

ICTs, Social Media and Tendencies of Radicalization in the Sahel

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Web Science Workshop DigDivHum-20, 2020

Ethnography/Biographies/Visuals/collaboration



2012-2020: Sahel conflict and violence increases: case of the Fulani

NEW TERRORISM HOT SPOT: AFRICA'S 'ARC OF INSTABILITY'



Complex crisis: Mali/Niger/Burkina-Faso: since 2015 Rise in Violence

'New' War dynamics

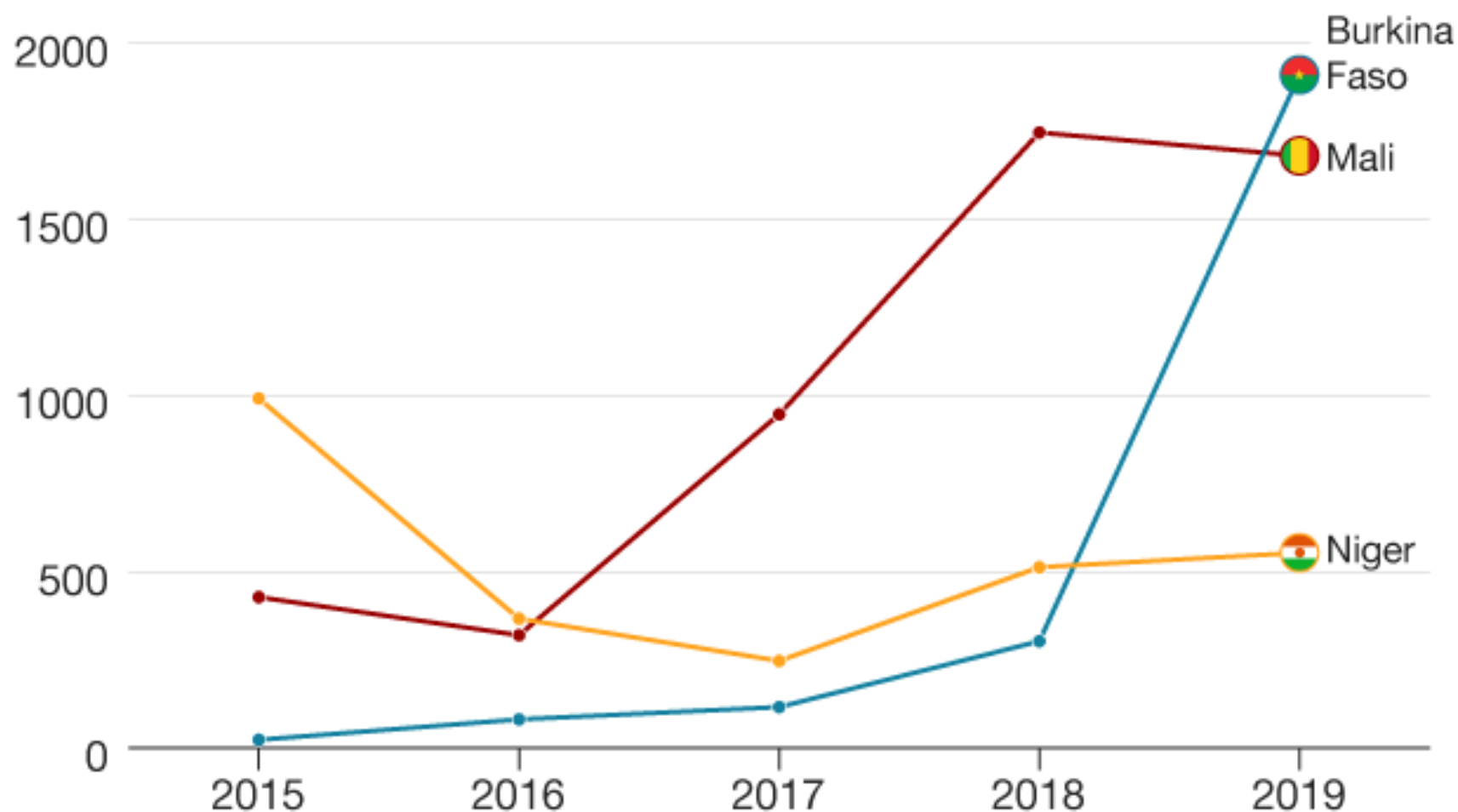
- Amalgam of actors: Jihadists, militias, ethnic organisations, military, international community (MINUSMA, G5 , EU, Embassies)
- transnational networks; amplified by internet and accessing social media
- Violence as a weapon of marginalized groups

Increasing violence, ugly violence; ethnic violence

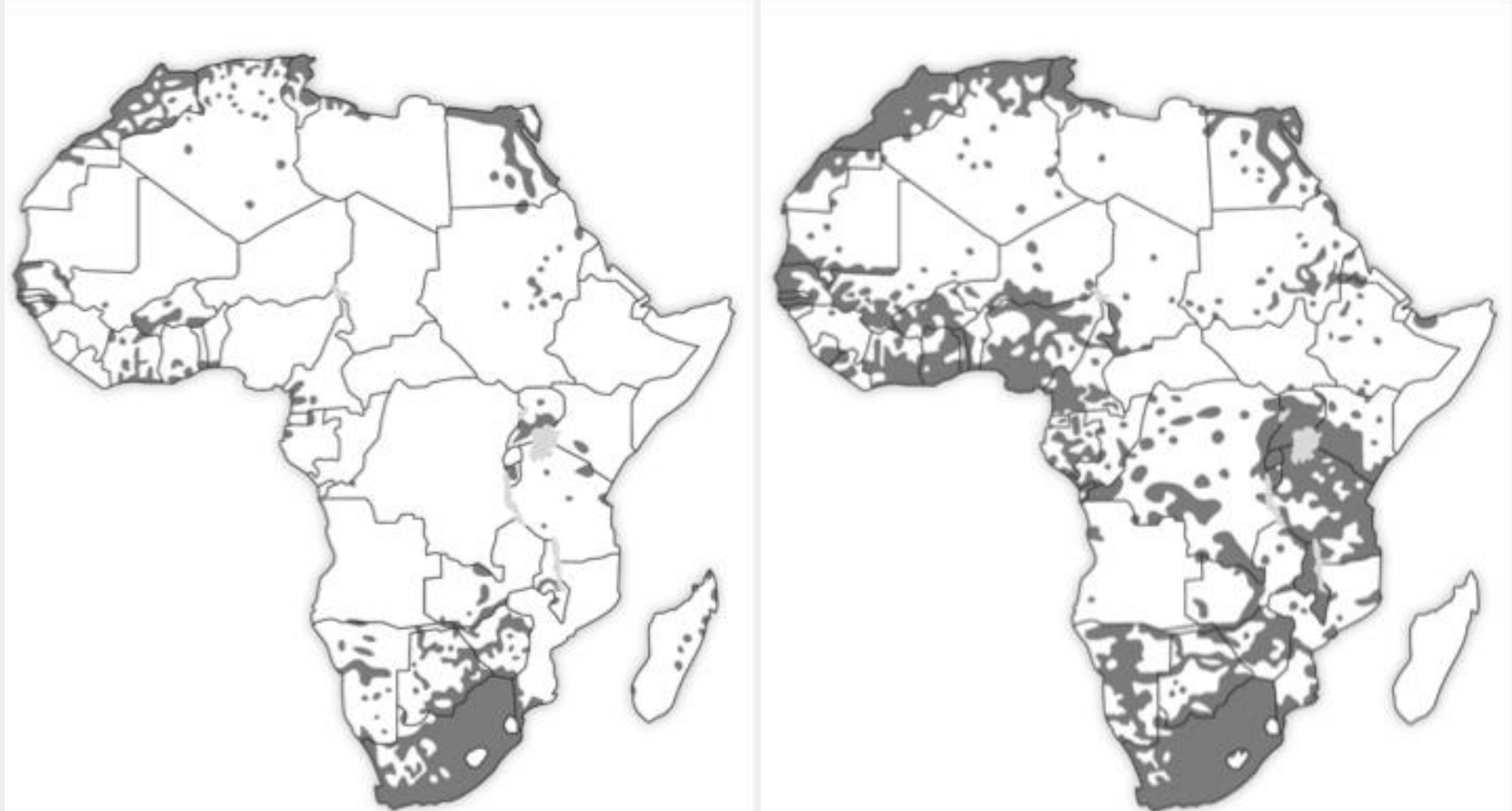
- Massacres of villages, 160-200 death
- Ethnic clashes
- Militas who arrest and kill people
- Military who kill 'imagined' jihadists
- Jihadists who attack army and elites
- Gender based violence
- Etc.
- 4000 deaths reported in 2019 (UN)
- IDPs and Refugees: 1.000.000 in the central Sahel

Casualties from 2015 to 2019

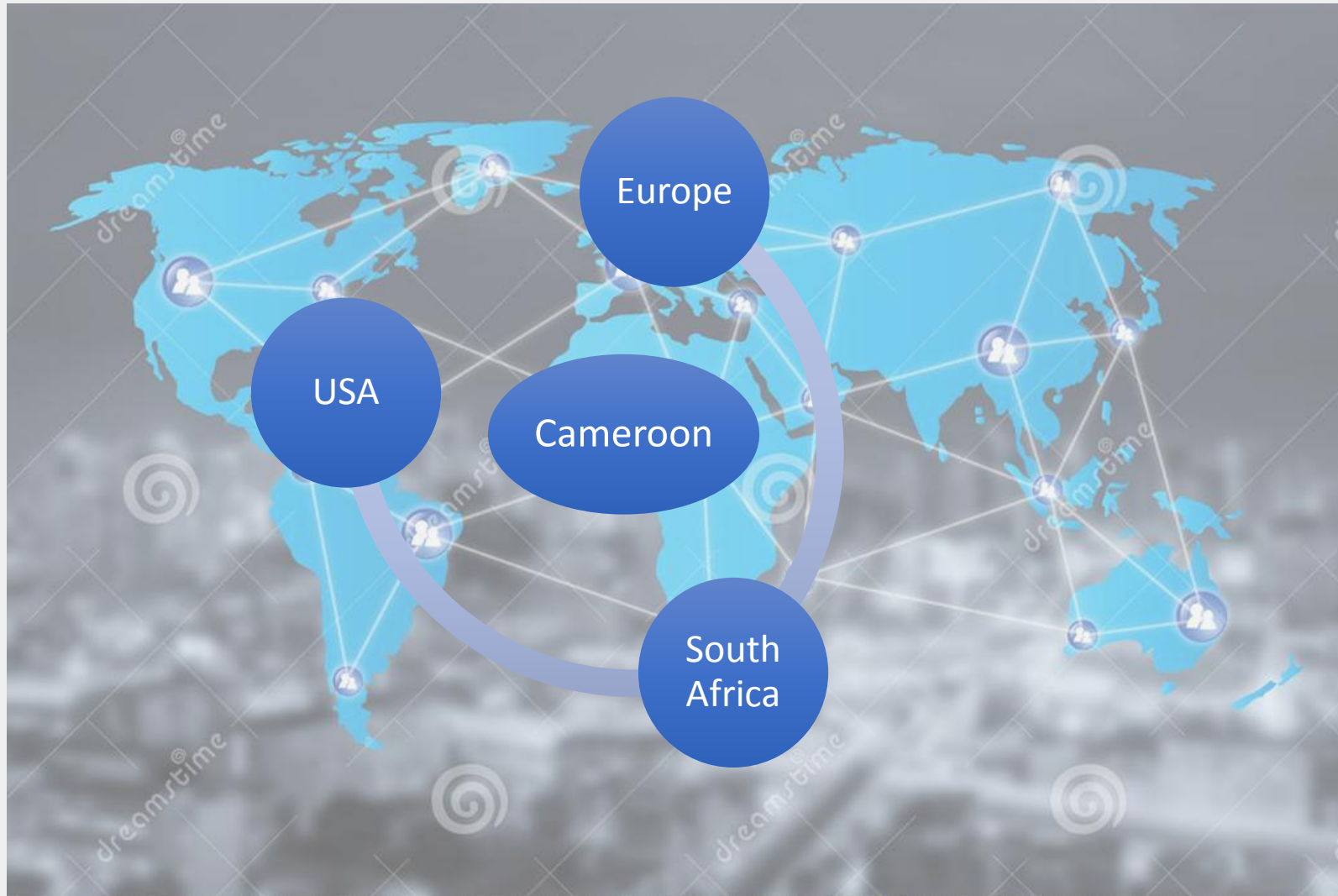
Number of deaths from armed violence in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger



GSM coverage 2001-2013



Changing possibilities to organize: strong ties:
Ethnic Linking: Cameroonian mobile societies (Nyamnjoh 2014)



Nomads Unite: History of 'emancipation'



Information flows on Social Media

+223 65 87 93 12 ~Ham...



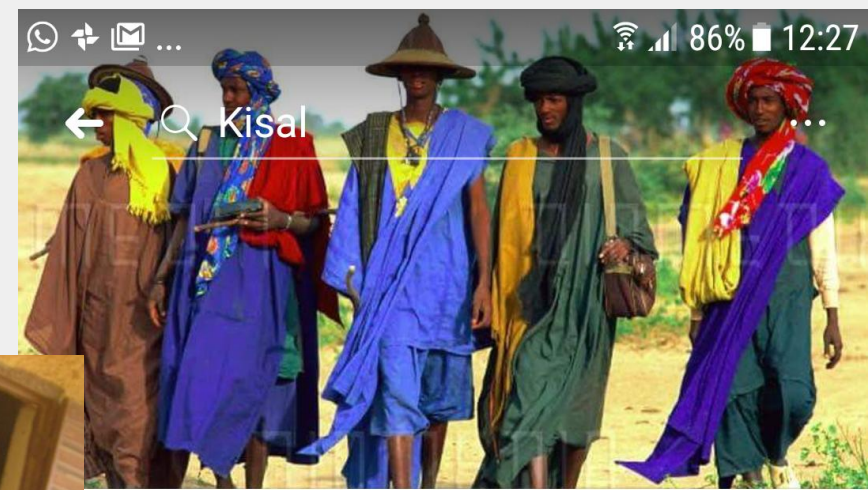
+225 68 69 12 09 ~AMA...



+212 706-332238 ~ham...



+223 65 87 93 12 ~Ham...



Kisal

@kisalobs

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28 people messaged this business recently



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Non-governmental organisation (NGO)

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Typically replies within a day

Advancement of new Information and Communication Technologies: Example from rural Mali (Togola 2019)

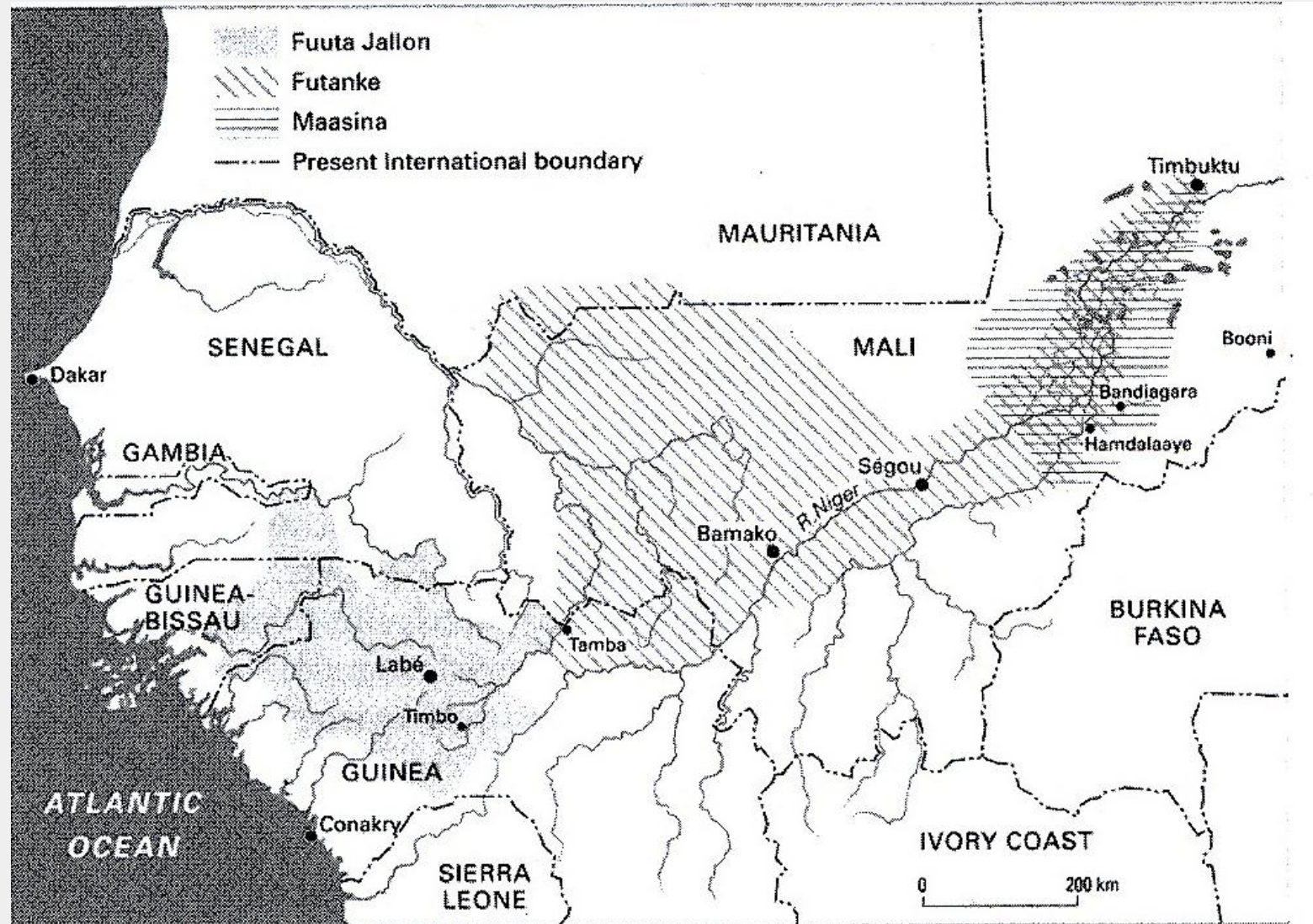


- 87% of the population has a phone
- 59% are smartphones;
- 28% simple telephones with functions like bluetooth and simpel FB

One of the ethnic violences in Mali: Fulbe/Dogon: complementarity and opposition

- Fulbe in Mali accused of Jihadism; they did indeed join, but not all
- Fulbe spread over West-Central Africa; Dogon: Pays-Dogon in Mali
- Dogon are partly also in the Jihad, no numbers known
- Dogon-Fulbe: sedentary –nomads; farmers-herders
- Dogon-Fulbe: history of domination and slavery
- Today: Dogon/Dozo militia ‘protect’ population where the state is absent; Fulbe also have their militia and protect their own villages
- Military plays a double role

Fulbe empires: Jihad in the 19th Centuries



Identity references:
History & Memory
'work'

'Diina wartan':

The regime of Maacina
will come back
(population Inner Delta)





But at the same time:

Dogon (farmers/sedentary)
and the memory of Fulbe
Power in the region: slavery
and domination

The dancing Fulani mask in
Dogon Festival

Farmer herder relations
reference to a symbiotic past in times of increasing
violent conflict (picture 1991)

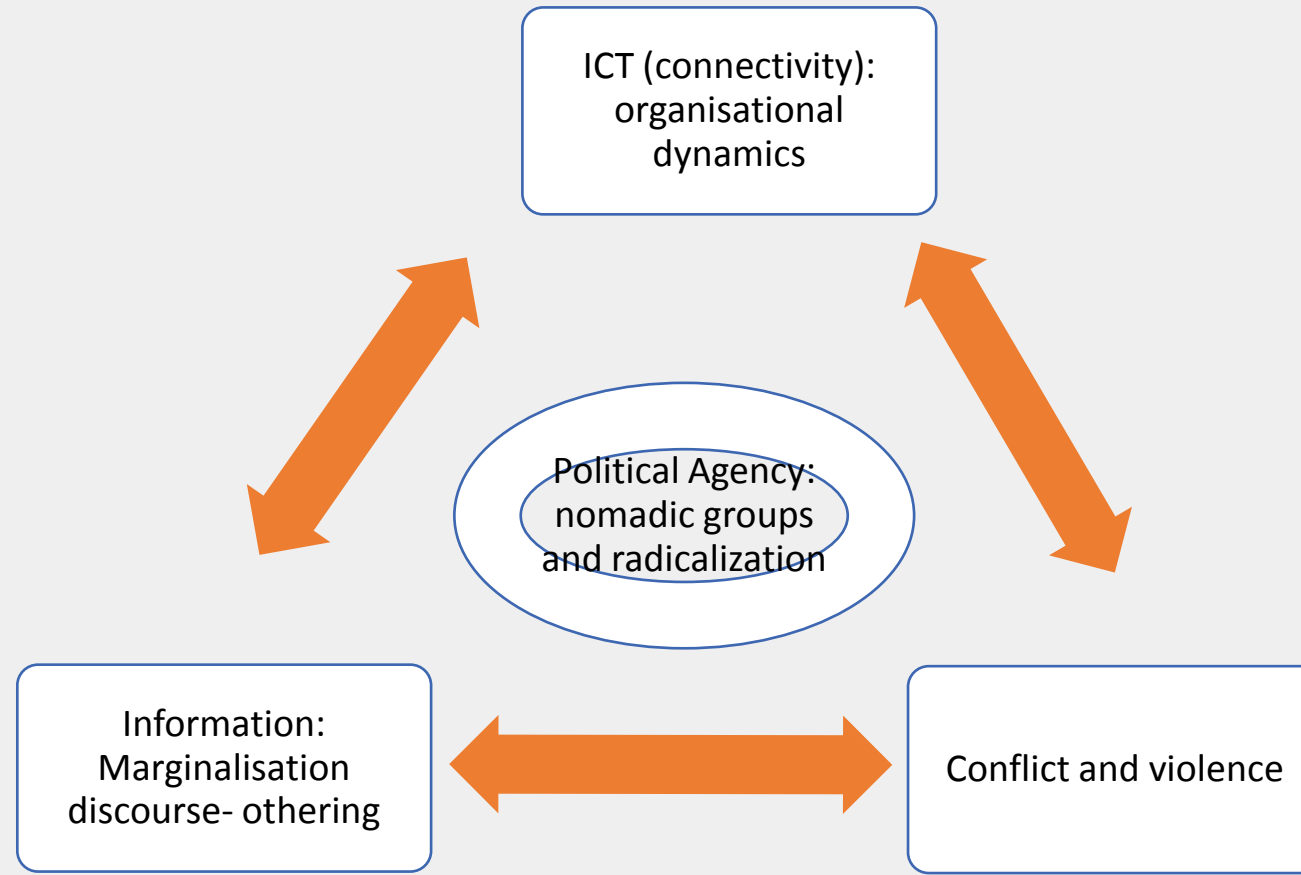


Propaganda:

Hamma Koufa, Leader of Katiba Maacina circulating messages:
preaches with reference to Jihad, and reference to the
marginalization of the Fulani pastoralists



Conclusion: Conflict and Communication Dynamics



Of interest?:

[hope-less a film by V4T](#)

[biographies de la radicalisation](#)
(French)

[biographies of radicalization](#)
(English)

[Voice4Thought](#)

[CTD site of research](#)

www.nomadesahel.org

