

Reference Research Note: NR-CdG-2023-3-EN
Original date : 11/08/2023
Update date : 20/04/2024
Name of the Research Note: Africa Context

Research notes are linked to new elements that will have to be taken into account when updating the document describing current research.

Is Africa part of the "Return War Cycle"?

Until 2023, there has been no study of the "War Cycle" applied to Africa. The reason is that an attempt to verify the reality of the "War Cycle" on the African continent was unsuccessful a few years ago. The conclusion was that there were too many wars in Africa to be able to draw any conclusions, the phenomenon being visible when there are few wars.

War Cycle summary :

The current demonstration has several main focuses:

- **Statistical study of wars triggered during amplification phases**
- **Contexts, using war start dates and escalation dates**
- **The materialization of the "War Cycle" based on available data on the number of war dead**
- **Modeling for a coherent explanation**

These axes are complementary.

The current reference version of this research is given at the end of the article.

Amplification phase underway :

The current amplification phase is from April 2022 to June 2026. The theoretical peak of amplification is in May 2024, but it varies and is likely to be brought forward to 2023 or 2022, which can only be confirmed in 2025 or 2026, given that we don't know the exact origin of the phenomenon and that no serious additional research has been launched to try and find out (*current research is limited to observing the phenomenon, the first difficulty is to arrive at shared and credible conclusions on this cyclical phenomenon; further research will only be undertaken when there is a minimum consensus on the reality of the "War Cycle", which could be the case with the UCDP data*).

Updating the study of the "War Cycle" on the African continent

2 events in 2023 mean that this subject is open again:

1 - **A "Sudan" context verifies the "War Cycle"** by taking the dates of the outbreak of the various Sudanese wars.

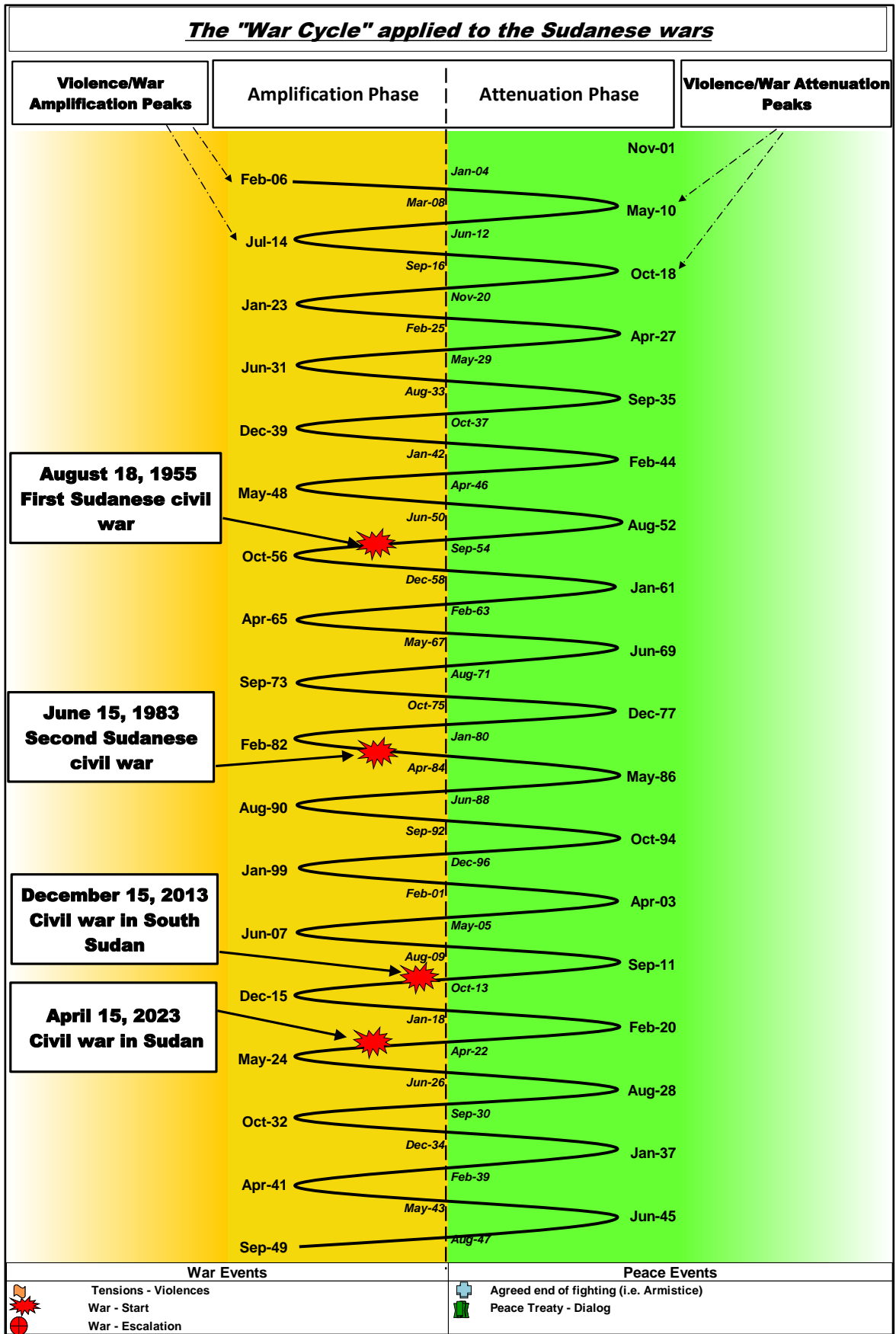
2 - **The materialization of the "War Cycle" is disturbingly enhanced by UCDP (Uppsala Conflict Data Program) data and graphs**, turning materialization from a validated hypothesis into a probable

truth. Taking into account the "Fatalities in state-based conflicts by Region (1989-2022)" graph generated by UCDP (Uppsala Conflict Data Program) over several years has a major impact on the materialization part of the "War Cycle".

By superimposing the amplification peaks of the "War Cycle" on the graph published by UCDP, we can see that a majority of the amplification peaks verify the principle of the materialization of the "War Cycle". In other words, every amplification peak is accompanied by a peak in war deaths, on or near the amplification peak. What's more, in the case of Africa, on the same graph, we see that 3 amplification peaks generate peaks in war deaths. This means that, even if it's difficult to predict wars in Africa through "contexts", amplification peaks generate war death peaks in Africa. This is a new observation, and one that should be brought to the attention of African countries preparing for war. It would be good for everyone to know that while the "War Cycle" is not deterministic, it is a partial cause that can encourage the outbreak of war when tensions are high, as is the case today.

These 2 events are briefly described below.

Sudan Context



Sudanese wars :

- First Sudanese civil war: August 18, 1955 - March 27, 1972
- Second civil war: June 15, 1983 - January 9, 2005
- South Sudan civil war: December 15, 2013 - February 22, 2020
- Civil War 2023: April 15, 2023

Interpreting the visual presentation of the Sudanese War Context

The graph shows all phases of amplification on the left and all phases of attenuation on the right. In the case of the Sudanese wars (see graph), all the dates on which the civil wars broke out are in the amplification phases. This is another case that helps to demonstrate the "Return War Cycle". We don't claim that wars break out on a specific date, but simply show that most or all wars break out during the amplification phases. This visual presentation has the advantage of giving an immediate indication without any prior statistical calculation. When, as in the case of the Sudanese wars, all war start dates are included within the amplification phases, there's no room for ambiguity.

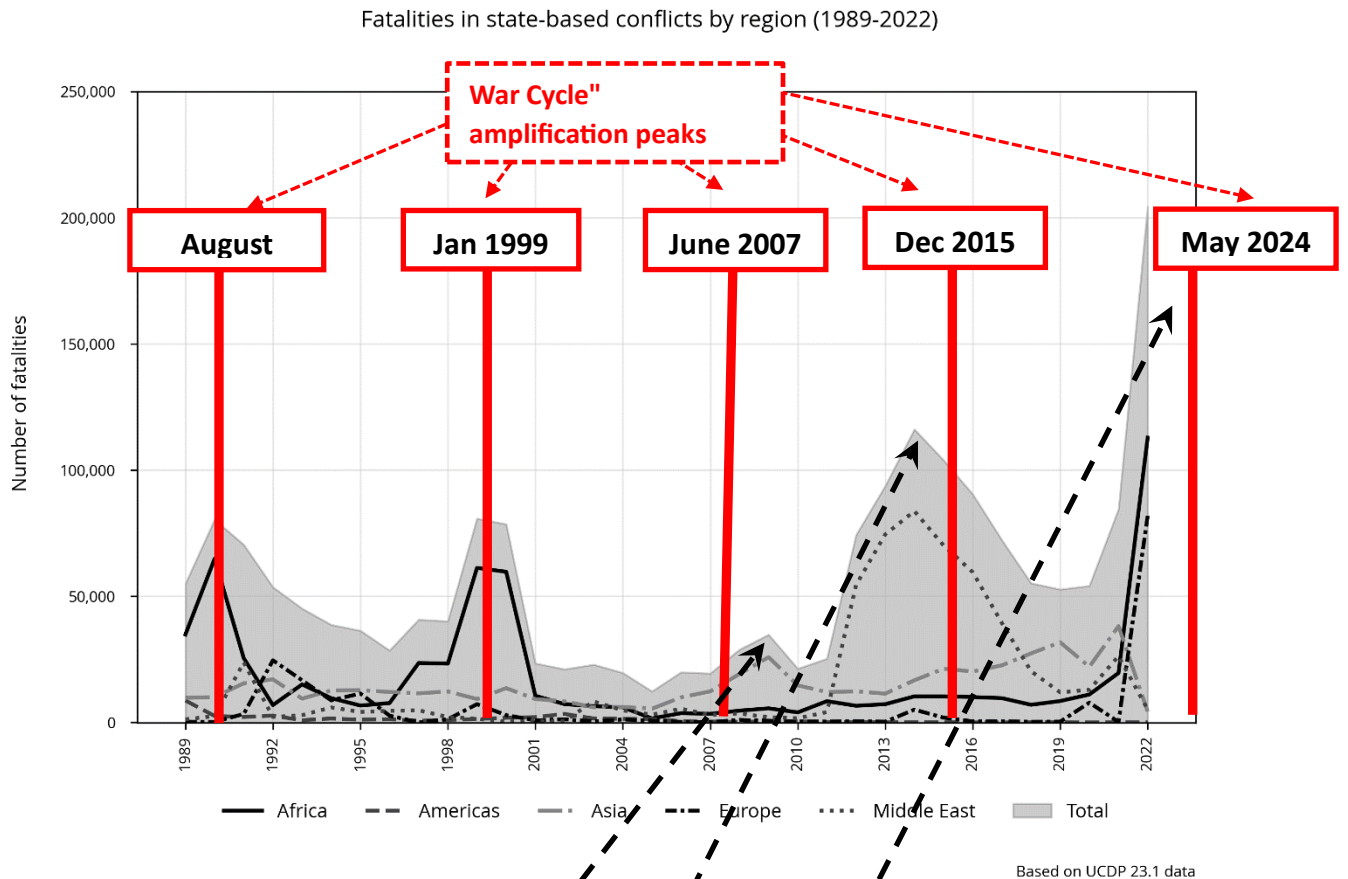
Conclusion

After analyzing the various Sudanese wars, we can affirm that the Sudanese war of 2023 was indeed favored by the "War Cycle" and the context of the Sudanese wars becomes another case favoring the demonstration of the "War Cycle" known as the Return.

The Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) data and graphs provide a troubling illustration of the "War Cycle".

In the following graph, the UCDP graph has been completed (in red) with the theoretical amplification peaks of the "War Cycle".

This graph shows the number of war deaths (State-Based = with State involvement).



1 - Peak shifted to 2008?
War in Georgia.
Doubt about Middle East data.
(iraqbodycount not taken into account?)

2 - The peak is shifted to 2014,
which is consistent with what has
already been observed.

unambiguously confirmed

2007 amplification peak: the UCDP data are not consistent with what has already been found for Iraq.

3 - Is the peak shifted to 2022 from
the theoretical peak in May 2024?
There's nothing to confirm this other
than the war in Ukraine.

deaths around 6 months before the amplification peak, and

ecurrent.war.cycle@gmail.com

the UCDP graph indicates a small peak after the 2007 amplification peak. At present, we cannot conclude without a review of the Iraq UCDP data, scheduled for October 2023.

2014 amplification peak: over a short time interval, in the spring of 2014, it was observed that several major wars broke out, suggesting that the 2014 amplification peak probably took place 1.5 years ahead of schedule. Such a time lag is not aberrant, but will be difficult to confirm without knowing the likely origin of the cycle. There is no perfect sinusoid in nature, and the fact that each amplification peak can be offset is considered normal.

Amplification peak in 2024: there is a peak in war deaths starting in 2022. Is there once again a time lag that could justify rescheduling the periodicity, or are we risking a much greater escalation of these ongoing wars? *We'll be able to decide in 2025 or 2026 if it turns out that from 2023 and 2024 there's a significant drop in the number of war deaths.*

In the case of the African data on the UCDP graph, we can see that 3 out of 5 peaks are concerned. This is not systematic, but should be considered a risk factor. The multiplication of African wars up to 2026 could be linked to this phenomenon, although there can be no absolute certainty for the moment.

August 11, 2023 , updated April 20, 2024 translated April 20, 2024 by JBR

References

- Davies, Shawn, Therese Pettersson & Magnus Öberg (2023). Organized violence 1989-2022 and the return of conflicts between states. *Journal of Peace Research* (60-4)
- Current reference version of the "Return War Cycle ":

<https://horlogedelinconscient.fr/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Cycle-des-guerres-retour-FR-JBR-2022-10-23.pdf>

To date, this research has been financed by its author alone, as the official services have not seen fit to evaluate or finance anything.