

Western media coverage of Africa

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Today's session

- Role of the media
- Reporting the world
- Reporting conflict
- How does the media choose?
- Internet?

Role of the media

- Role of the media in society
 - Provide information to and about society
 - Linking policymakers and public
- Role of the media in a democracy
 - Deliberation
 - Representation
 - Accountability (watchdog)
- Does this apply internationally?
 - Globalization
 - Tax money
 - Humanitarian interest/concern

Media coverage of the world

- Very little coverage
 - End of the Cold War
 - National frames
- Extremely selective coverage
 - Geographic/geopolitical/cultural slant
 - Africa always comes in last
- Chosen conflicts and stealth conflicts
 - Spotlight or blackout

Reporting (or not) the world

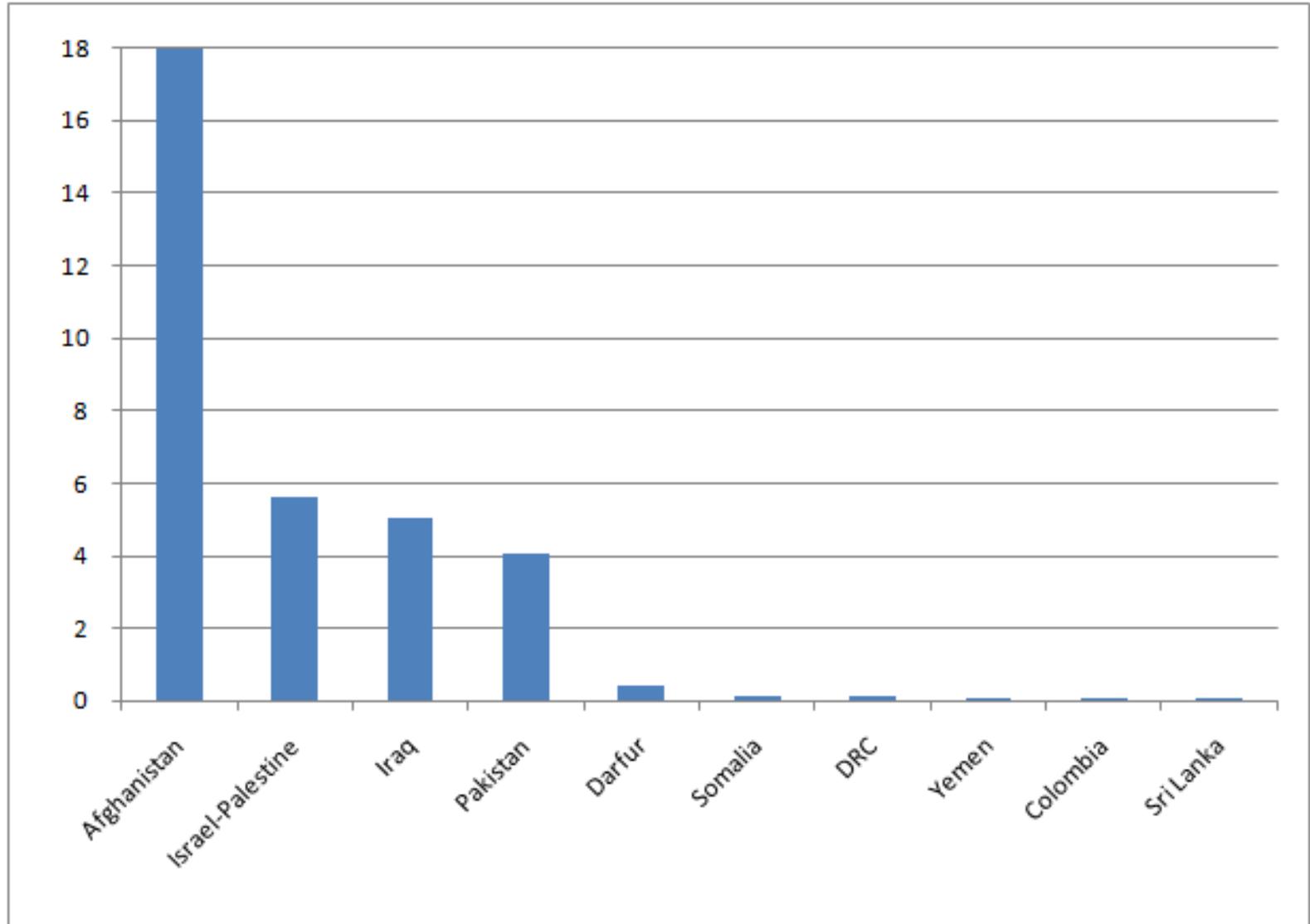
Coverage of regions in international news (2000)

	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Mid. East
BBC	9%	25%	14%	34%	12%
CNN	6%	34%	22%	18%	14%
<i>Le Monde</i>	9%	16%	10%	43%	15%
<i>New York Times</i>	7%	20%	21%	30%	17%
<i>Yomiuri</i>	2%	23%	38%	24%	8%

- Other examples:
 - Yomiuri: 1 day Chile mining tragedy = 5 years coverage of conflict in DRC
 - Australian (2007): coverage of Israel-Palestine > coverage of entire African continent

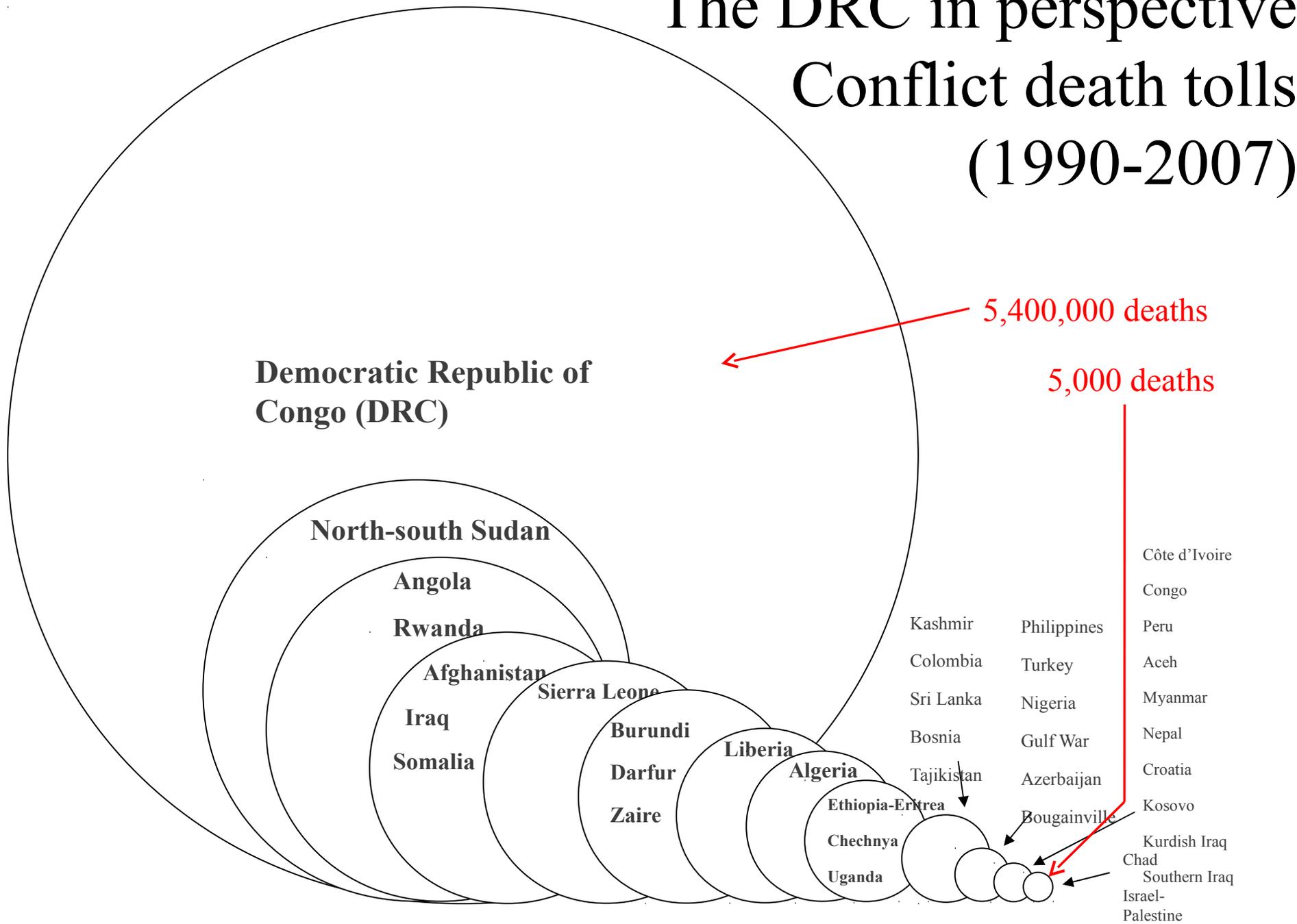
Reporting (or not) conflict

US TV network coverage (hours): 2009



The DRC in perspective

Conflict death tolls (1990-2007)



Important news: a one-day perspective

The Weekend Australian

7-8 January 2006

Violence in Iraq verges on civil war

James Hilder Baghdad

THE wave of violence in Iraq this week has taken more than 200 people, making it one of the deadliest periods since the US-led invasion in 2003, but opened real fears of a civil war.

At least 120 people, including 11 US soldiers, were killed in a series of attacks on Thursday and Friday, the only days since mid-September when the death toll exceeded 100.

The attacks, which have been linked to the Shiite majority, are seen as a sign that the US-led coalition is losing its ability to control the country.

The violence was widely condemned as an attempt to raise sectarian tensions and the creation of a unity government to bring together Iraq's Shiite majority, the majority of the Sunni, and the Kurds.

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Glitter charged

PHNOM PENH: British former rock star Gary Glitter, whose real name is Paul Gadd, has been formally charged with committing obscene acts with two girls in Vietnam. A prosecutor in the southern province of Ba Ria Vung Tau, where 61-year-old Glitter lives, said the charges carried prison terms of three to seven years.

Congo deadliest

PARIS: Eight years of war in the Democratic Republic of Congo has left almost four million people dead, making it the deadliest humanitarian crisis today, according to a study published in *The Lancet*. The study found the national mortality rate was 2.1 deaths per 1000 people every month.

Moss to roll home

LONDON: Supermodel Kate Moss will return to Britain and face arrest on claims she snorted cocaine. "She is very happy to co-operate with the police," a British newspaper quoted an unnamed friend as saying.

Terrorism suspect faces civil court



Day is court to face Padilla, an alleged "enemy combatant" held without charge for more than three years. He is escorted by federal marshals in Miami.

Iran's no-show fuels US anger

WASHINGTON: The US has threatened to hold more against the UN Security Council if it makes good its latest plan to resume nuclear fuel research.

The warning came as Iranian delegates failed to show up at the 57th session of the Security Council on Thursday.

The UN Security Council has demanded that Iran suspend its nuclear fuel research for two years. Iran has responded by saying it will resume nuclear fuel research "if it receives for peaceful nuclear energy" and that it will not accept any program on Monday.

The UN Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, said yesterday that the UN Security Council would not accept any program on Monday. "It would be a very serious diplomatic work," she said.

Iraq

Two were injured in the suicide bombing in Ramadi, while two more were killed in separate attacks in Fallujah.

The violence verges on a civil war, with hundreds of people were killed as insurgents tried to derail the democratic process.

Iran Prime Minister Ibrahim Jafari said this week's violence was an attempt to prevent the political process. Just as the Sunni minority was being brought into a broad-based government, he would witness the Sunni-led insurgency.

Veterans advise Bush

Wearing handuffs and leg irons, a group of Iraq war veterans advised President George W. Bush on Tuesday to end the war in Iraq.

The group, led by former Marine and Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Michael J. Smith, met with the president in the White House.

Terrorism

Mr Padilla reportedly needed to be held in military detention.

But after Mr Padilla's lawyers moved to challenge his military detention of the acts for which Mr Padilla was held in Brooklyn, New York. A former member of a Chicago gang, he is accused of Islam.

Iran

Last September, the IAEA found Iran in compliance with the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. The IAEA board of governors, which is the body that monitors Iran's nuclear program, said it had no evidence of any nuclear weapons program.

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Call for uprising to oust Assad

DUBAI: A former Syrian opposition president is seeking to topple President Bashar al-Assad through a popular uprising.

Abdel-Halim Khaddam told the Ashraf al-Balad newspaper that he was urging Syrian patriots to "create the right atmosphere for the Syrian people to topple the regime."

"The regime cannot be reformed, so there is nothing left but to overthrow it," he said in an interview.

"The Syrian people will be the ones to do it," he said.

London banker leaves \$284,000 behind in will

LONDON: One of the four suspected Islamic terrorists involved in the July 7 suicide bombings in London last year has left £27,000 (\$284,000) in a will.

Iraq

Mr Bush and the US included Madeline Albright's Powell.

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Syria

Mr Khaddam accused Mr Assad of being a puppet of the US.

Terrorism

The FBI says it has identified a suspect in the London bombings.

New chord as 639-year organ concert grinds on

LONDON: The world's longest concert, scheduled to take 639 years, played up pace yesterday.

The organ concert, which began in 1366, is being played by a new group of organists.

Congo deadliest

PARIS: Eight years of war in the Democratic Republic of Congo has left almost four million people dead, making it the deadliest humanitarian crisis today, according to a study published in *The Lancet*.

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Celebrity/novelty

By separating out the chords of the 20-minute piece, the musicians were able to create a new chord.

How does the media 'choose'?

- Why Darfur? Why Zimbabwe?
- Why not DRC?
- Some criteria?
 - National/political interest
 - Geographic proximity/access
 - Ability to identify
 - Ability to sympathise
 - Simplicity
 - Sensationalism

Internet as game changer?

- Audience
 - No longer a captive audience (foraging)
- Participant in newsmaking
 - Blogs, citizen journalism, Facebook, Twitter
- Enormous potential, but...
 - Elite media continue to dominate gathering
 - Audience still identifies with local events
 - Domestic watchdog: yes
 - Greater international interest: no