

Insights on 20 Years of Counterinsurgency Research

Global Responses to Asymmetric Threats Project

Elizabeth Radziszewski

START, University of Maryland

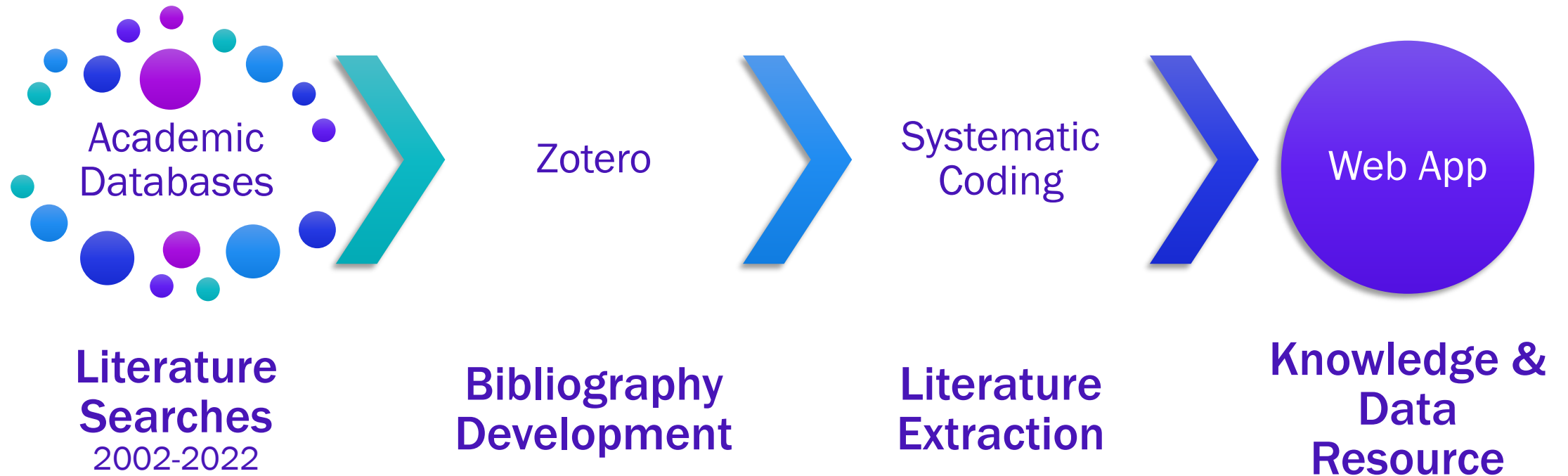
Irregular Warfare Responses Portal

Knowledge &
Data Web Portal
on Government
Responses to
Asymmetric
Threats: 5 Pillars
of IW

- Identify & integrate existing findings
- Access relevant research based on various dimensions
- Map & address research gaps: regular reports, pilot studies

- Improved understanding of effective responses
- Research Prioritization: Relevance & cost effectiveness
- Enhanced scholarly collaboration

Knowledge & Data Resource Development



Type of Data Coded

Methodology

Theory &
Hypotheses

Findings: Variables,
Testing Results

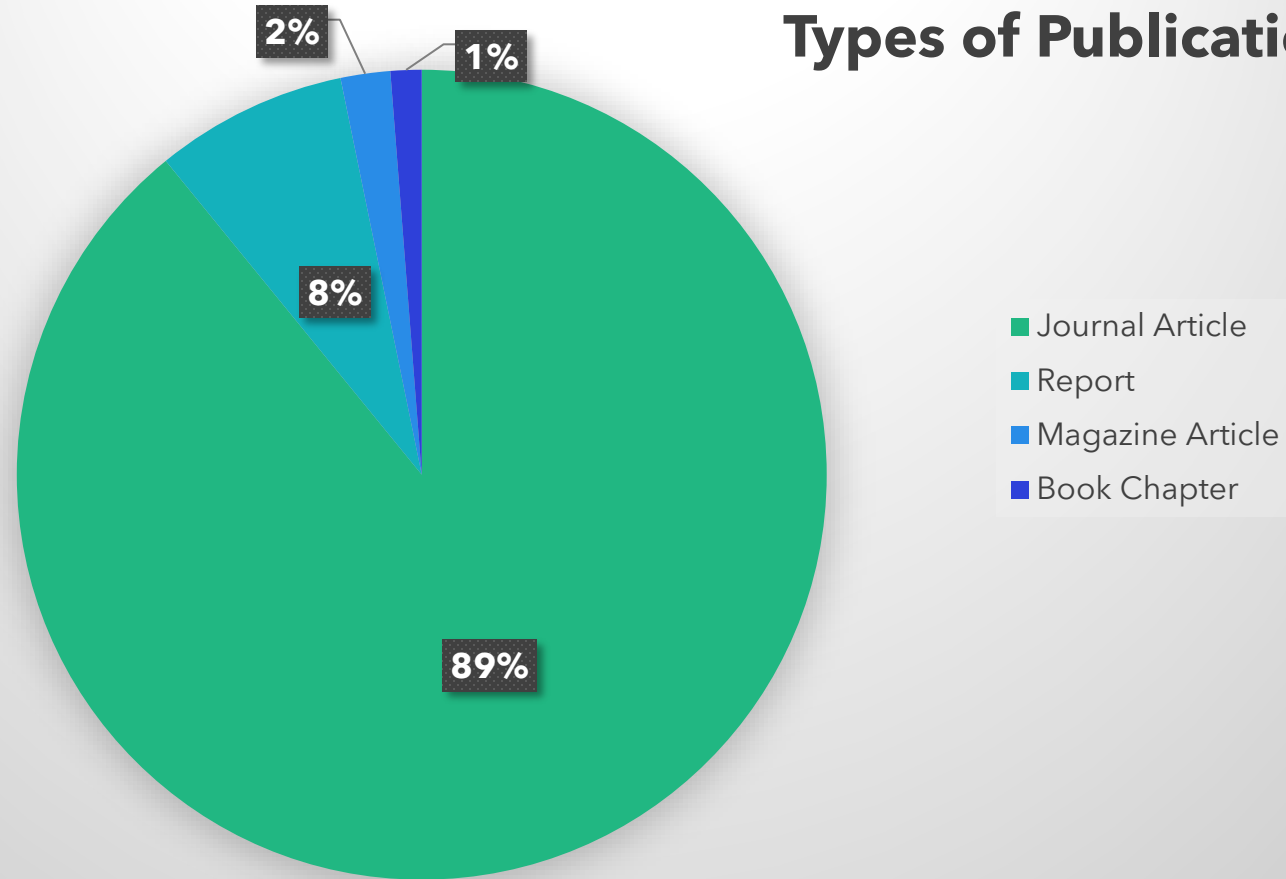
Data Used

Lever of Power &
Target

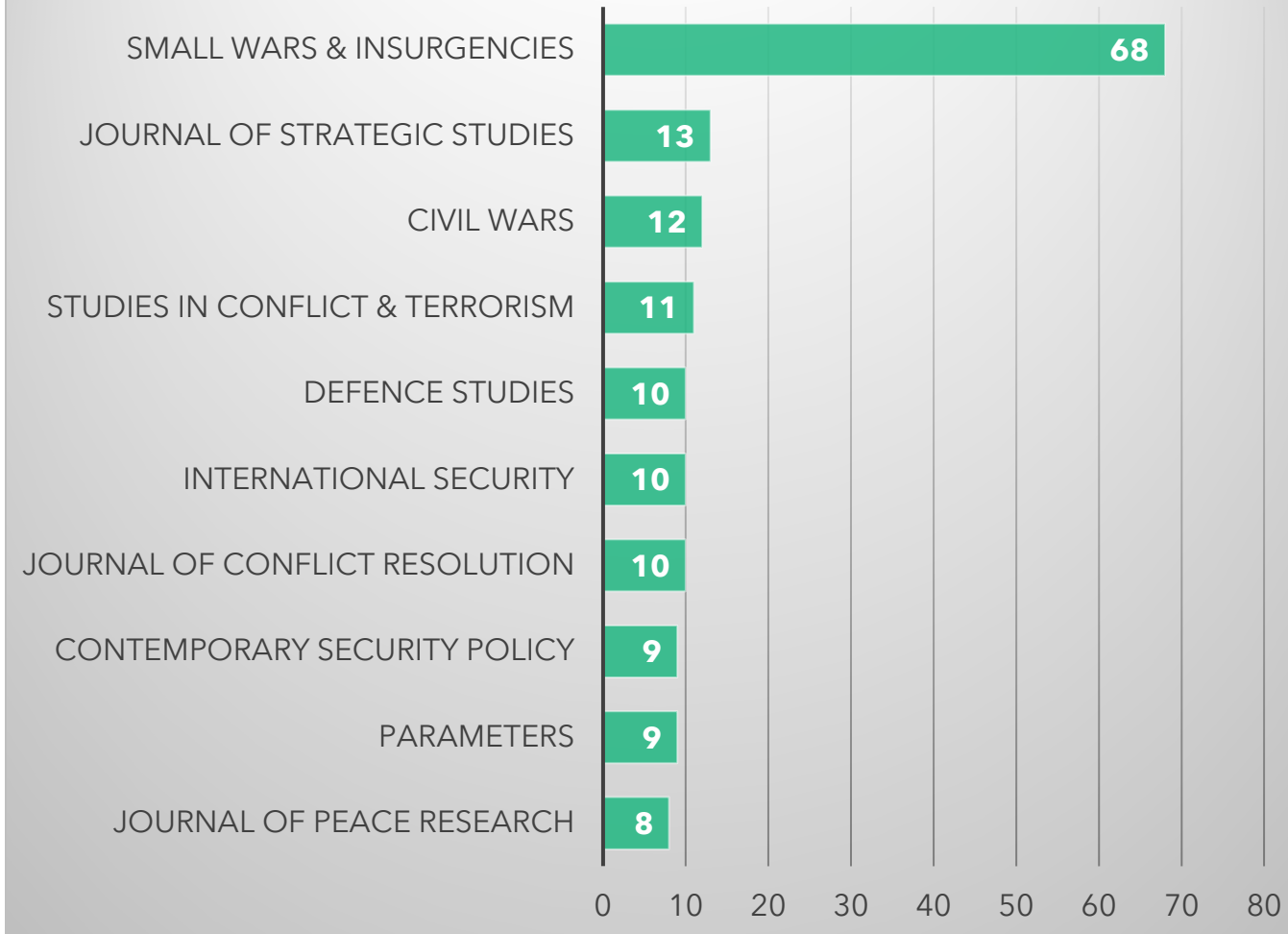
Geography

Extracted COIN Literature: Over 400 Pieces

Types of Publications



Top 10 Publications

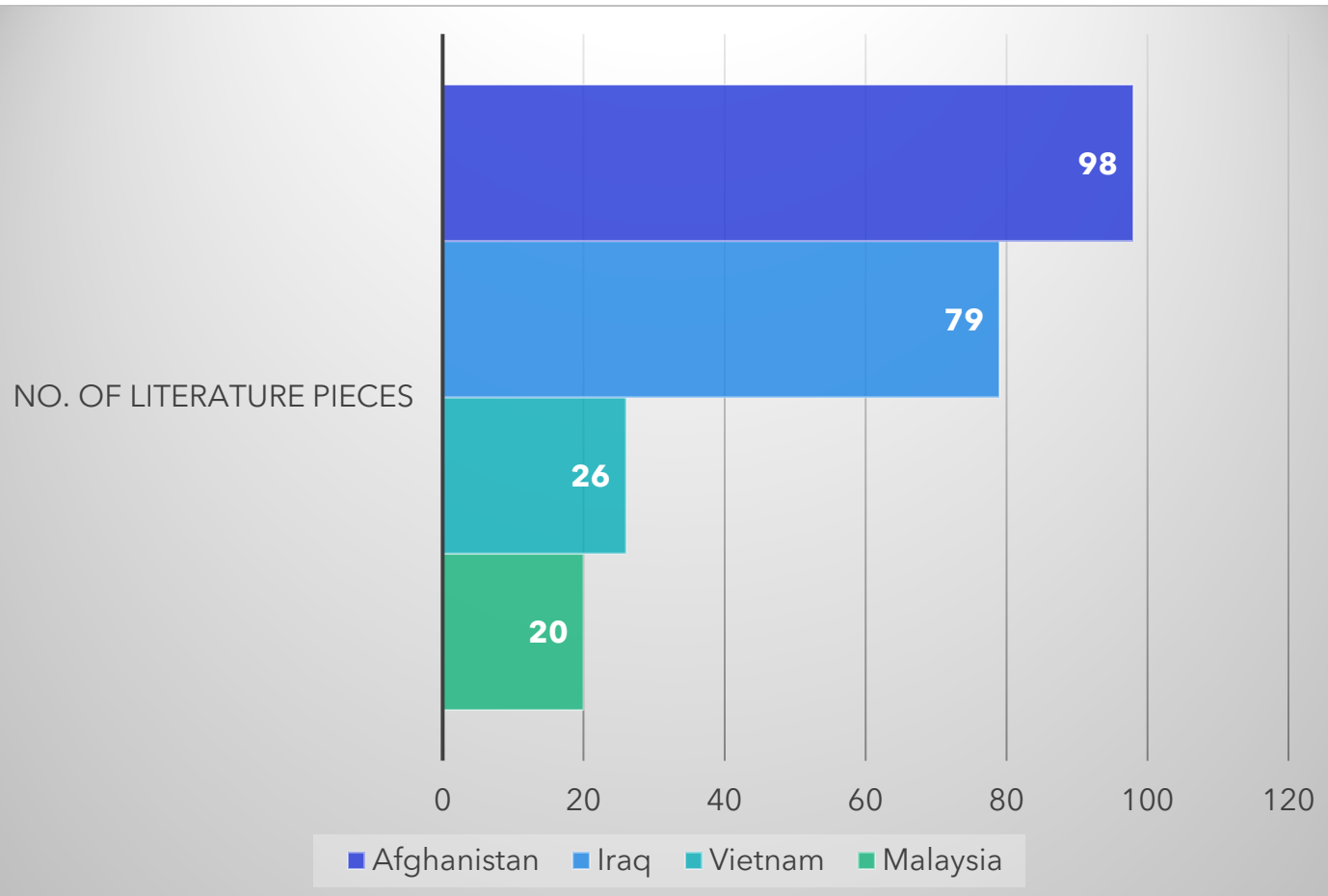


Extracted COIN
Literature: Top
Journal Publications
& Methodology

Geographic Focus

Limited Geographic Scope

Research Gap

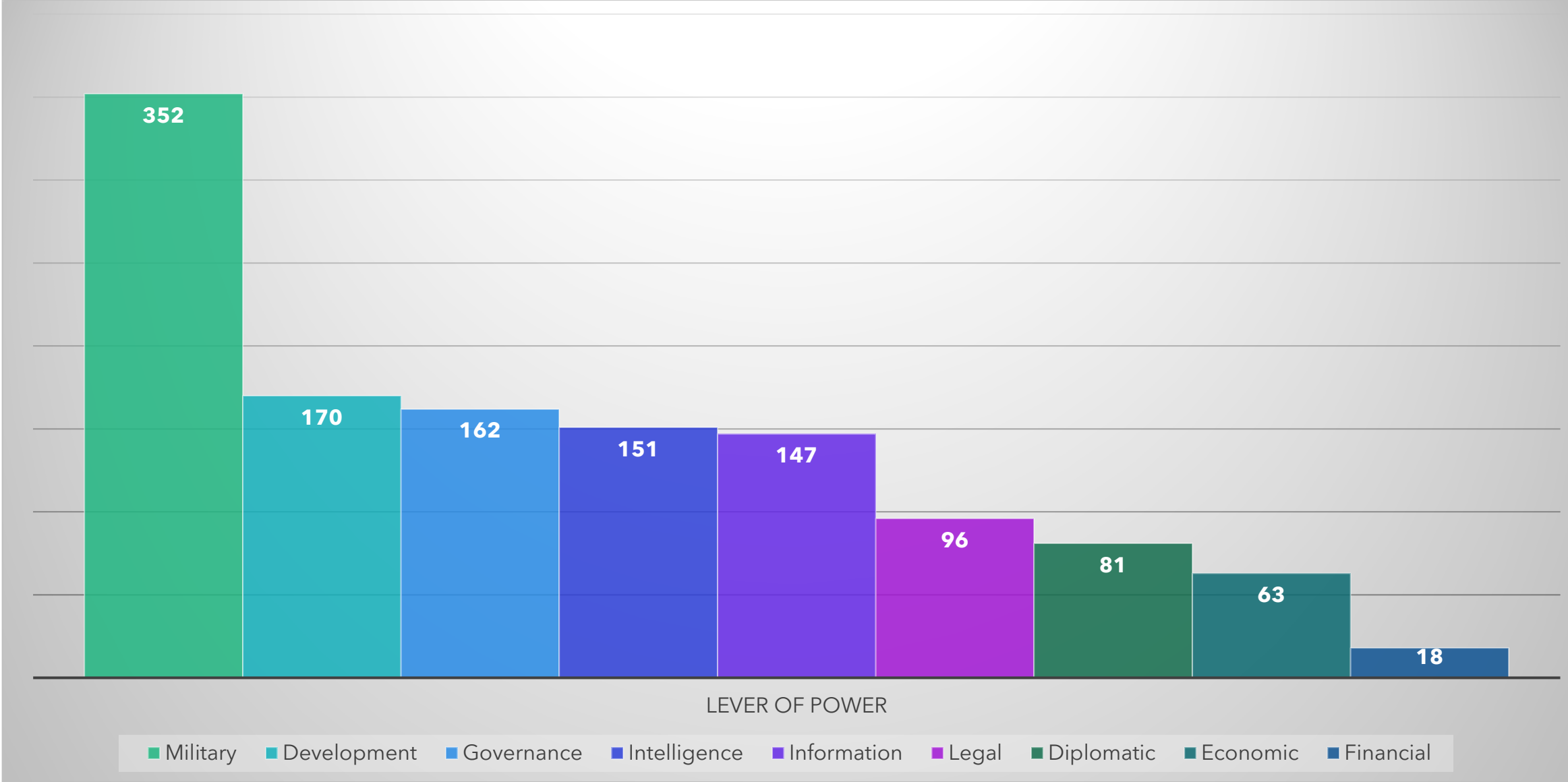


- Dominant focus on Western efforts (U.S & U.K)
- Need to expand to non-Western approaches
- Global analysis: limited (~20% of all pieces' focus)

Capturing Effectiveness of COIN

- *Most widely analyzed/explored dependent variables*
 - Level of violence
 - Number of attacks
 - Duration of conflict/insurgency
 - Outcome (Victory)

Lever of State Power



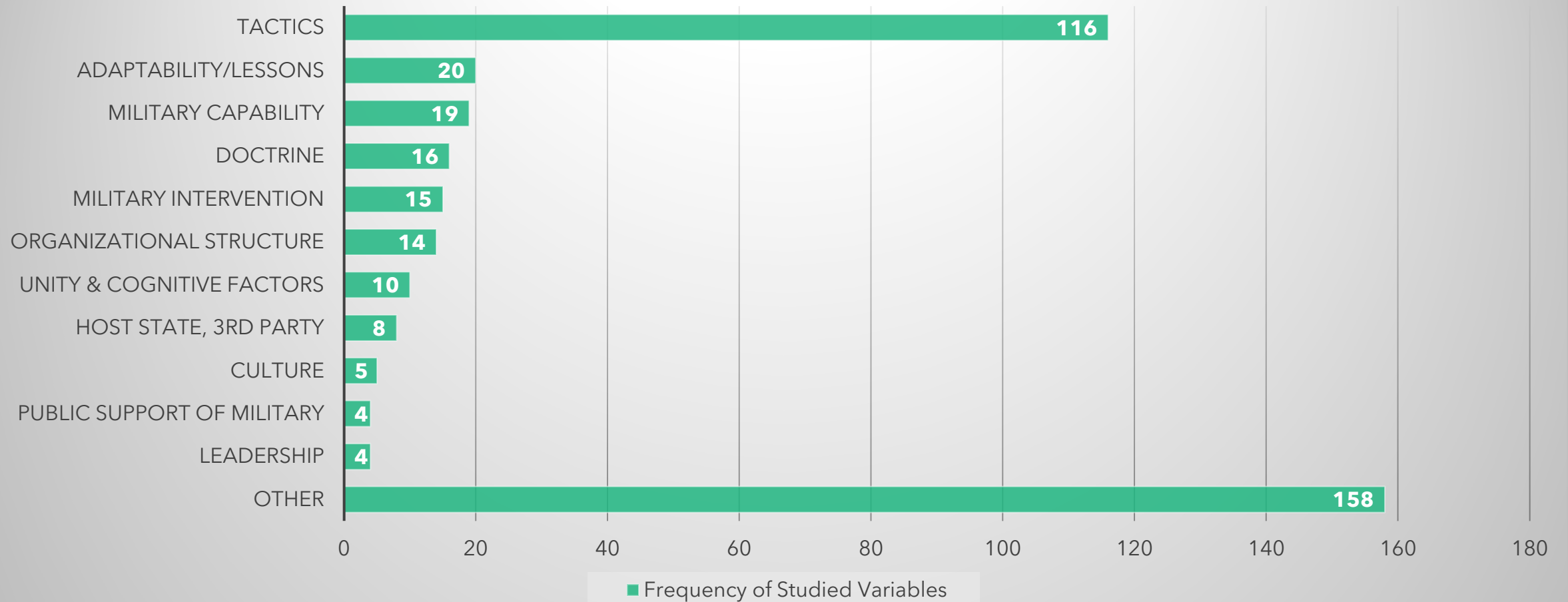
Lever of Power

Research Gaps:

- Need to focus on understudied sources of state power (economic, diplomatic, legal and financial)
- Need to study combination of different sources of power

Military Aspect of COIN: What Influences Outcomes-Independent Variables in Empirical Studies

Frequency of Studied Variables



Most Frequent Tactics: Assessment

- 1. Use of armed non-state actors (20) 60% effective
- 2. Indiscriminate/repressive use of force (17) 29% effective
- 3. Forced population resettlement (9) 67% effective
- 4. Military presence (8) 78% effective
- 5. Use of special forces (7) 71% effective
- 6. Security to the population (7) 71 % effective

Research Gap

Address understudied tactics

1. Sequencing and balancing of tactics
 2. Maritime tactics
 3. Bombing campaigns
 4. Role of females in COIN

Methodology

1. Need for large data analysis