

Targeting Water Infrastructure in Middle East Conflicts

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Targeting environmental infrastructures

- Central feature of post-2011 Middle East wars
- Degradation of energy, water, waste, and sanitation systems
- Important for human health, economic activity, and ecosystem services



Project Questions

- What are the 'costs' of war for human security and ecosystems from targeting infrastructure?
- What can be done to enhance accountability?
- How do humanitarian actors and local communities try to cope?

MENA infrastructural wars:

- Normalizing “shutting cities off”
- ‘Urban’ networks extend far into hinterlands
- Centralized water-energy systems=
vulnerable to disruption
- Protracted conflict → cumulative
deterioration of public services

What happens with power cuts?

- Water and wastewater systems shut down
- Contamination of water supplies, soil, crops
- Collapse of public health systems
- Illness and disease (e.g. cholera)

Targeting environmental infrastructures, international law, and civilians in the new Middle Eastern wars

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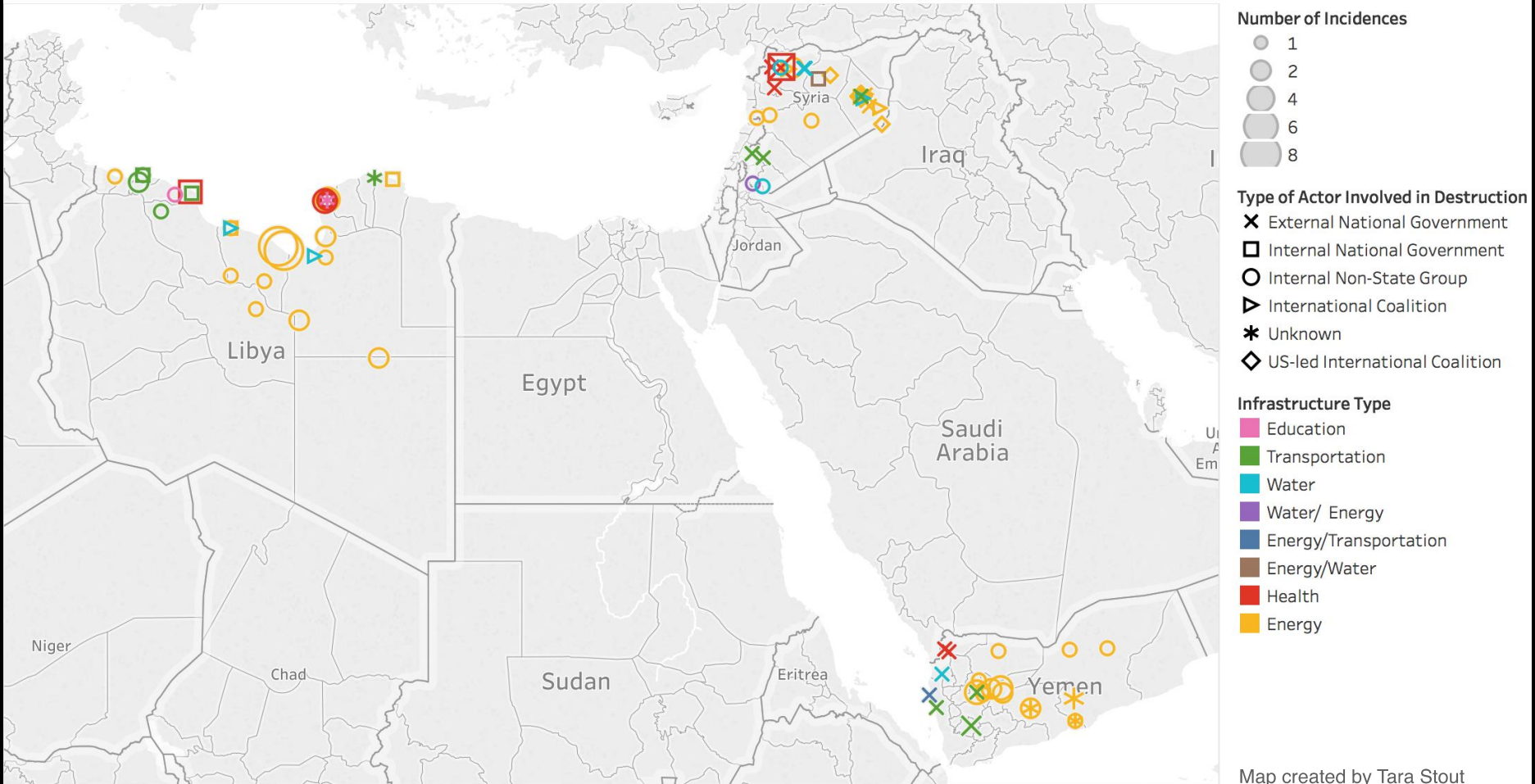
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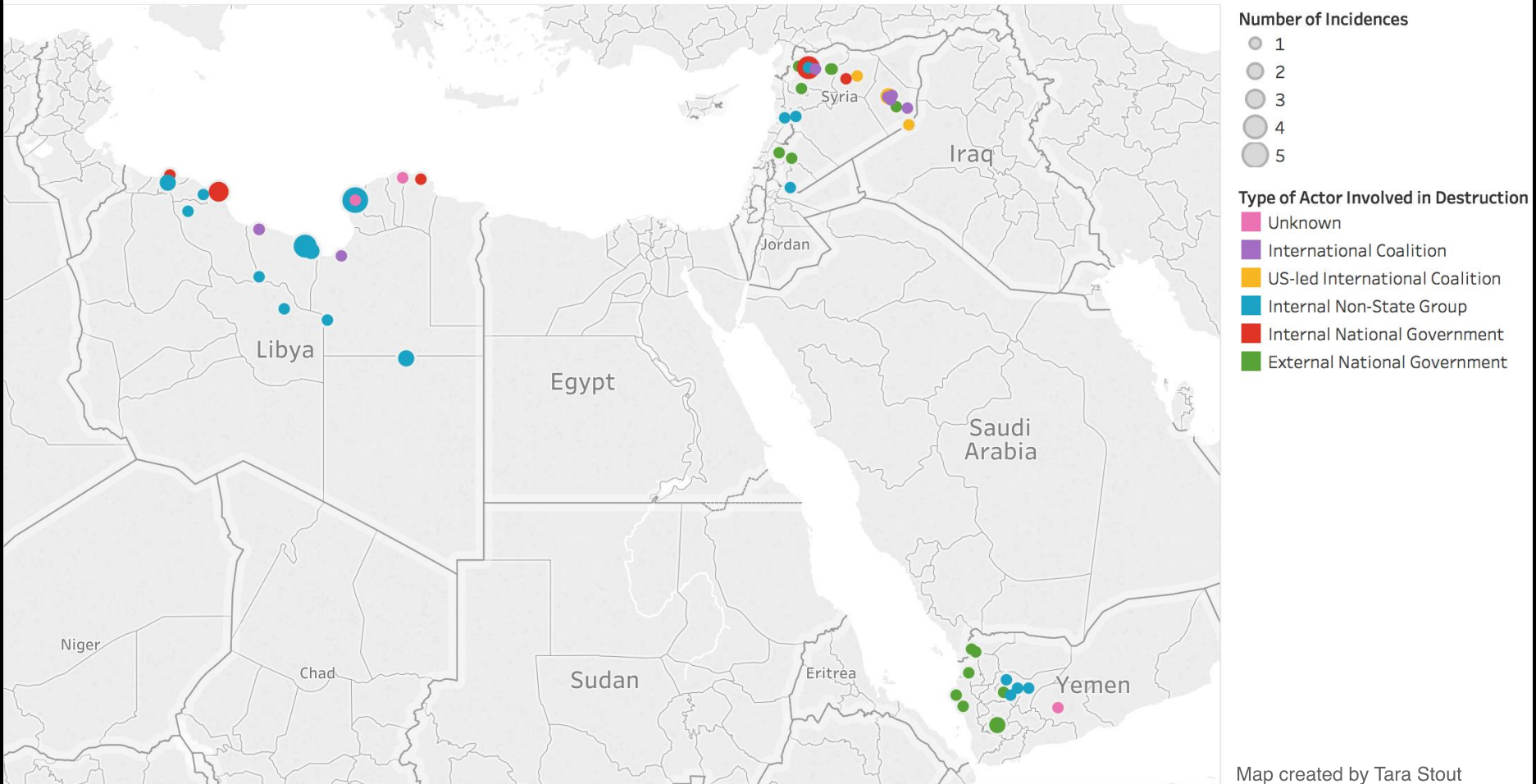
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Infrastructure Destruction by Type



Infrastructure Destruction by Actor



Implications

- Health and livelihood impacts for several generations
- 'Reconstruction' complicated by fragmentation and scale of destruction
- New evolving arrangements for service provision among armed groups and truncated states
- Exacerbation of climate change and population growth impacts on ecosystem sustainability

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