the soil and affect non-target species. For example, the application of 2,4-D and Picloram in the 1960s led to the death of several birds and fish. The herbicide Cacodylic is also mentioned as a concern.

Cacodylic, 850.000 (Hanson & Machlis, 2011).



2.11 calicutjournal.com

Pterocarpus pedatus Lagerstroemia, Cassia siamea Sandoricum indicum. Hopea odorata, Dipterocarpus alatus, Shorea cochinchinensis (Hanson & Machlis, 2011).







### 2.2.3

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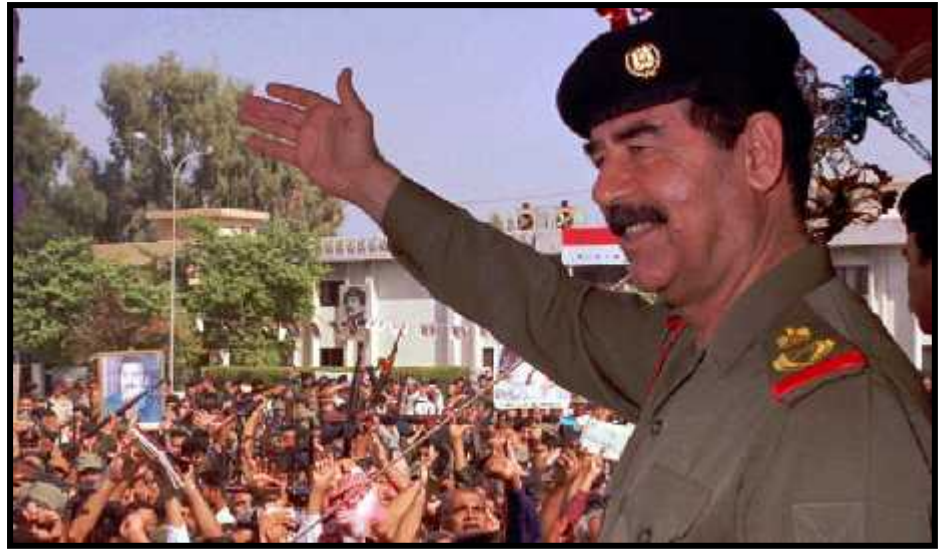


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lonelyplanet.com

#### 2.2.3.1 (1980-1988)

1979 « » « » ; ( , 2015). 1980



## 2.14

1981, 1984, 1988, 1988, 1990, newsbomb.gr

### 2.2.3.2 Ο (1990 – 1991)

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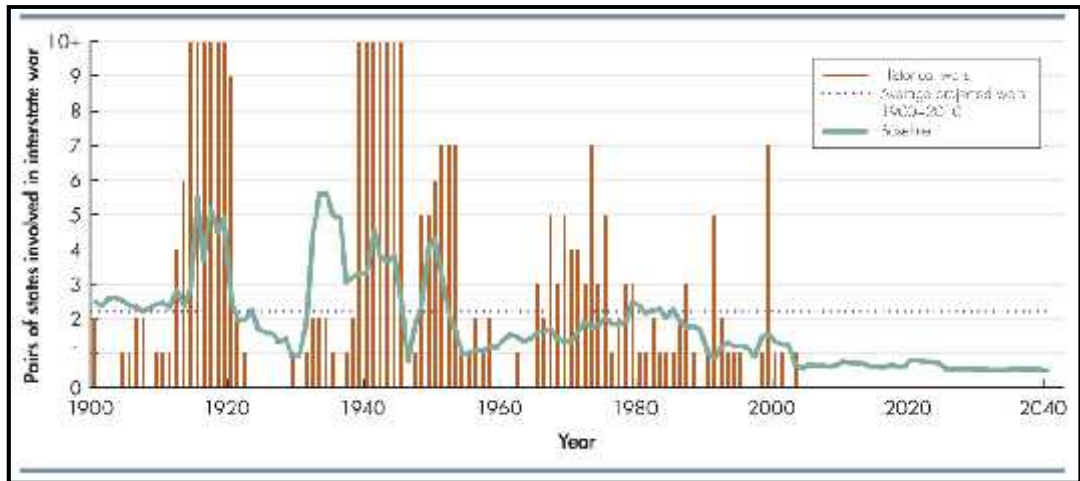
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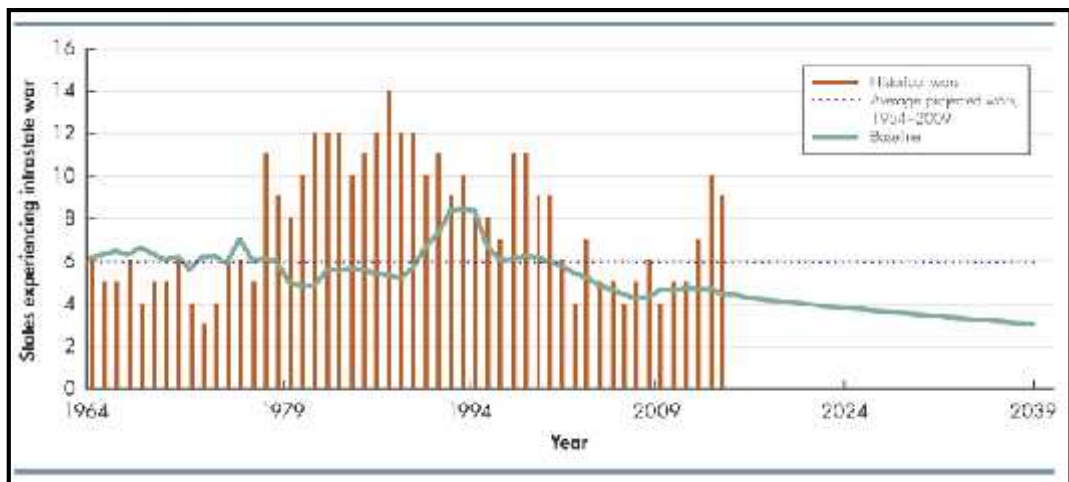
3.3 3.4 Sarkees and Wayman,  
1964 1900,  
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(Peters, 2004).

3.3 (Szayna et al., 2017).

3.3 : Sarkees and Wayman, 2010



3.4 : Sarkees and Wayman, 2010



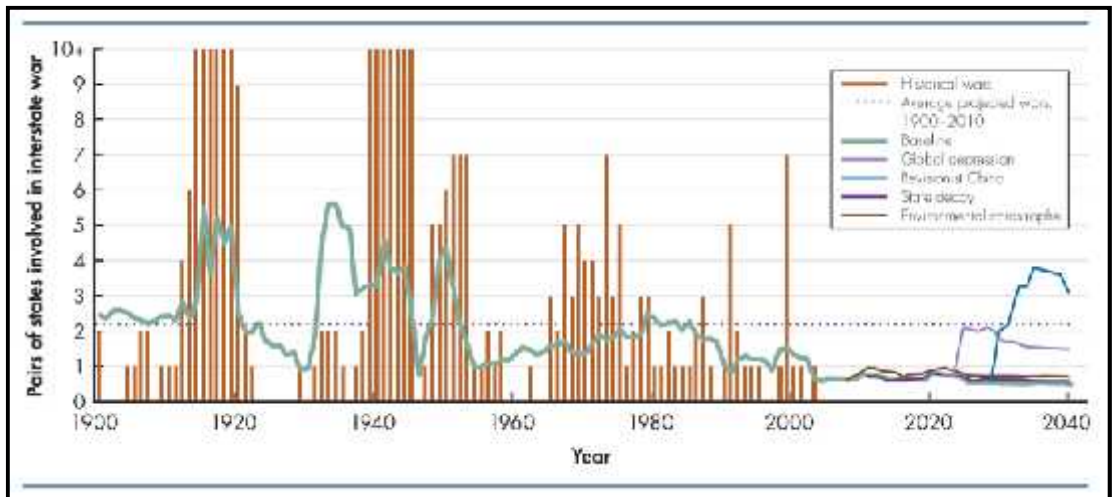
3.5 3.6 (Szayna et al., 2017).

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: Sarkees and Wayman, 2010



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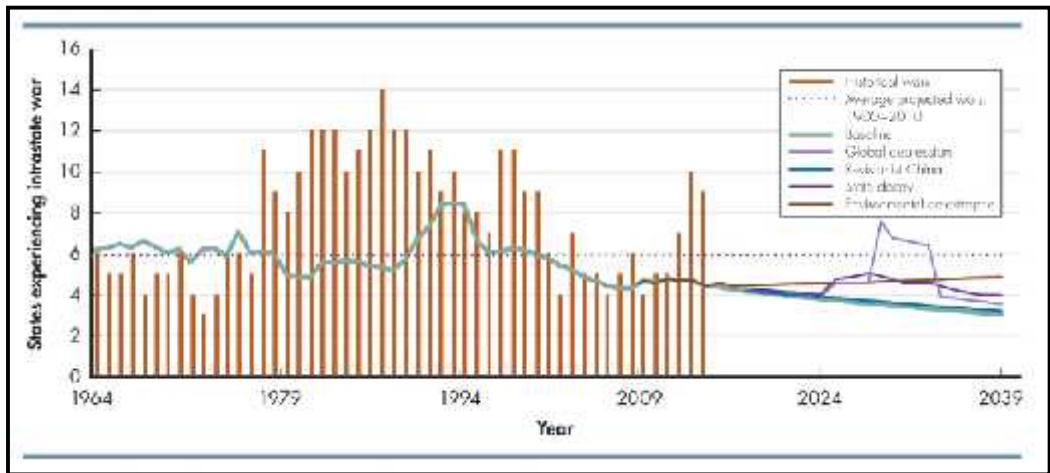
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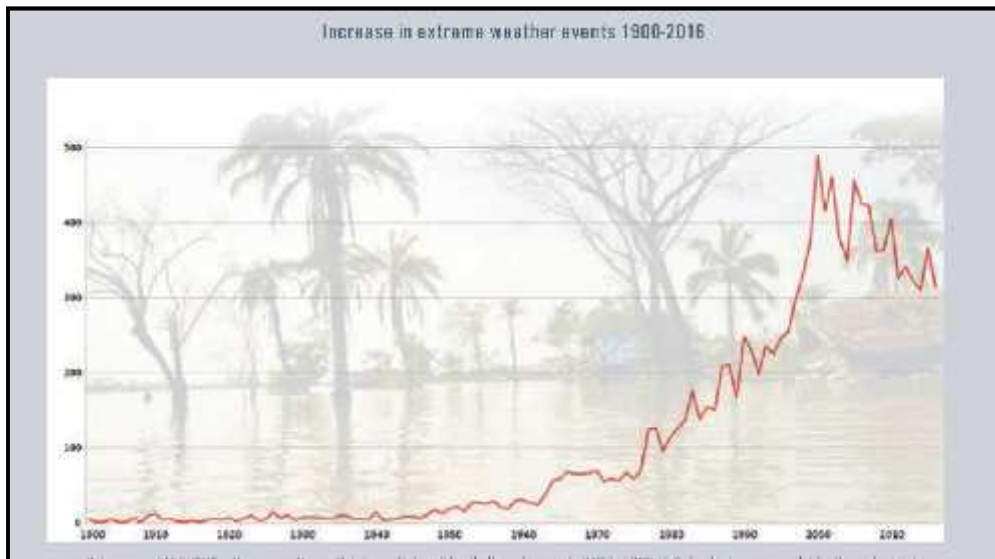
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 20 : Beyond Borders, EJF, 2017

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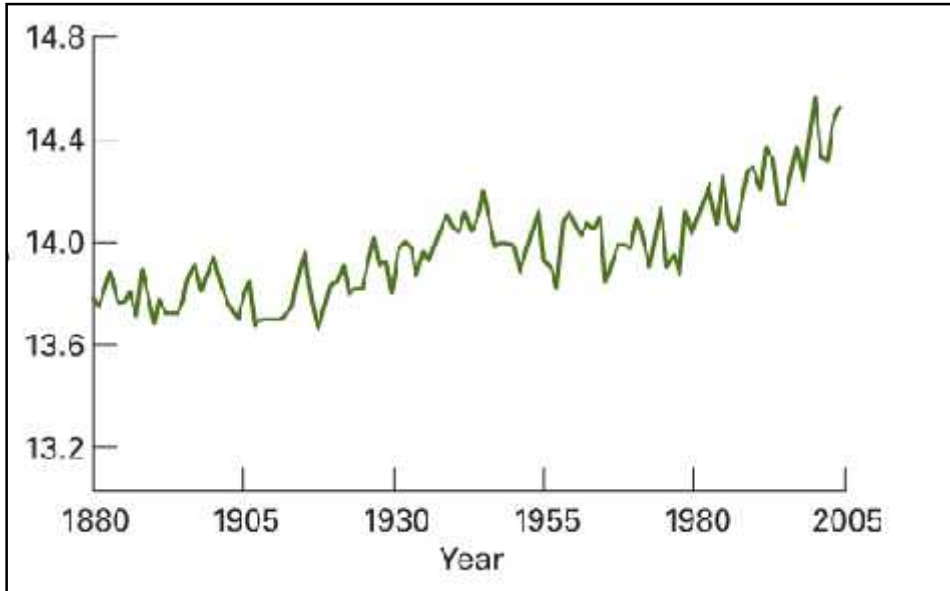
The image shows two large black pipes discharging water into a body of water. The water is turbulent and white with foam as it falls from the pipes. The pipes are mounted on a concrete structure.

The text below the image is mostly illegible due to heavy noise and corruption. It appears to contain several paragraphs of text, including a URL [www.nrdc.org](http://www.nrdc.org) and a citation (Goudie, 2013).



(Protopsaltis, 2012).

3.9  
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 : THE HUMAN IMPACT ON CLIMATE AND  
 THE ATMOSPHER, 2013



(Bausinger & Preuß, 2005). 3.10

(Goudie, 2013).



**3.10**  
 (As), (Cu) (Pb)  
 : Environmental Remnants  
 of the First World War: Soil Contamination of a Burning Ground for Arsenical  
 Ammunition

Sample ID	Location	As	Cu	Pb	BDAO	PAF	TPA	PDPA
1	bg	13	27	61	< 0.10	< 0.10	< 0.10	< 0.10
2	dl	22	246	202	< 0.10	< 0.10	< 0.10	< 0.10
3	dl	9	27	258	< 0.10	< 0.10	< 0.10	< 0.10
4	dl	18	65	1359	< 0.10	< 0.10	< 0.10	< 0.10
5	dl	5	30	64	< 0.10	< 0.10	< 0.10	< 0.10
6	bg	1659	74	615	< 0.10	2.88	8.61	0.32
7	dl	7	18	34	< 0.10	< 0.10	< 0.10	< 0.10
8	dl	7	17	25	< 0.10	< 0.10	< 0.10	< 0.10
9	dl	10	24	24	< 0.10	< 0.10	< 0.10	< 0.10
10	dl	6	27	50	< 0.10	< 0.10	< 0.10	< 0.10
11	dl	5	26	69	< 0.10	< 0.10	< 0.10	< 0.10
12	dl	5	15	140	< 0.10	< 0.10	< 0.10	< 0.10
13	dl	13	24	49	< 0.10	< 0.10	< 0.10	< 0.10
14	dl	19	56	1451	< 0.10	< 0.10	< 0.10	< 0.10
15	dl	49	156	4331	< 0.10	< 0.10	< 0.10	< 0.10
16	bg	30	29	81	< 0.10	< 0.10	< 0.10	< 0.10
17	bg	2595	116	1284	1.42	3.67	12.20	0.73
18	bg	2193	82	643	< 0.10	3.00	7.90	0.83
19	bg	1120	369	945	1.50	2.92	39.97	0.41
20	bg	13	32	83	< 0.10	< 0.10	< 0.10	< 0.10

bg=burning ground; dl=delaboration area; BDAO, PAF, TPA, PDPA sec Figure 1

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