

Peace and Development: A New Challenge

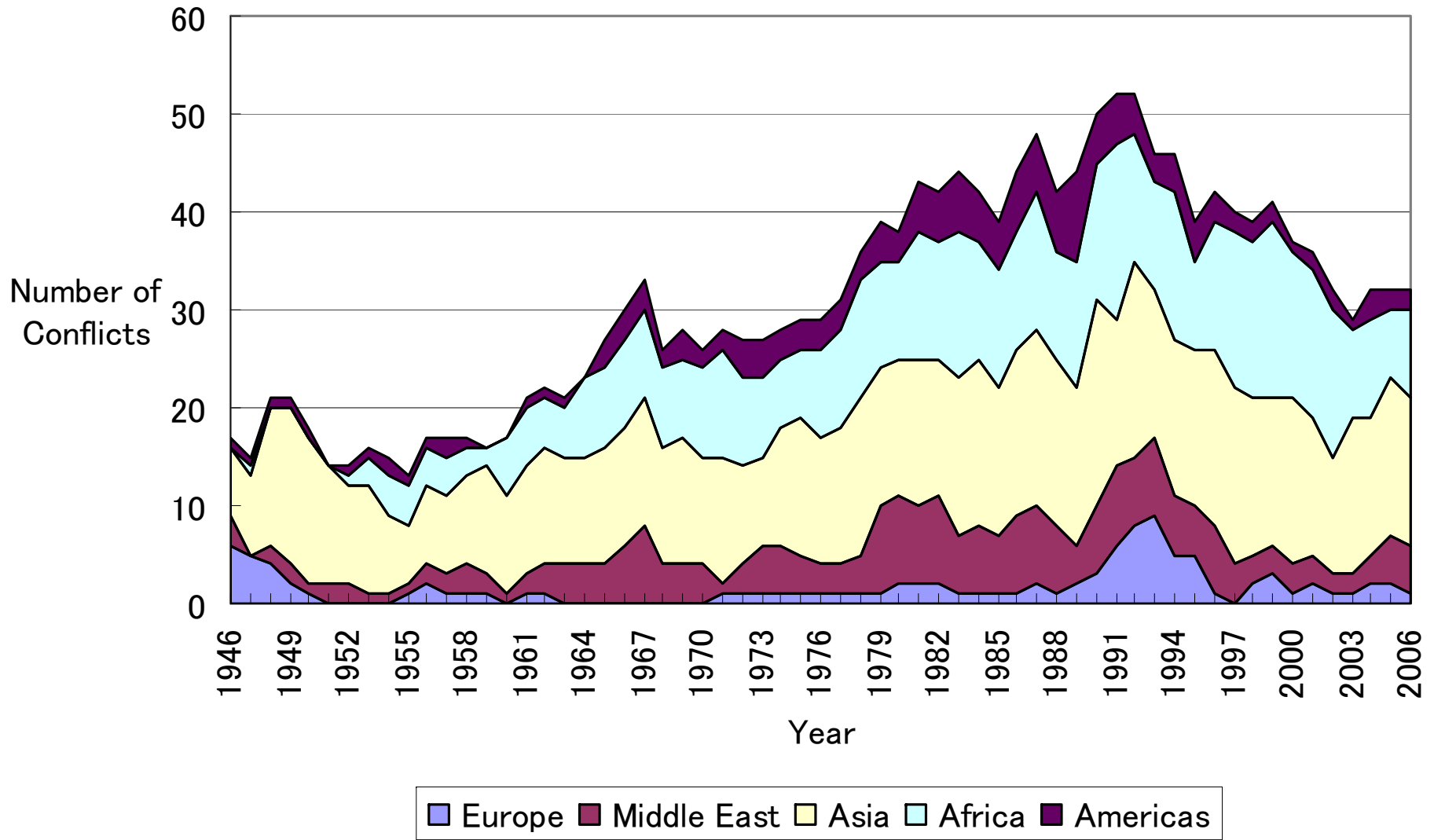
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security and development

- A challenging research field
- In this presentation, I will argue
 - what the characteristics of contemporary conflicts are.
 - what the international community has tried to do in order to bring about peace.
 - importance of taking the local context into account in peace building processes, and roles and possibilities of the JICA Research Institute in this context.

Number of Conflicts by Region (1946~2006)



Source: UCDP Dataset.

Two root causes of conflicts

- Failure of development
 - Most of the armed conflicts have broken out in developing countries.
- Failure of the state
 - Most of recent armed conflicts are internal ones.
- Both of these two aspects should be taken into account in elaborating strategies for peace - building.

International intervention

- Since the end of the Cold War, a variety of international actors have made great efforts to manage armed conflicts and to support the peace-building process.
- The international engagement has contributed to the control of conflict.
- Today, the field of “Peace and Development” becomes an important pillar of international development agencies.

Importance of taking the local context into account

- Actual remedies for peace rely heavily on European liberal democratic thought.
 - The idea is to transplant democracy and market mechanism in order to make peace sustainable.
- We should be cautious to apply the ideas mechanically to post-conflict countries. There is no one-size-fits-all solution for peace-building.

Notorious examples

- In Angola and Rwanda in the 1990s, the international community promoted multi-party systems and elections without enough preparation.
- Policies taken without understanding local situation are not only ineffective, but dangerous.

“Taking local contexts into account”

- Well known slogan, but difficult to practice it. Because the “local context” is always multiple and complex.
- How to approach multiple viewpoints, especially ordinary people’s ones in a post-conflict society, is a big challenge for development agencies like JICA.

Contribution of academic research

- Rwanda's *Gacaca*
 - a system of transitional justice, in which local ordinary people make judgments for genocidal suspects.
- Opinion about *Gacaca* has been diverse.
- My observation on field works: although the possible danger of inexperience is undeniable, the accountability of *Gacaca* is widely appreciated in its rural society.

Possibility of the JICA Research Institute

- Researchers and practitioners are interdependent in studies and practices of the “Peace and Development.”
- The JICA Research Institute seems to provide an idealistic environment for their close contact and mutual understanding. It will definitely generate interesting points of view and meaningful research results.