

The cost of war
战争的代价

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《经济与和平研究所》在本周发表的 2015 年的全球和平指数显示去年因战争造成的经济损失达到了 14.3 万亿，相当于全球国民生产总值的 13.4%。BBC 全球事务记者 Mike Wooldridge 发回以下报道：

The index, launched in 2007, seeks to measure what it calls global peacefulness, **ranking** 162 nations by such **measures** as the levels of violence and crime within the country, their military **expenditure** and involvement in wars.

Iceland tops the list for peacefulness and many OECD countries have now reached **historically** high levels of peace, according to the Index. Syria is judged the least peaceful country and the index says the number of people killed in **conflicts** globally was 180,000 last year, up from 49,000 in 2010.

It concludes that there is now an increasing **division** between the most and least peaceful nations, and it argues that reducing conflict is **crucial** to continued world economic **recovery**.

Questions

1. How many countries are ranked in this index?
2. True or false? *The index measures how violent the country's wars are.*
3. Where were 180,000 people killed in conflict last year?
4. What verb is used in the report to mean 'gives strong reasons for its opinion'?

Vocabulary and definitions

ranking	排名
measures	(名词) 测量方式
expenditure	支出, 开支
historically	历史上的
conflicts	冲突
division	分界, 分割
crucial	至关重要的
recovery	复苏

Answers to the questions:

1. How many countries are ranked in this index?

Answer: The index ranked 162 nations (or countries).

2. True or false? *The index measures how violent the country's wars are.*

Answer: False. It measured the levels of violence and crime within the country, their military expenditure and involvement in wars but not how violent they were.

3. Where were 180,000 people killed in conflict last year?

Answer: Globally; around the world.

4. What verb is used in the report to mean 'gives strong reasons for its opinion'?

Answer: 'argues' (to argue)