This map shows time spent at war by armed forces. A large area on the map could mean small forces fighting for many years, large forces fighting for a few years; or something in between. Years not at war, when armed forces were on stand-by, are not included.

Between 1945 and 2004 on average almost 12 million people were employed in the armed forces of territories at war for all or part of each year, over half were in just 4 territories. 22% were in the Russian Federation, 14% in China, 11% in the United States, and 8% in India. The largest territory that avoided war throughout was Japan, followed by Sweden, Austria and Singapore.

Technical notes
- *Armed forces assessed at zero for each year throughout which a territory has not been at war. 49 territories not at war for 60 years.
- See website for further information.

"War goes deeper than bombardment, and the more we pretend it doesn’t concern us, the more it invades us … bringing out things we didn’t know about ourselves.”

Slavenka Drakulic, 1999