

Social Conflict of the Global Crisis or Social Development of the Global World: World-Systems Analysis versus Modernization Theory

Progress Report
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Introduction

- The dynamics of the modern world is described and explained in different ways, and the two opposing interpretations are suggested by modernization theory and world-systems analysis
- Modernization theorists defend a model of a rather linear progressive human development
- World-system theorists argue a model of a very uneven and conflicting world, with structural tensions deepening during the current crisis
- Thereby, the data analysis will settle the theoretical dispute about the social change in the modern global world

Research Questions

- *Primary research question:*
 - *What is the dominant process in the modern world – social conflict or social development?*
- *Secondary research questions:*
 - *What is the modern dynamics of intrastate social conflict?*
 - *What is the modern dynamics of interstate competition?*
 - *How this dynamics manifests in different types of societies?*

Theoretical Framework: Modernization Theory

- Proponents of modernization theory R. Inglehart and C. Welzel (2005) claim that:
 - Socioeconomic development is spreading over the world and for advanced societies it brings more security, democratic freedom, good governance, gender equality, individual autonomy, self-expression, free choice, literally emancipation, and well-being
- This resonates with reasoning of macrosociologist G. Lenski (2005):
 - He links the historically observed technological development with accumulation of sociocultural information
 - And argues that technologically advanced societies usually possess democracy as a form of government and hence celebrate more tolerance and peace

Theoretical Framework: World-Systems Analysis

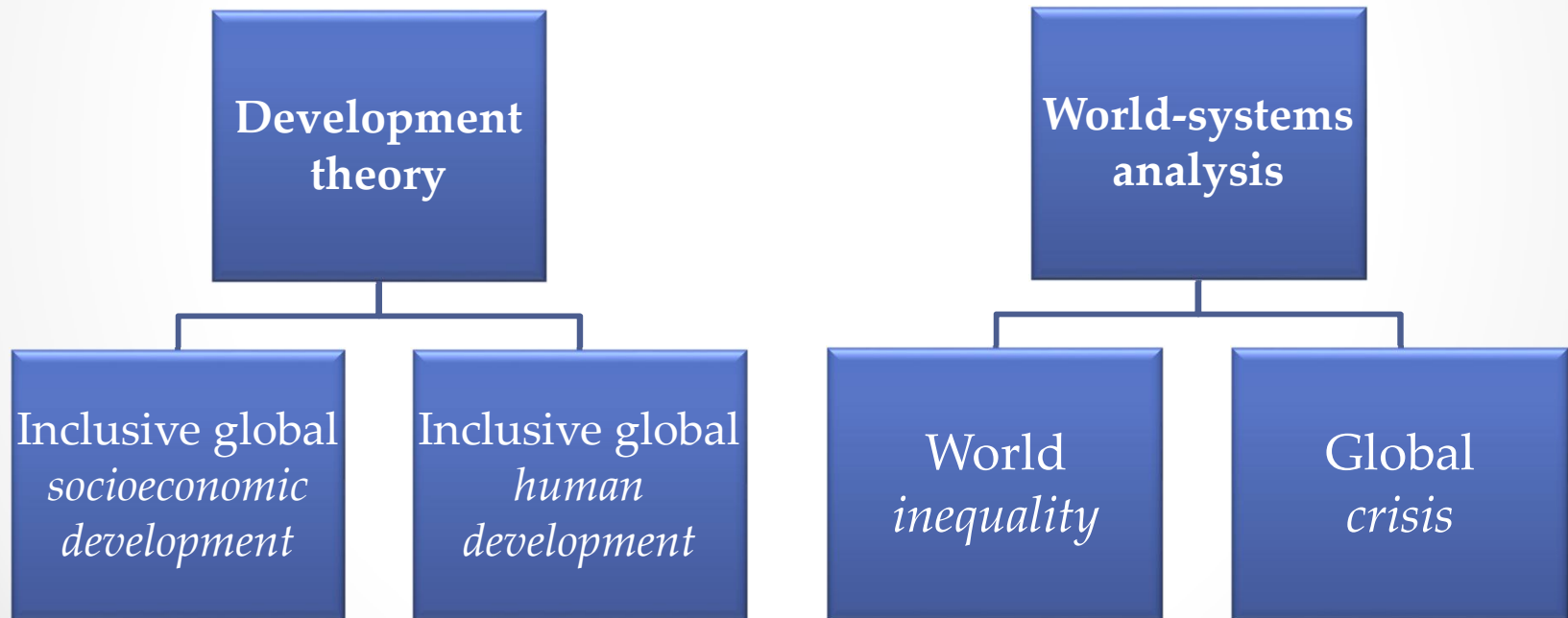
- On the contrary, world-systems scholars, namely I. Wallerstein (2004) state that:
 - The world system has embedded structural inequalities and mechanisms to reproduce them, so technological change doesn't fundamentally alter the numerous inequalities
- Indeed, the positive changes are observed in economically advanced societies, which represent a privileged minority of the world's population
- Moreover, according to G. Arrighi (1996):
 - The modern world system goes through hegemonic cycles and actually currently is experiencing a hegemonic crisis – so they suggest a more cyclic model of change, considering system constants too
 - A crisis is marked by an increased interstate rivalries and interstate competition, emergence of new configurations of power, and social conflicts

Reference List

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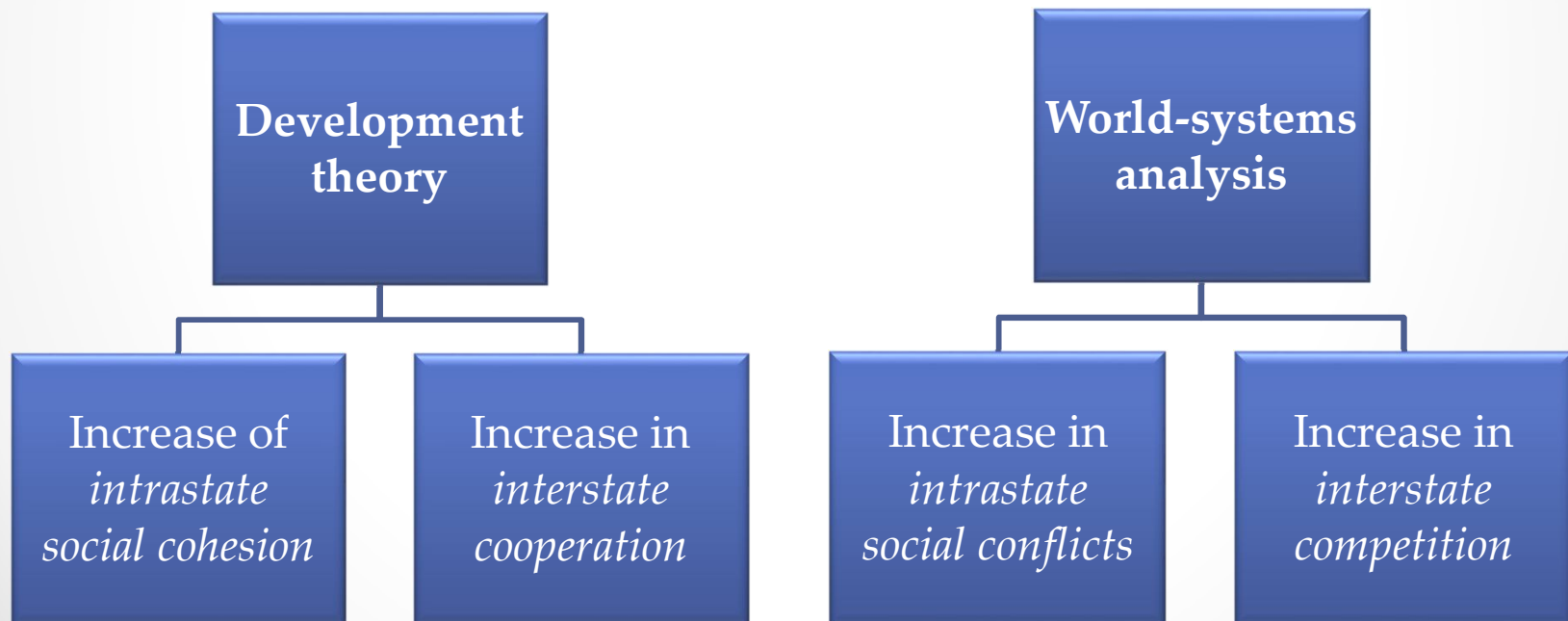
Conceptual Models

- Basically, each theoretical approach suggests a different model of global dynamics



Conceptual Hypotheses

- H1: Modernization theory is correct and there is an increase in intrastate social cohesion and an increase in interstate cooperation
- H2: World-systems analysis is correct and there is an increase in intrastate social conflicts and an increase in interstate competition

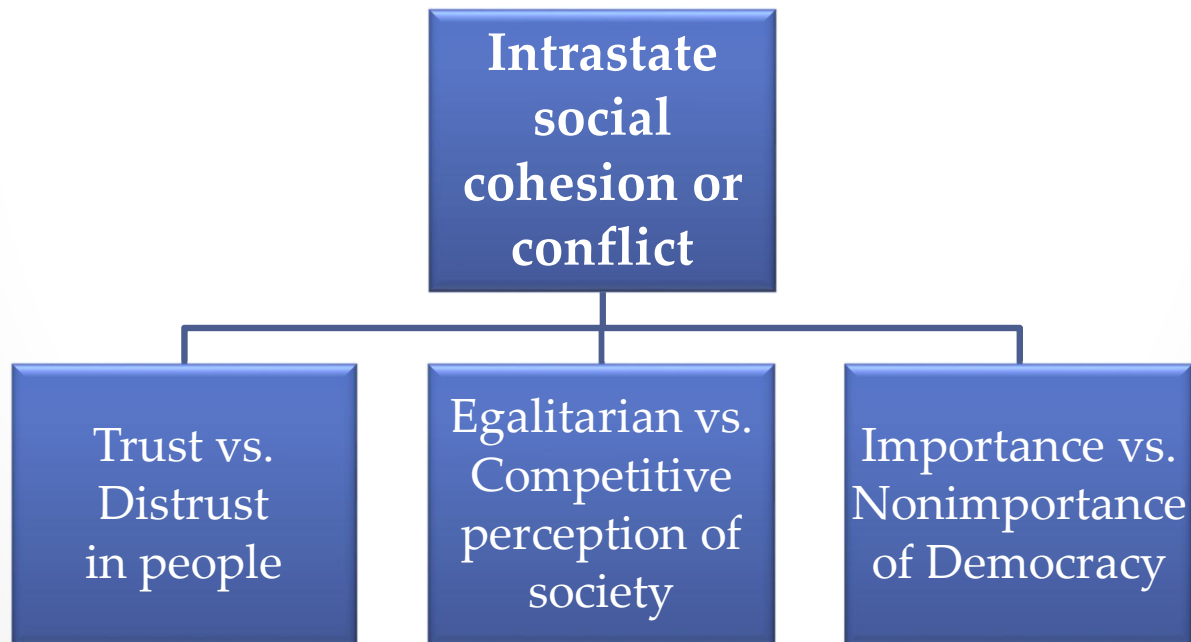


Methodology, Data, and Sample

- *Data collection methodology* is the use of secondary population **survey data**
- *Data collection methods* include standardized **face-to-face interviews** or standardized face-to-face **CAPI** interviews
- The *data sets* of **World Values Survey** 5 waves 2nd-6th (1990-1994, 1995-1998, 1999-2004, 2005-2009, and 2010-2014) will be used for the inquiry
- The *sample* includes up to **52 countries** with up to **314,581 respondents**
 - All national samples are representative for the adult populations of the respective countries
 - Each national sample is 1000 respondents or more

Intrastate Social Cohesion vs. Conflict Measurement

- The indicators of **intrastate social cohesion or conflict** include:
 - Trust vs. Distrust in people, Egalitarian v. competitive perception of society, Importance vs. Nonimportance of democracy

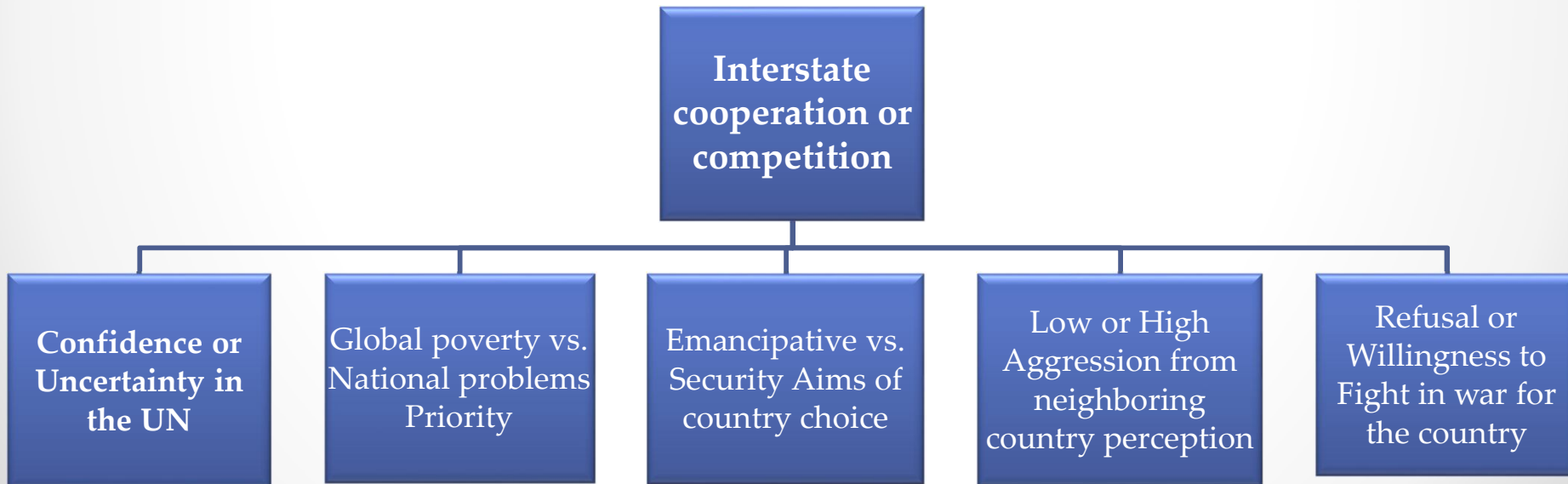


Empirical Indicators of Intrastate Social Cohesion vs. Conflict

- Selected variables:
 - **A165: Most people can be trusted** (waves 2, 3, 4, 5, 6).
 - Question text: Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you need to be very careful in dealing with people.
 - Substantial categories include: 1 – “most people can be trusted” and 2 – “can’t be too careful” / “need to be very careful”
 - The variable has been normalized as a scale from 0 to 1.
 - **E063: Current society: Egalitarian vs. competitive society** (waves 4, 5)
 - Question text: Now I’m going to read you some pairs of contrasting statements. For each pair, do you think that the first statement or the second one best describes the current situation in this country? First statement: An egalitarian society, where the gap between rich and poor is small, regardless of achievement. Second statement: A competitive society, where wealth is distributed according to one’s achievement
 - Substantial categories include: 1 – “first”, 2 – “somewhat closer to first”, 3 – “can’t say”, 4 – “somewhat closer to second”, 5 – “second”
 - The variable has been normalized as a scale from 0 to 1.
 - **E235: Importance of democracy** (waves 5, 6)
 - Question text: How important is it for you to live in a country that is governed democratically? On this scale where 1 means it is “not at all important” and 10 means “absolutely important” what position would you choose?
 - Substantial categories vary from 1 – “not at all important” to 10 – “absolutely important”
 - The variable has been reversed and normalized as a scale from 0 to 1.

Interstate Cooperation vs. Competition Measurement

- The indicators for **interstate cooperation or competition** include:
 - Confidence vs. Uncertainty in the UN, Global poverty vs. National problems priority, Emancipative vs. Security aims of country choice, Low or High perception of aggression from neighboring country, Refusal or Willingness to Fight in War for the country



Empirical Indicators of Interstate Cooperation vs. Competition (1)

- Selected variables:
 - **E069_20: Confidence: The United Nations** (waves 3, 4, 5, 6)
 - Question text: I am going to name a number of organisations. For each one, could you tell me how much confidence you have in them: is it a great deal of confidence, quite a lot of confidence, not very much confidence or none at all?
 - Substantial categories include: 1 – “a great deal”, 2 – “quite a lot”, 3 – “not very much”, 4 – “none at all”
 - The variable has been normalized as a scale from 0 to 1.
 - **E247: Priority: Global poverty vs. national problems** (wave 5)
 - Question text: Thinking at your own country’s problems, should you country’s leaders give top priority to help reducing poverty in the world or should they give top priority to solve you own country’s problems? Use this scale where 1 means “top priority to help reducing misery in the world” and 10 means “top priority to solve my own country’s problems”.
 - Substantial categories vary from 1 – “top priority to help reducing poverty in the world” to 10 – “top priority to solve my own country’s problems”.
 - The variable has been normalized as a scale from 0 to 1.

Empirical Indicators of Interstate Cooperation vs. Competition (2)

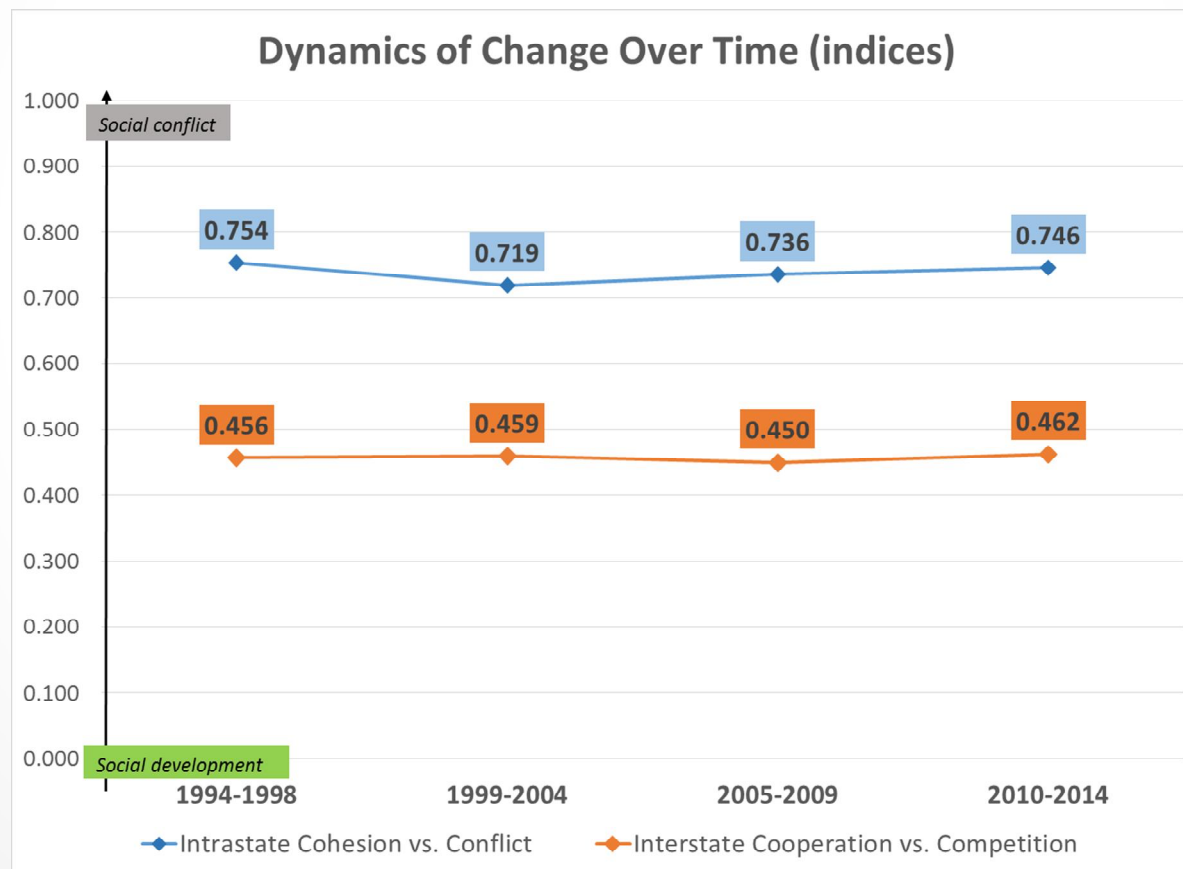
- Selected variables:
 - **E001: Aims of country: First choice** (waves 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
 - Question text: People sometimes talk about what the aims of this country should be for the next ten years. On this card are listed some of the goals which different people would give top priority. Would you please say which one of these you, yourself, consider the most important?
 - Substantial categories include: 1 – “a high level of economic growth”, 2 – “strong defense forces”, 3 – “people have more say about how things are done”, 4 – “trying to make our cities and countryside more beautiful”
 - The variable has been recoded: 1,3,5 into 1; then normalized as a scale from 0 to 1.
 - **E184: Aggression from neighboring country** (waves 4, 5)
 - Question text: Every country faces a number of regional and international problems, which are the problems you consider very important (very serious), important, somewhat important, less important or not important?
 - Substantial categories include: 1 – “very serious”, 2 – “serious”, 3 – “somewhat serious”, 4 – “less serious”, 5 – “not serious”
 - The variable has been reversed and normalized as a scale from 0 to 1.
 - **E012: Willingness to fight for country** (waves 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
 - Question text: Of course, we all hope that there will not be another war, but if it were to come to that, would you be willing to fight for your country?
 - Substantial categories include: 0 – “no”, 1 – “yes”, 2 – “depends”
 - The variable has been recoded: 2 into 1, 1 into 2; then normalized as a scale from 0 to 1.

Data Analysis Methodology

- With the aim to evaluate dynamics of change described in hypotheses, **time series analysis** of world values survey 2-6 waves and additional statistical indicators has been conducted
- With the objective to search for differences among different types of societies a **comparative multiple group analysis** will be performed

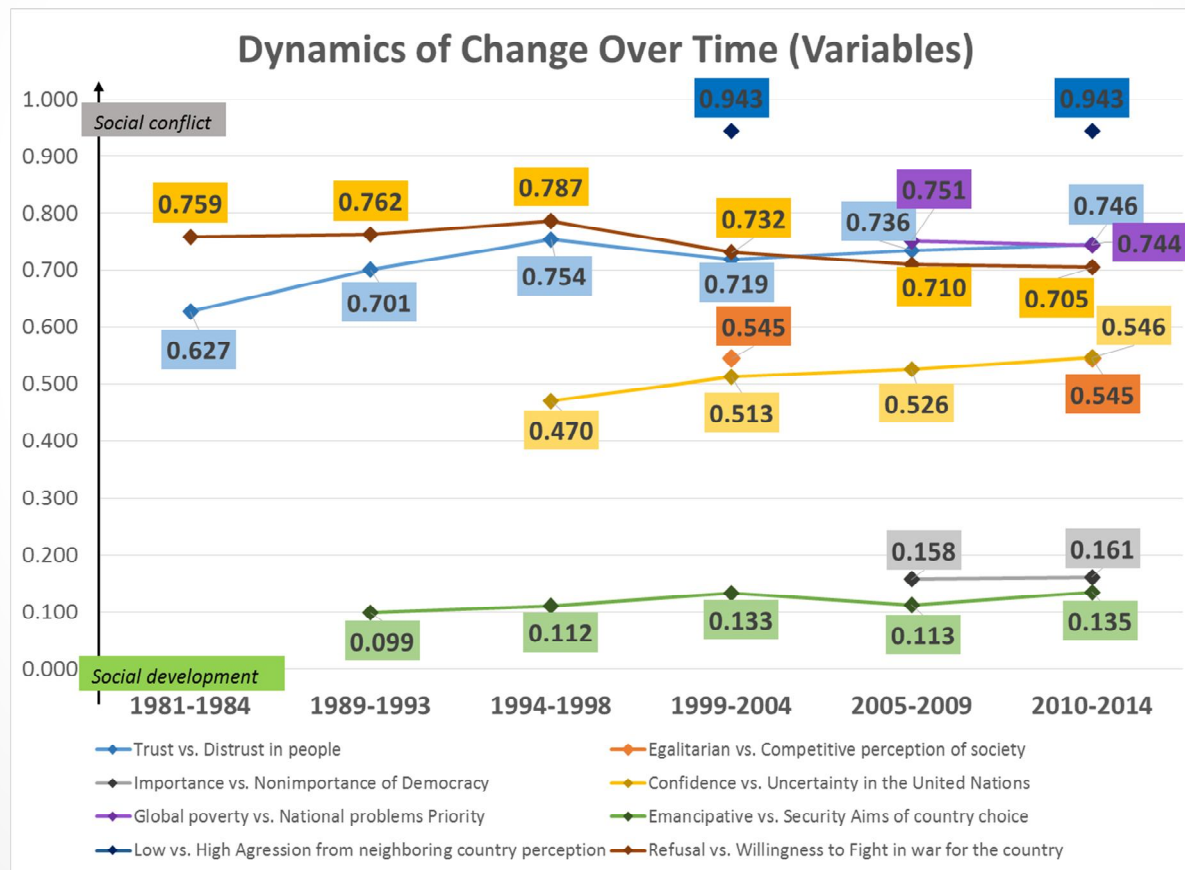
Social Change Modeling: Total Results

- Overall, it seems that the level of intrastate and interstate processes is strikingly stable over time



Social Change Modeling: Detailed Results

- However, the analysis of internal structure of this dynamics reveals a more complex picture



Further Steps

- In order to conduct the research there are some steps which need to be done:
 - Find more **statistical indicators** for measurement:
 - *Percentage of societies with revolutions or civil wars?*
 - *Percentage of societies involved in interstate wars?*
 - Specify **typology of societies** and look for differences between societies of different types
 - *Agrarian, industrializing, industrial and information societies?*
 - Define **structural zones of the world system** and examine differences between them
 - *Core, semiperiphery and periphery?*
 - Explore **substantive explanations** of links between global crisis of 1998 and individual attitudes

Thank you for your attention!