

crime rates have increased dramatically, and political violence between Inkatha and the ANC has recently escalated.

CONCLUSION

The main causes of civil conflict, such as the violence in South Africa, appear to be ethnic tension, poverty, institutional breakdown and migrations. However, the scarcity of renewable resources, such as water, fuelwood, cropland and fish, can contribute to increased tensions between ethnic groups, impoverishment, weakened institutions, and migrations. Although renewable resource scarcity is not the sole cause of these conflicts, it is a factor that until recently has been neglected in analysis into the causes of acute conflict.

Environmental scarcity rarely results in interstate wars, most conflict arising from environmental stress will be intra-state in nature. However, this civil violence can have international repercussions. The international community will be affected by civil strife if it occurs within a strategically important region, if the participants in the conflict possess weapons of mass destruction, and if the violence results in massive refugee flows. Civil strife has recently resulted in complex humanitarian disasters, such as Rwanda and Somalia. Humanitarian disasters have significant transnational consequences as the international community is called upon to deliver humanitarian assistance to alleviate human suffering.

The project's research analyzes the relationship between environmental factors and violence; we do not refer to the link between environmental stress and Canadian national security. The end goal of our research is to heighten the understanding of what contributes to the outbursts of violence that affect millions of people in the world today. Although we offer proactive policy suggestions, these recommendations are focused on the link between scarcity and violence within each particular case. Our recommendations do not address Canadian security interests, however reducing the incidents of violent conflict can only enhance human security worldwide.