

**- YEMEN & SYRIA REMAIN THE LARGEST NEGLECTED EMERGENCIES**

Aid agencies see no end nor solution for Syria (which received only 1/3 of funds sought by the UN's \$4b in 2013), where 120,000 have died & 6.5m displaced. Aid agencies lack good information of needs within Syria or access to provide protection. This month the UN issued the largest-ever humanitarian **global** appeal -- \$13b for 2014; the portion for Syria was half, \$6.5b. Nearby, Yemen receives far less attention despite protracted conflicts & secession movements; drone strikes; floods, locusts, 600,000 IDPs & Somali refugees; & 10m who are food insecure.

**- WORLD WAR WAS NARROWLY AVERTED in 2013 (AS WWI ANNIVERSARY APPROACHES)**

when major military forces skated close to combat, with Iran provoking attacks against its nuclear facilities & at the same time threatening to strike Israel if the U.S. struck against Syria's Govt over its use of chemical weapons that killed 1,400 Syrian civilians. In the Pacific China, Japan, Taiwan, Philippines, Vietnam & the U.S. rattled sabers over claims in the South China Sea, with near physical collisions of Chinese & American cruisers this month.

**- CONFLICT FLARED in CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC & ADJACENT SOUTH SUDAN**

First in Jonglei state, where the South Sudan government denied aid agencies access during conflict, then in Dec. civil war spread to the capital, interrupting the hard currency infusion which inflated a bubble economy, while the contested state of Abyei remains unclaimed despite their vote to join South Sudan. The CAR 3-year civil war grew worse, displacing 700,000. This month Amnesty Int'l wrote that attacks & counterattacks of ex-Séléka & anti-Balaka combatants cause 1,000 deaths/week. Increases in peacekeepers to both countries were approved this week.

**- THE LESTER PEARSON PEACEKEEPING CENTER of CANADA CLOSED WITH A WHIMPER**

after 20 years of int'l leadership. The Pearson Peacekeeping Centre transferred assets this month, as the Canadian Gov't pivots toward war-fighting [www.pearsoncentre.org/article257#.UsIPkPRDvIc](http://www.pearsoncentre.org/article257#.UsIPkPRDvIc) Also in 2013, the Canadian Intern'l Dev't Agency (CIDA) disappeared, merging with Foreign Affairs. This event mirrored AusAid's demise. The Australian Gov't's aid agency was swallowed by its foreign affairs agency in 2013, alongside budget cuts.

**- TYPHOON HAIYAN POUNDED THE PHILIPPINES; KILLED 6,000; DISLOCATED 4 MILLION,**  
generating the most media attention & largest private donations of the year, over \$1 billion in total pledges.

**- WAR CRIME TRIALS MET MILESTONES IN CAMBODIA, KENYA, BANGLADESH, GUATEMALA**

In Cambodia, two Khmer Rouge leaders finally faced a tribunal for crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide dating back to 1975. Bangladesh issued sentences for crimes committed during the 1971 Pakistan war (& 152 border guards for more recent rebellion). In May, former Guatemalan dictator Rios Montt became the first-ever head of state found guilty of genocide by a national tribunal for his campaign of annihilation of Mayan (indigenous) peoples, including 1,771 killed in Quiche. In contrast, Kenya defied the International Criminal Court (ICC - the Hague), stalling investigations into civilian deaths during its 2007 elections.

**- POLIO RESURFACED in SOMALIA, KENYA, SYRIA & S. SUDAN in LATE 2013,**

while NY Mayor Michael Bloomberg's personal Fdt'n added \$100 million to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

**- SPHERE GOES MINIMUM as HUMANITARIAN STANDARDS FRAGMENT**

In Nov., SPHERE's int'l board chose to separate SPHERE humanitarian standards from HAP & People in Aid, splitting the Joint Standards Initiative, begun in 2010. Meanwhile, the 12-member operational Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies (CBHA) re-started in 2013 as "START". The older, 8 year Emergency Capacity Building (ECB) project, supported by the Bill/Melinda Gates Fount'n, closed this week, after progress in promoting disaster risk reduction, accountability, attention to evaluation, communications & staff surge capacities for disasters.

**- MERLIN, a BRITISH NON-PROFIT, WAS ABSORBED BY SAVE THE CHILDREN in 2013,**

giving Save the Children more clinical capacities in emergencies. Merlin faced \$2 million in losses from 2011.

**- CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT WAS BROUGHT AGAINST THE U.N. FOR SPREADING CHOLERA**

into Haiti, in a New York federal court. Cholera killed over 8,000 in Haiti since 2010 & is now entrenched.

**- NATO SLOWLY REDUCED TROOPS & EQUIPMENT IN AFGHANISTAN,**

with the plan to leave 15,000 U.S. troops in 2014, as the Afghan national forces take the lead in security.

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## THEMES & MEMES

“Resilience” achieved dominance as the buzzword of the still-new century, as the EC, ECHO, USAID, DFID, FAO, UNICEF, & major NGOs met to explore how to infuse resilience thinking into their efforts to reduce risks in populations, blending humanitarian risk transfers with economic growth, while breaking down artificial silo’s.

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## INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Drones, now available for purchase from retail stores (\$600 each), raised increasing clamor among human rights groups in 2013, though not yet among those engaged in international humanitarian law (Geneva Conventions). As the success of the civilian-led Landmine Prohibition fades in the collective memory, rights agencies question whether international conventions should frame the use of drones in warfare. As with nuclear weapons in the 1940s, drones have been spurred and used early on only by superpowers, but will soon proliferate to non-state actors.

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## AWARDS

ECPAT received the 2013 Conrad N Hilton Foundation annual humanitarian award for its work to monitor & reduce commercial sex trafficking of 1 million children through social movements. See: [www.ecpat.net/](http://www.ecpat.net/)

The Gates Foundation awarded its 2013 Vaccine Innovation Award to **Margarida Matsinhe** at *VillageReach* which innovates health logistics systems to distribute vaccines to remote, rural children in 4 states in Mozambique.

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## TOP TEN HUMANITARIAN PUBLICATIONS of 2013

1. **THE GOLDEN FLEECE** by Antonio Donini & Norah Niland (Kumarian Press) explores the push & pull between political use of humanitarian aid by govt’s. (Though the book was published in 2012, its influence spread in 2013.) With chapters on different case crises, it makes a good text for professional & academic discussions.
2. **RISK REDUCTION INDEX in West Africa** (DARA, Madrid), analyzes the resilience capacities of 6 countries, including Niger. See: <http://daraint.org/risk-reduction-index/west-africa/>
3. **CIVIL SOCIETY IN CHINA: Legal Framework from Ancient Times to the New Era**, by Karla Simon (Oxford Univ. Press), charts the evolution of laws, regulations & practice of nonprofits & “community social associations” over centuries & particularly the last 30 years.
4. **WORLD DISASTERS REPORT 2013: Focus on Technology** (IFRC, Geneva)  
[www.ifrc.org/PageFiles/134658/WDR%202013%20complete.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/PageFiles/134658/WDR%202013%20complete.pdf)
5. **WAR CRIMES, GENOCIDE & JUSTICE: a Global History** by David Crowe (Palgrave).
6. **FIVE DAYS AT MEMORIAL** (Medical Center) by “War Hospital” author Sheri Fink who here explores rationing of health care after Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. Also made *Time Magazine*’s end of year list.
7. **2013 HUMANITARIAN ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT**, by HAP [www.hapinternational.org/](http://www.hapinternational.org/)
8. **THE POLITICS OF HUMANITY: REALITY OF RELIEF AID** (Head of Zeus), by John Holmes who reflects on his days heading UN OCHA, with frank assessments about his learning curve in Darfur, Sri Lanka, Burma.
9. **AFGHANISTAN From The COLD WAR THROUGH The WAR On TERROR** by Barnett Rubin (Oxford)
10. **AID ON THE EDGE OF CHAOS**, by Ben Ramalingam (Oxford Univ. Press)

Honorable mention: Tufts Univ. Feinstein Center’s unprecedentedly in-depth series on livelihoods in arid & pastoralist lands of Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda. Also, the **GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE 2013** by Development Initiatives See: [www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/report/gha-report-2013](http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/report/gha-report-2013)