

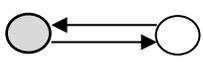
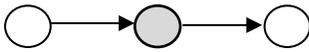
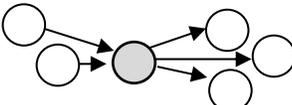
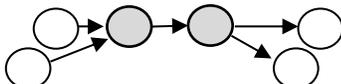
Key Findings

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Study

When war or a similar armed conflict ends, what happens to the weapons that flowed in to support the opposing sides? Are they kept in the stockpile of those forces who initially received the arms – ranging from ammunition to rifles and guns to mortars and their launchers – or are they turned into commodities to be sold, either legitimately or illegally in the black market, to support an economy depressed by war?

Anecdotal evidence suggests that four types of trade markets that could emerge post conflict; each has a unique and easily identifiable network structure that can be examined with dynamic network analysis.

Type of Trade Market (<i>statistic</i>)	Trade Network Structure
<p>Interchange (<i>reciprocity</i>) Exchange relations form naturally when nations supply different commodities. Nation <i>i</i> sends to <i>j</i> and <i>j</i> sends something back.</p>	
<p>Mediator (<i>betweenness centrality</i>) Shipping weapons through intermediaries to avoid public scrutiny of trade activity. A nation <i>i</i> sits between pairs of other traders.</p>	
<p>Epicenter (<i>indegree activity</i>) Upon cessation of hostilities, surplus secondhand weapons are sold widely. A nation buying from many nations sells to many nations.</p>	
<p>Channel (<i>in-out degree assortativity</i>) Post conflict, weapons are transferred to a nation with the capacity to sell. A nation that receives from many others, transfers to a country that sells a lot.</p>	

Using information about illicit trades among 224 nations, from 1997-2010, developed from UN commercial trade data, we find more evidence suggesting the formation of interchange and mediator markets favoring trade partners with shared borders. However, comparing two case studies Egypt and Angola, we find significant regional departures from the global pattern.

<p>Global Pattern Reciprocal <u>and</u> mediator market activity favoring bordering nations.</p>	<p>Egypt Post Conflict Reciprocal market activity <u>not</u> with border nations.</p>	<p>Angola Post Conflict Epicenter supplying border nations.</p>
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Implications

The implications are potentially far-reaching, this study suggests, and could drive the development of arms control regulations as major components – or at least major considerations – in economic recovery policies after conflicts have ceased. And such policies may have a major role in stabilizing governments and reducing the flow of illicit arms.