

CHAPTER 1

CONFLICT BY THE NUMBERS:

THE STORY OF CONFLICT
THROUGH MATHEMATICS

What is conflict?

Conflict is a serious disagreement or argument between people, countries, or groups.

How does numbers/math help us to tell a story of conflict?

It helps us understand the realities of the war based on statistical facts - death, casualties, years, money, etc.



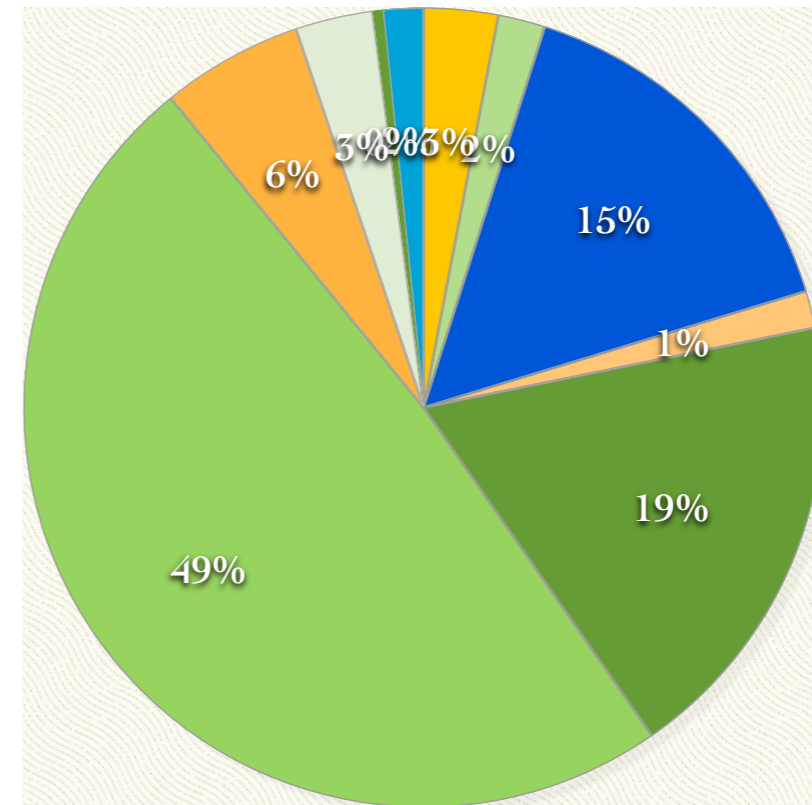
SECTION 1

Overview of Wars

Throughout the history of The United States, they have been apart of many of the major wars that have happened in the world.

- War of 1812
- Mexican War
- Civil War
- Spanish-American War
- World War I
- World War II
- Korean War
- Vietnam Conflict
- Persian Gulf War
- War on Terror

All of these wars have been devastating in their own ways. Whether that be physical, emotional, or financial. Looking at the table on the next page you can see the ratios of soldiers served, total deaths, total casualties, and total cost of the war.



- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| • War of 1812 | • Mexican War |
| • Civil War | • Spanish-American War |
| • WWI | • WWII |
| • Korean War | • Vietnam Conflict |
| • Persian Gulf War | • War on Terror |

This pie chart shows the amount of money spent on the war compared to the amount of money in America being spent on other needs in the country. WWII had the largest spending in all of the wars, and the Persian Gulf War had the least.

	TOTAL SOLDIERS SERVED	TOTAL DEATHS	TOTAL SERVED TO TOTAL DEATHS	TOTAL CASUALTIES	TOTAL SERVED TO TOTAL CASUALTIES	COST OF WAR IN PEAK YEAR
War of 1812	286,730	2,260	127;1	6,756	42;1	1,553 Million
Mexican War	78,718	13,283	6;1	17,435	4;1	2,376 Million
Civil War	2,213,363	364,511	6;1	646,392	3;1	79,742 Million
Spanish-American War	306,760	2,446	125;1	4,108	75;1	9,034 Million
World War I	4,734,991	116,516	41;1	320,518	15;1	334 Billion
World War II	16,112,566	405,399	40;1	1,076,245	15;1	4,104 Billion
Korean War	5,720,000	36,574	156;1	139,858	4;1	341 Billion
Vietnam Conflict	8,744,000	58,220	150;1	69,006	127;1	738 Billion
Persian Gulf War	2,225,000	383	5809;1	850	2,618	102 Billion
War on Terror	2,317,716	6,633	349;1	57,127	40;1	1,147 Billion

SECTION 2

World War II

World War II was a war that stopped the world from 1939 to 1945. It was a war that consumed most of the world and every part of the world was involved in some way or another. Geographically it was the most wide spread war in history.

After WWI, Germany was economically devastated because the Treaty of Versailles placed an unfair amount of blame on Germany for WWI. Then when the Great Depression set in during the late 1920's, Germany took an even deeper fall. After this great fall, political parties started taking place and gaining popularity promising to rebuild the country and restore it to and even higher glory than before WWI. In 1933 Adolf Hitler, and his party the National Socialist German workers' Party (Nazi Party) gained power and Hitler became chancellor. In 1935 Hitler announced his plan to rebuild Germany's military forces and by 1938 Germany began annexing neighboring countries including Austria and Czechoslovakia. In September of 1939 Germany



attacked Poland. Great Britain and France aligned against Germany and the war began.

Japan was also affected by the Great Depression and in 1931 Japan decided to expand its population, land, and resources by taking land from China. By 1937 Japan and China were officially at war and in 1940 Japan signed an alliance with Germany and Italy entering WWII.

The United States saw what was happening in the world and began to disapprove of Japan's actions. Soon the

United States cut off resources to Japan which included resources vital to Japan's war effort. Because of this Japan chose a surprise attack on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, December 7th 1941.

This attack brought the United States into WWII and they joined the Allied Powers.

Hitler planned to conquer Europe with the help of his Axis powers, but after years of fighting, Germany surrendered on May 7th 1945 ending the war in Europe. The U.S. dropped two atomic bombs on Japan and after which Japan surrendered on August 14th 1945 ending WWII.

$\frac{40}{1}$ For every 40 soldiers serving, 1 died.

$\frac{14}{1}$ For every 14 soldiers serving from Wisconsin, 1 died.

$\frac{15}{1}$ For every 15 soldiers served, one casualty was suffered.

$\frac{215,249}{1}$ For every year fought in the war, 215,249 soldiers died.

$\frac{81,080}{1}$ For every year fought, there were 81,080 casualties.

16,112,566 total soldiers served

405,399
deaths total

4,104 billion
was spent on the war

8,390 deaths
total from Wisconsin

The U.S. spent
35.8% of
government money
on the war during
the peak year.

333,200 total
soldiers served from
Wisconsin

1,076,245
casualties total



SECTION 3

Vietnam War



Before WWII, Vietnam had been apart of the French Empire. During WWII Vietnam had been taken over by the Japanese, but when they retreated, the Vietnam people begun to establish their own government led by Ho Chi Minh.

After the war, the Allies gave back South Vietnam to the French, while the North was left to the non-communist Chinese. The Chinese treated North Vietnam very badly and in result support for Ho Chi Minh Grew. The Chinese left Vietnam in 1946 and the party of Ho Chi Minh took over - the Viet Minh.

In October of 1946 the French announced they wanted to reclaim North Vietnam. In November, The French bombarded the port of Haiphong and killed 6,000 people starting the war. The French had the help of the American

army also but after Mao Zedong took power of China in 1949, Vietnam started receiving help from them. The guerrilla tactics were no match for the French and American armies. Having both sides fighting for a cause, this conflict was called the Cold War.

In May of 1945 the French were attacked by the North Vietnamese and the French Surrendered.

In July of 1956 it was decided to divide the country in half - North Vietnam & South Vietnam.

The North soon fell to Communism while the south was a Democratic government which attracted the attention of other countries in the world.

The United States, wanting to stop communism, stepped in and trained the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) and

Leaders of South and North Vietnam



Ho Chi Minh led a Communist government in the North.

The U.S. spent
2.3% of
government money
on the war during

738 Billion

Spent on the war

58,220

deaths total

1,239 deaths

total from Wisconsin

8,744,000

total soldiers served

165,400 total

soldiers served from

58,220

casualties total

provided military commanders to
combat **guerrillas**.

The Vietnam War began in 1959.
By then Vietnam was completely split
in two with communist government in
the north led by Ho Chi Minh and a
democratic government in the south
led by Ngo Dinh Diem.

As fighting continued, the U.S.
continued to send help to South
Vietnam. North Vietnam fired on two
U.S. ships in international waters on the
2nd and 4th of 1964, congress decided
upon the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution.
This stated that the U.S. could
escalate their involvement in the war.
This meant that in March of 1965 the
U.S. sent their first ground troops into
war.

On January 30, 1968 North
Vietnam surprised an attack on the
U.S. and South Vietnam showing
they were much more organized
then anyone knew of. This attack
showed American's the war they
were fighting and they soon became
unhappy and no longer wanted their

$\frac{150}{1}$ For every 150 soldiers serving, 1 died.

$\frac{3}{1}$ For every 3 soldiers serving from Wisconsin, 1
died.

$\frac{127}{1}$ For every 127 soldiers served, one casualty was
suffered.

$\frac{69,006}{1}$ For every year fought in the war, 60,006
soldiers died.

$\frac{6,469}{1}$ For every year fought, there were 64,69

country to be apart of the war.

In 1969 Richard Nixon became President of the U.S.
His plan was "Peace with Honor." He wanted to restore
peace to the country and he started doing that in July of
1969 by retreating all of Americas troops and bringing them
home. All of the U.S. troops were out of Vietnam on March
29th 1973.

After the U.S. left the war, the fighting continued on for
two years until April 30th, 1975 when South Vietnam
surrendered and Vietnam was reunited as a communist
country, the Socialist republic of Vietnam.

SECTION 4

War Comparison

WWII vs. Vietnam Conflict

WWII and Vietnam wars are very different for many reasons. They had different causes, outcomes, and reasonings. The Vietnam War was fought shortly after WWII had ended. The ending of WWII was the beginning of Vietnam war due to the results of WWII.

The outcomes of these wars were very different to each other. WWII ended after two atomic bombs, 50-70 million killed in a whole, and most of Europe was in ruins. The Vietnam Conflict ended with Vietnam becoming one entire

communist country, huge land and property devastation, and a disruption of the cultural life of the Vietnamese people.

After these wars the outcomes for America were very different compared to the countries these wars were fought in.

After WWII the depression in America was lifted due to the need for jobs because of the war effort and created nearly full employment. This war work done by women while the men were gone led to the women's rights movement being passed. Because WWII was not fought in America, there was almost no physical war damage besides Pearl Harbor.

After the Vietnam Conflict America had a different view on war. During this war over 2.5 million people died in total, more bombs were dropped in this war than in all of WWII, and over a quarter of Vietnam's forests were killed. These

$\frac{150}{1}$ This proportion is used to show that in the Vietnam Conflict there was one death in every 150 soldiers served.

WAR	TOTAL SOLDIERS SERVED	TOTAL DEATHS	TOTAL SERVED; TOTAL DEATHS	TOTAL CASUALTIES	TOTAL SERVED; TOTAL CASUALTIES	COST OF WAR IN PEAK YEAR
Vietnam Conflict	8,744,000	58,220	150;1	69,006	127;1	738 Billion
World War II	16,112,566	405,399	40;1	1,076,245	15;1	4,104 Billion

were only some of the effects. Even though this war was not fought in America, the results to America were devastating. The American people did not want anything to do with this war. America involved themselves in a war in which they were not needed and it caused many deaths and pushed the US economy to its limits causing the high after WWII to be defeated. Also, this is Americas only war lost in history.

$$\begin{array}{cc} \text{WWII} & \text{Vietnam War} \\ \hline 16,112,566 & 8,744,000 \\ 405,399 & x \end{array} = 748,641$$

This proportion compares the two wars in matters of death. X originally equalled 58,220 but when X was plugged in to find out the similarities of the wars if the number of soldiers serving were similar. Because 749,641 is much larger then 58,220, WWII would have been almost 8 times worse.

$$\begin{array}{cc} \text{WWII} & \text{Vietnam War} \\ \hline 16,112,566 & 8,744,000 \\ 1,076,245 & x \end{array} = 584,059$$

This proportion compares the two wars in matters of death and casualties. X originally equaled 69,006. But instead X was plugged in to find out if the wars were similar in amount of served soldiers, how would the death rate compare. Because 584,059 is much larger then 58,220, WWII would have been almost 15 times worse.



“Peace is not absence of conflict, it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means.”

Ronald Reagan

$$\begin{array}{cc} \text{WWII} & \text{Vietnam War} \\ \hline 405,399 & x \\ 5 & 9 \end{array} = 729,718$$

This proportion compares if the two wars were similar in years fought, would the death rate still be as high. X originally equalled 58,220 but after comparing the two 729,718 was equalled. This showed that even if the two wars were similar in years, WWII would still be greatly worse.

$$\begin{array}{cc} \text{WWII} & \text{Vietnam War} \\ \hline 1,076,245 & x \\ 4 & 9 \end{array} = 1,937,241$$

In this proportion, it is comparing if the wars were similar in amount of years they were fought, would the casualties and death number be the same, lower, or higher. X originally equalled 69,006 but after plugging in X, it equalled 1,937,241. This shows that WWII was very much worse if the years were the same.

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Guerrillas

A member of an irregular armed force that fights a stronger force by sabotage and harassment.

Related Glossary Terms

Drag related terms here

Index

Find Term

Chapter 1 - Vietnam War

Proportion

A part considered in relation to the whole.

Related Glossary Terms

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Chapter 1 - War Comparison