

# The Global War We Are Ignoring

While media cycles come and go, a complex web of global conflicts continues to devastate communities worldwide. From the ongoing war in Ukraine to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, from the persistent tensions in Syria and Yemen to the destabilizing violence in Myanmar, Sudan, and Mexico, these conflicts represent a massive, often overlooked human tragedy.

These wars aren't just distant struggles—they represent profound human suffering, displacement of millions, and a systematic breakdown of international peace mechanisms. Despite their global implications, these conflicts often receive fragmented and inconsistent attention, leaving millions of people trapped in cycles of violence and uncertainty.

## WHAT YOUR WORLD

THE MP HOTSPOTS OF CONFLICT



# Escalating Conflicts Around the World

## Recent Conflicts

Ukraine, Gaza, and Myanmar represent three major conflicts. The number of conflicts is the highest since the Second World War, with 59 countries experiencing armed conflicts in 2024. The US is directly or indirectly involved in two-thirds of these conflicts.

## Regions of Conflict

The MENA region is a hotspot of conflict, with more than 45 armed conflicts, including in Israel, Palestine, Syria, and Yemen. Africa has over 35 non-international armed conflicts, and Europe has six, including in Ukraine, Russia, and Moldova. Latin America has two active conflicts, in Mexico and Colombia.

# The US's Role in Global Conflicts

## Direct Involvement

The US has a direct role in many conflicts, including Ukraine and Gaza. The US has been a major contributor to the escalating tensions in these regions through its military and economic support.

## Indirect Involvement

The US also plays an indirect role in many conflicts through its support for allies, its arms sales, and its foreign policy actions. The US has a direct or indirect hand in more than 70% of the ongoing conflicts.

## US Interests

The US's involvement in conflicts can be attributed to its geopolitical interests, its desire to maintain its global dominance, and its economic interests. The US has a vested interest in maintaining a stable and secure global order, which it often sees as a justification for its interventions. The US also seeks to protect its economic interests and to promote its own values around the world, including democracy and human rights.

# US-Driven Conflicts

## The 19th Century

The US began its extraterritorial incursions in the 19th century, starting with Tripoli in 1801, followed by Latin America in 1814, Europe in 1827, Southeast Asia in 1832, and the Levant in 1851.

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2

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## The 21st Century

The US's military interventions have continued into the 21st century, with notable examples including the Iraq war, the Afghanistan war, and the Syrian Civil War. The US is also deeply involved in ongoing conflicts in Ukraine, Gaza, and Myanmar.

## The 20th Century

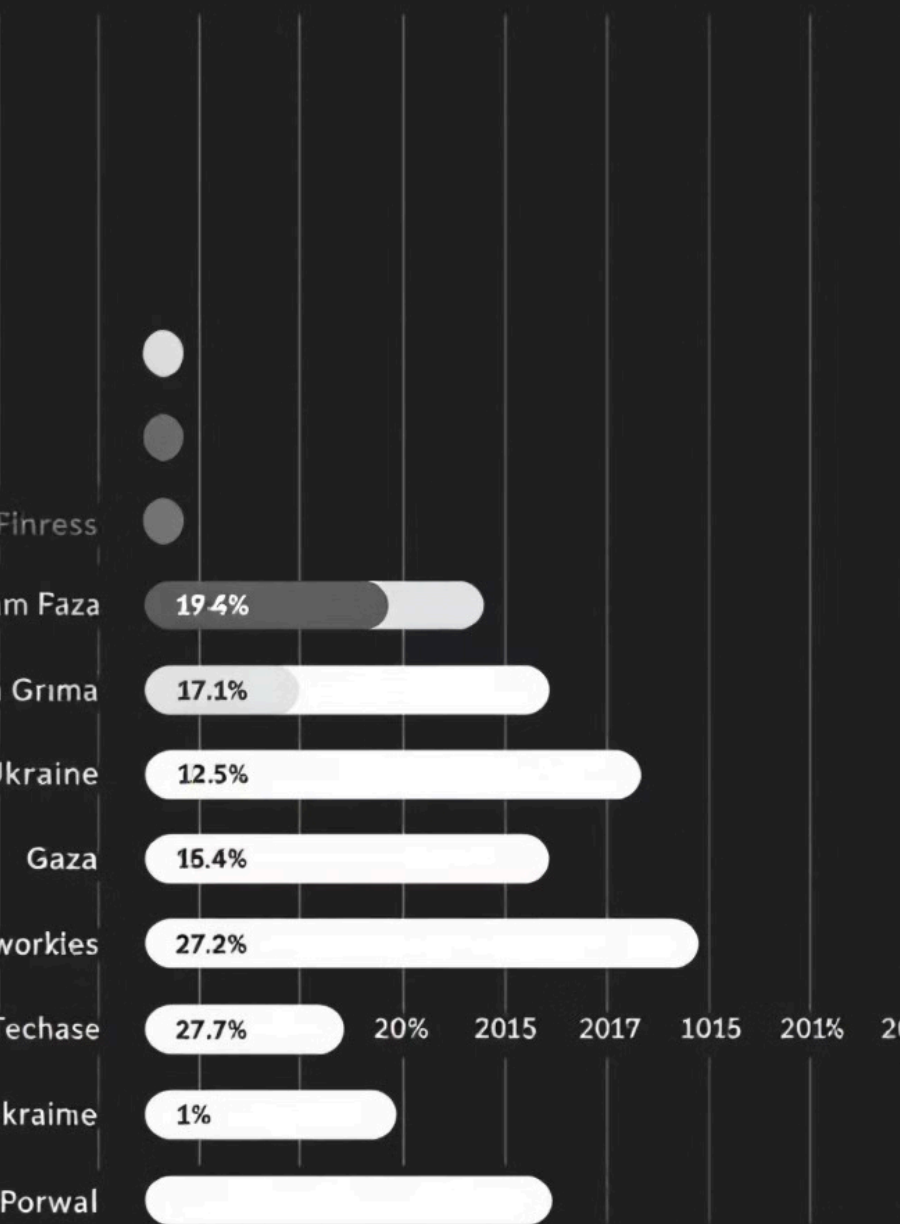
The US's military interventions continued in the 20th century, including in Japan, Taiwan, Russia, the Caribbean, Greenland, the Netherlands, Iceland, and Germany. The US also expanded its influence in Eastern Europe, Central Africa, and West Africa.

# The Human Cost of Conflicts

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## Casualties

The number of casualties in major armed conflicts has been steadily rising. The Gaza conflict contributed to 21.5% of the casualties in 2023. Fatalities in the Middle East and North Africa region surged by 315%.

## Humanitarian Crisis

Conflicts lead to widespread displacement, famine, and disease. Millions of people are forced to flee their homes due to conflict, and many are struggling to survive in refugee camps or other precarious situations.

## Economic Impact

Conflicts have a devastating impact on economies, both in the countries involved and globally. They disrupt trade, investment, and economic growth.

# The Arms Race



## US Arms Sales

The US has been a major supplier of arms to countries around the world, including Ukraine and Israel. The US arms sales have been steadily increasing, and in 2024, they are projected to exceed \$1 trillion. These arms sales are fuelling conflicts around the world and creating a dangerous arms race.



## Profits for Defense Companies

The US arms industry is a major player in the global arms trade. US defense companies are profiting from the sale of weapons and military equipment. This further incentivizes the US to continue to engage in conflicts and to maintain a high level of military spending.



## Consequences

The consequences of the global arms race are devastating. It fuels conflicts, increases violence, and destabilizes regions. It also drains resources from development and poverty reduction.

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# A Call for Peace



1

## **Global Dialogue**

**We need to engage in global dialogue to address the root causes of conflicts, including poverty, inequality, and climate change. We must work together to promote peace and to prevent violence.**

2

## **International Cooperation**

**We need to work together to implement international agreements to address the arms race and to promote disarmament. We also need to strengthen international organizations, such as the United Nations, to effectively address conflicts.**

3

## **Humanitarian Aid**

**We need to provide humanitarian aid to those who are suffering as a result of conflicts. We also need to support peacebuilding efforts in post-conflict societies. We must prioritize the well-being of people affected by conflicts and address the humanitarian crisis.**



# India's Role in Peacebuilding

1

## Promoting Dialogue

India can play a key role in promoting dialogue and peaceful resolution of conflicts in its region. India has a long history of engagement in peacebuilding efforts, and it can leverage its experience to foster dialogue and cooperation.

2

## Strengthening Regional Cooperation

India can strengthen regional cooperation to address shared challenges, including climate change, terrorism, and economic development. India can work with its neighbours to build trust and to promote stability in the region.

3

## Humanitarian Assistance

India can continue to provide humanitarian assistance to countries in need, including those affected by conflict. India can also support peacebuilding efforts in post-conflict societies, helping to rebuild infrastructure and institutions.

# India's Look East and Act East Policies



**25**

## Epics

The Ramayana and Mahabharata have deep cultural influence in many countries around the world, including those in East Asia. India can leverage these shared traditions to foster closer ties with these countries.

**2500**

## Buddhism

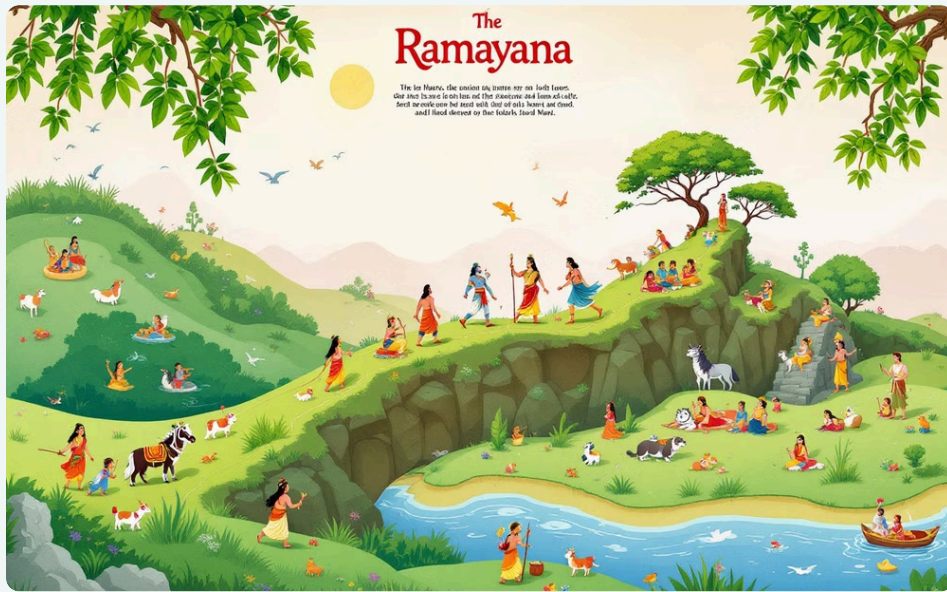
Buddhism is another important cultural bridge between India and East Asia. India can promote its Buddhist heritage and build on its spiritual and philosophical connections with these countries.

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## Language Bridge

India needs to build stronger linguistic linkages with East Asian countries by promoting language courses, dubbing films, and creating children's literature. Language will play a key role in promoting understanding and cultural exchange.

# Leveraging Cultural Connections



## The Ramayana

The Ramayana is a powerful story of dharma, duty, and courage, with a universal appeal that resonates across cultures. India can use this epic to build connections with other countries.



## Buddhism

Buddhism has a long and rich history in India and East Asia. India can promote its Buddhist heritage and build on its spiritual and philosophical connections with these countries.

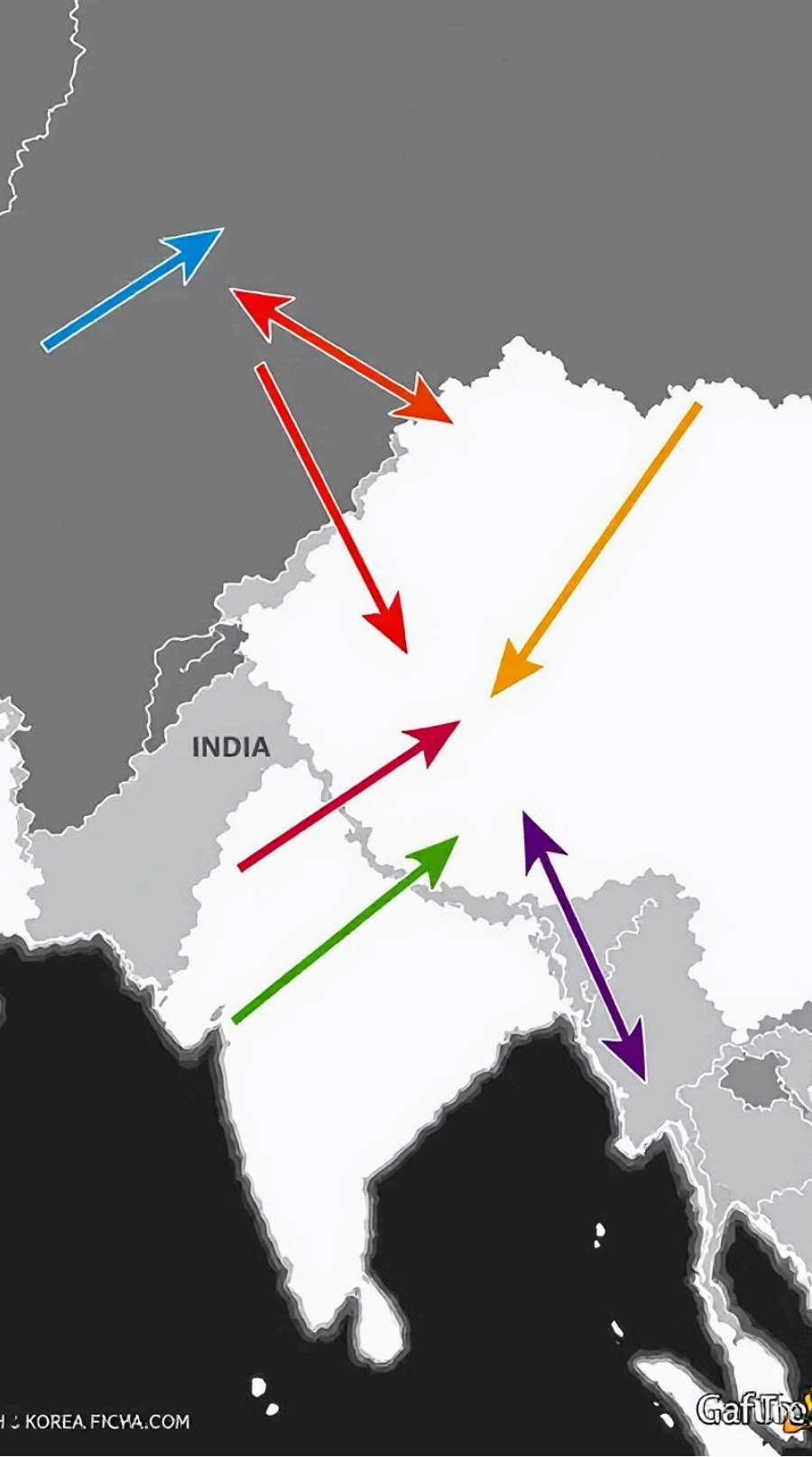
# Building Language Bridges

Language is more than words—it's a gateway to understanding, empathy, and cultural connection. By promoting linguistic exchanges and translations, countries can break down barriers and create deeper mutual understanding.



These images represent the diverse ways language bridges are being built: through academic study, literary translation, tourism, and children's educational materials. Each interaction becomes an opportunity for cultural dialogue, mutual respect, and deeper regional cooperation.

# The Need for Action



**1**

## Invest in Language Education

India should invest in language education programs and create opportunities for learning languages spoken in East Asian countries.

**2**

## Promote Cultural Exchange

India should promote cultural exchange programs, including film festivals, music concerts, and art exhibitions, to connect with East Asian audiences.

**3**

## Encourage Economic Partnerships

India should work to strengthen economic partnerships with East Asian countries by fostering trade, investment, and technology collaboration.



## Attract East

**India's Act East policy has made significant progress. Building on these successes, India should adopt an Attract East policy to strengthen economic, cultural, and strategic ties with East Asia. India can attract investment, tourism, and talent from the region by showcasing its vibrant culture, ancient heritage, and fast-growing economy.**

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