# R2P LIVE

## R2PLive Report No. 1

## ABSTRACT

This paper presents original summary statistics of the Responsibility to Protect in the global media since 2001, conducts two case studies featuring an in-depth analysis of R2P in Libya and Syria, and proposes a "Responsibility to Prevent (R2PT) Scale" to benchmark commitment to preventing genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing.

## RÉSUMÉ

Cet article présente les statistiques sommaires originales de la responsabilité de protéger dans le média global depuis 2001, conduit deux études de cas mettant en vedette une analyse détaillée de R2P en Libye et Syrie, et propose une échelle "responsabilité d'empêcher (R2PT)" pour évaluer l'engagement à empêcher la génocide, les crimes de guerres et la purification ethnique.

## ABOUT R2PLIVE

R2PLive is a global portal of media articles related to the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) principle. R2PLive tracks and archives articles that mention R2P, and categorizes them by variables such as region of origin, key themes, language, genre, and more. R2PLive is a project of the Canadian Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (CCR2P), a non-profit research organization based at the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs which aims to promote scholarly engagement and political implementation of the R2P principle. The CCR2P hopes that scholars, practitioners, civil society activists, students, and the general public will find it useful, and that it will serve to raise awareness of R2P issues in Canada and around the world. Note: R2PLive analysts used the search terms "responsibility to protect," "R2P," and "RtoP" to gather articles. At this time, articles that do not incorporate these terms are not included on the site.

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

*2015 Managing Editors*
Rachel J. Gunn is a third-year undergraduate pursuing an International Relations Specialist and an Economics Major at the University of Toronto. Her research interests cover R2P and South East Asia, economic history, the political economy of media, as well as data science and visualization. In 2013, she had the opportunity to research the political, economic, and historical factors embedded in R2P & Myanmar at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies. She is the recipient of the Margaret Macmillan Scholarship in Trinity One (International Relations).

Angel Difan Chu is in her third year pursuing a double major in History & International Relations and a minor in Italian. Angel is particularly interested in the ethnic conflict resolution aspect of R2P. A graduate of the Margaret Macmillan Trinity One Program, Angel is a recipient of the Trinity College In-Course Scholarship and a Dean's List Scholar.

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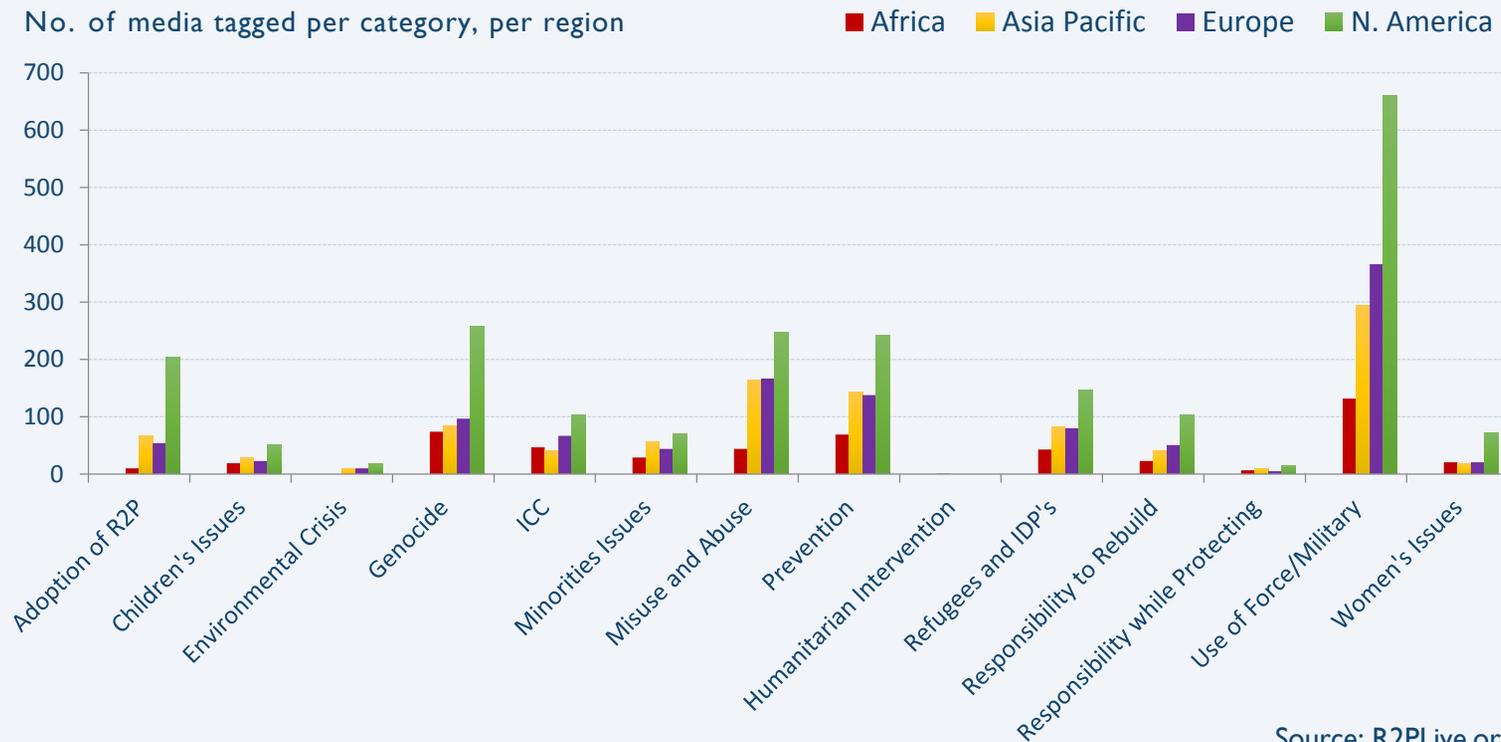
# SUMMARY STATISTICS

# PROGRESSION OF "R2P" SINCE 2001

No. of media mentions with "R2P", 2001-2014
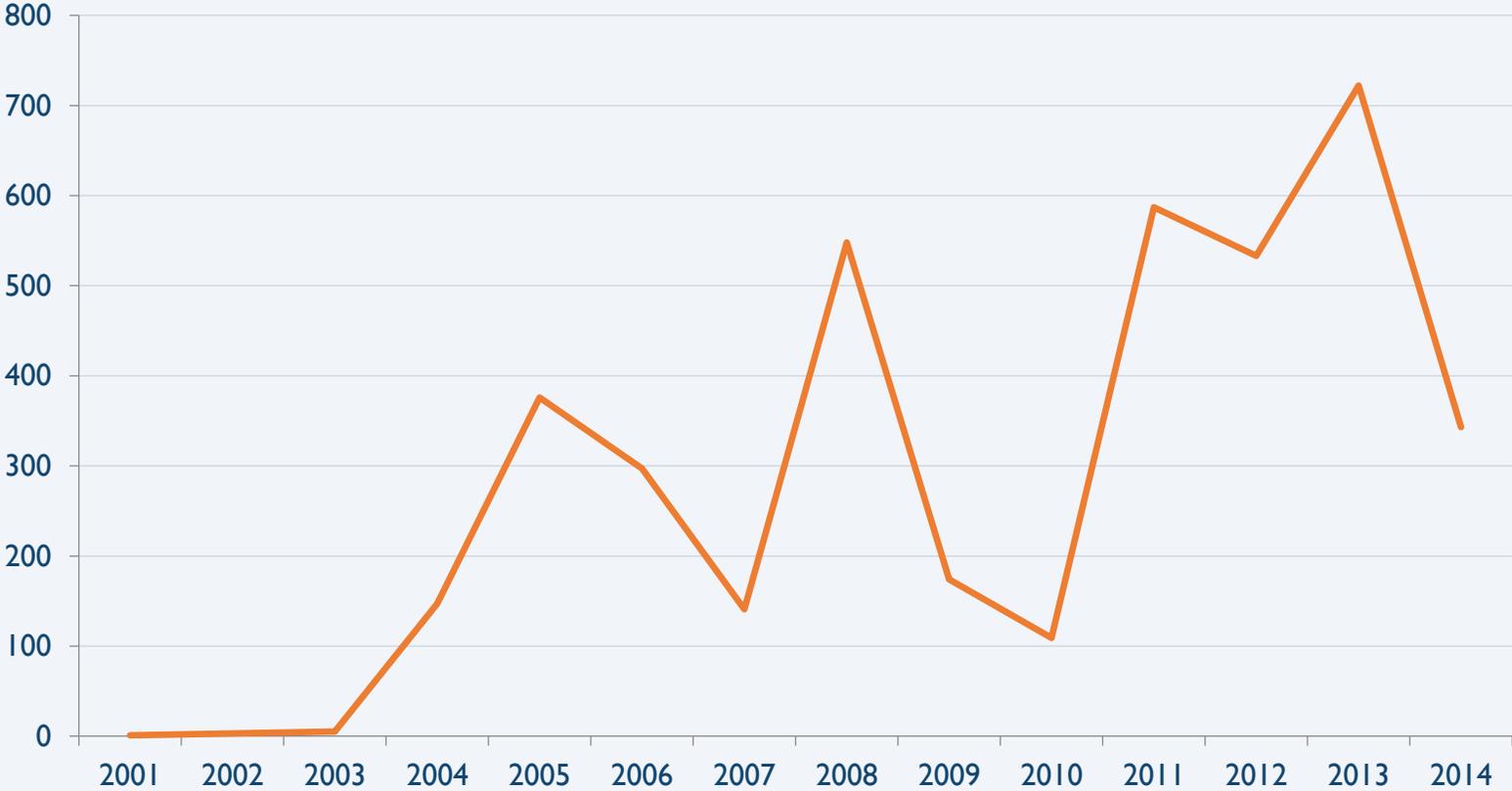
# THEMATIC COVERAGE PER REGION

No. of media tagged per category, per region

■ Africa  ■ Asia Pacific  ■ Europe  ■ N. America



Source: R2PLive.org

This graph very clearly shows that the most discussed theme in terms of R2P, across all regions, is "Use of Force/Military". This result is particularly significant when compared with the lack of discussion around other key principles that shape R2P – "Responsibility to Rebuild", "Responsibility while Protecting or "Prevention". These less-discussed aspects are considered preliminary to the concept of R2P and yet the focus of international dialogue is on military intervention – an area that is actually considered last resort. The theme discussed most next to "Use of Force/Military" is "Misuse and Abuse" which, when connected to the former, indicates a widespread mistrust of the R2P principle.

## SOURCES OF COVERAGE

No. of media tagged per region as a source



Source: R2PLive.org

The "Sources of Coverage" graph reveals that most of the news about R2P is originating in Western countries – with nothing at all from South America or the Middle East. However, this could be due to the restricted languages available on R2PLive.org – only English articles are archived.

## COVERAGE BY THEME

No. of media tagged per theme
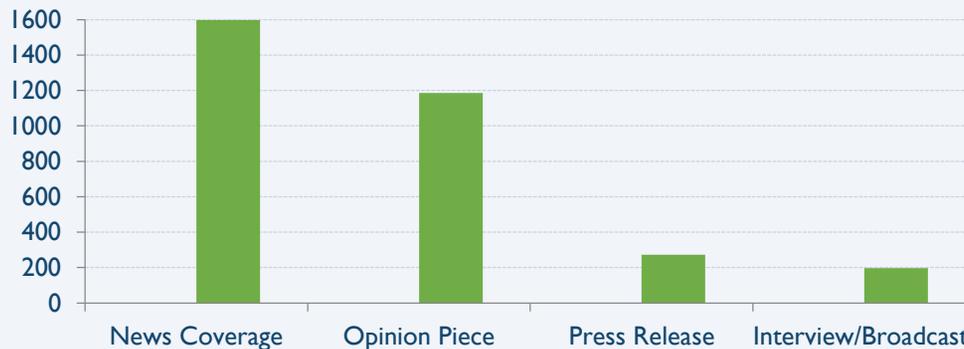


Source: R2PLive.org

The "Coverage by Theme" Graph shows that R2P is most commonly mentioned in news-related articles. This is somewhat surprising considering that the norm is in early stages of development. R2P has only been officially invoked once, meaning that a lot of its discussion in news sources would be theoretical scenarios and theoretical implementation.
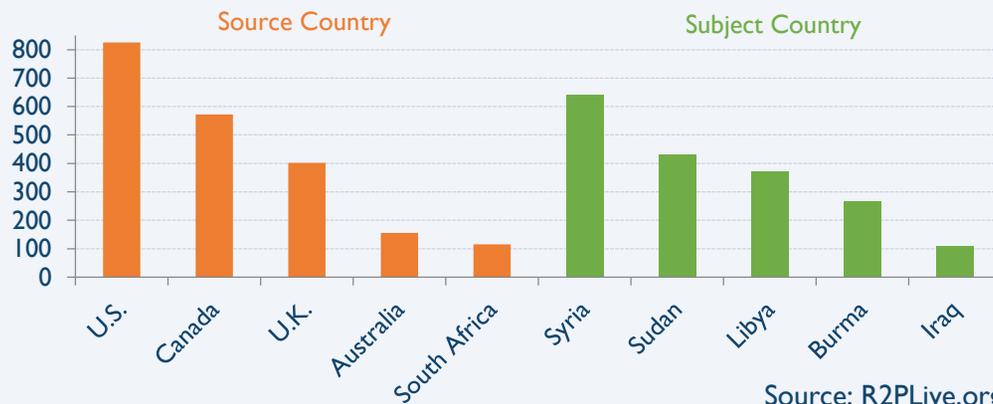
## REGION COVERAGE
No. of media tagged per region as a subject



Source: R2PLive.org

## TOP FIVE SOURCE & SUBJECTS
No. of media tagged per top 5 countries (sources & subjects)



Source: R2PLive.org

Both the "Region Coverage" and "Top Five Source and Subjects" graphs further the trend of R2P discussion being centered in Western countries (though South Africa as a top source country is an exception.) It is not surprising either that all five of the top source countries are well-established democracies. On the other hand, the top subject countries *being* discussed are widely considered unstable or 'failed states'. While this makes sense, it is important to consider the benefits/consequences of North America and Europe leading the conversation about intervention in Africa and the Middle East.
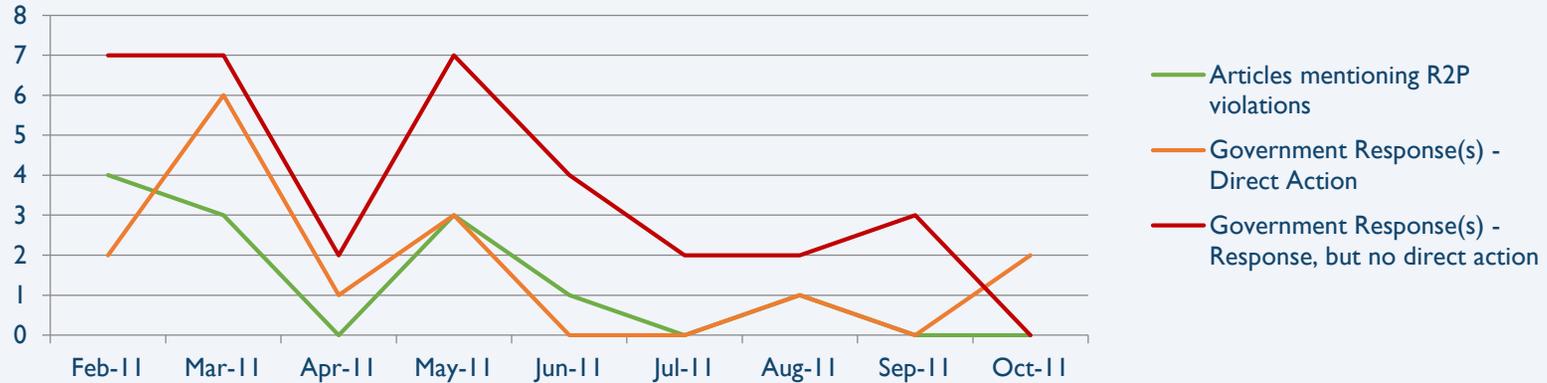
# CASE STUDIES:
## Libya | Syria

# A Faltering Response? An Analysis of Media Reports on R2P Violations and Responses

## LIBYA: TIMELINE OF CIVIL WAR
No. of R2P-related media tagged as "Libya (Source)"



Legend:
- Articles mentioning R2P violations
- Government Response(s) - Direct Action
- Government Response(s) - Response, but no direct action

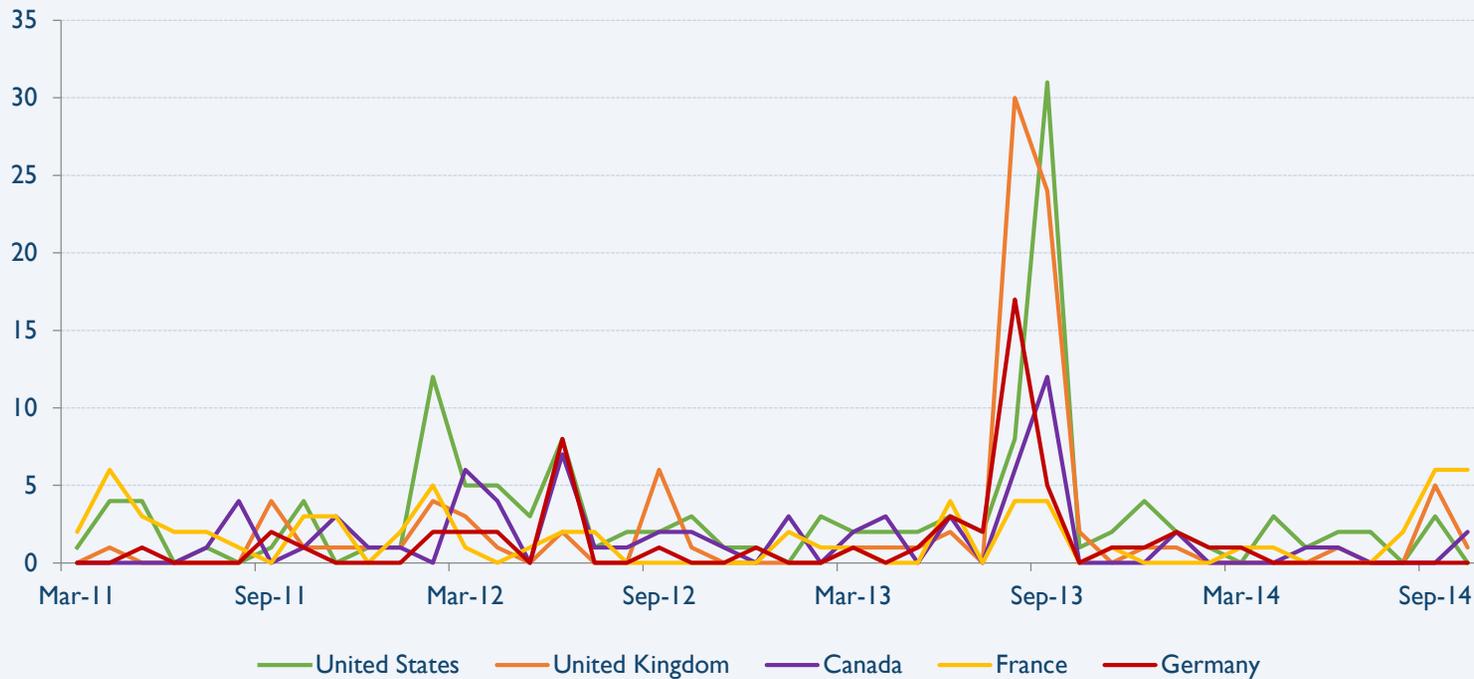Source: R2PLive.org

## METHODOLOGY

The purpose of the case study will be to analyze the flow of media reports from selected publications on responsibility to protect (R2P) violations in Libya during the Libyan Civil War and to determine whether any variation in the dissemination of media reports corresponds with increased or decreased responses from the international community in regards to the violation(s). The study employed the R2PLive advanced search tool to collect articles on R2P, R2P violations, and responses from the international community, focussing on articles from February 15th, 2011 to October 23rd, 2011. While utilizing the advanced search tool on http://r2plive.org/, three distinct tags were used to collect the data: "genocide," "responsibility to protect," and "Libya (subject)." However, the tags could not be completely relied upon as some articles overlapped or reflected the response of a journalist, not a government official.

## ANALYSIS

The study's findings uncovered a predictable trend in how governments respond to R2P violations. The immediate stages of the war correlates with a heightened response from governments and increased reporting on R2P violations and R2P in Libya. The findings of the study did not point to any instances in which countries were selectively choosing whether or not to respond to R2P violations. Thus, according to the findings, the multinational response to R2P violations in Libya was not faltering as G8 and G20 countries directly responded – whether through military or humanitarian action – to R2P violations in Libya. That said the data is far from perfect. There was a distinct lack of objective news reports on R2P violations within the R2PLive database.

# SYRIA: CIVIL WAR TO PRESENT DAY

No. of R2P-related media tagged as "Syria (Subject)" per source country
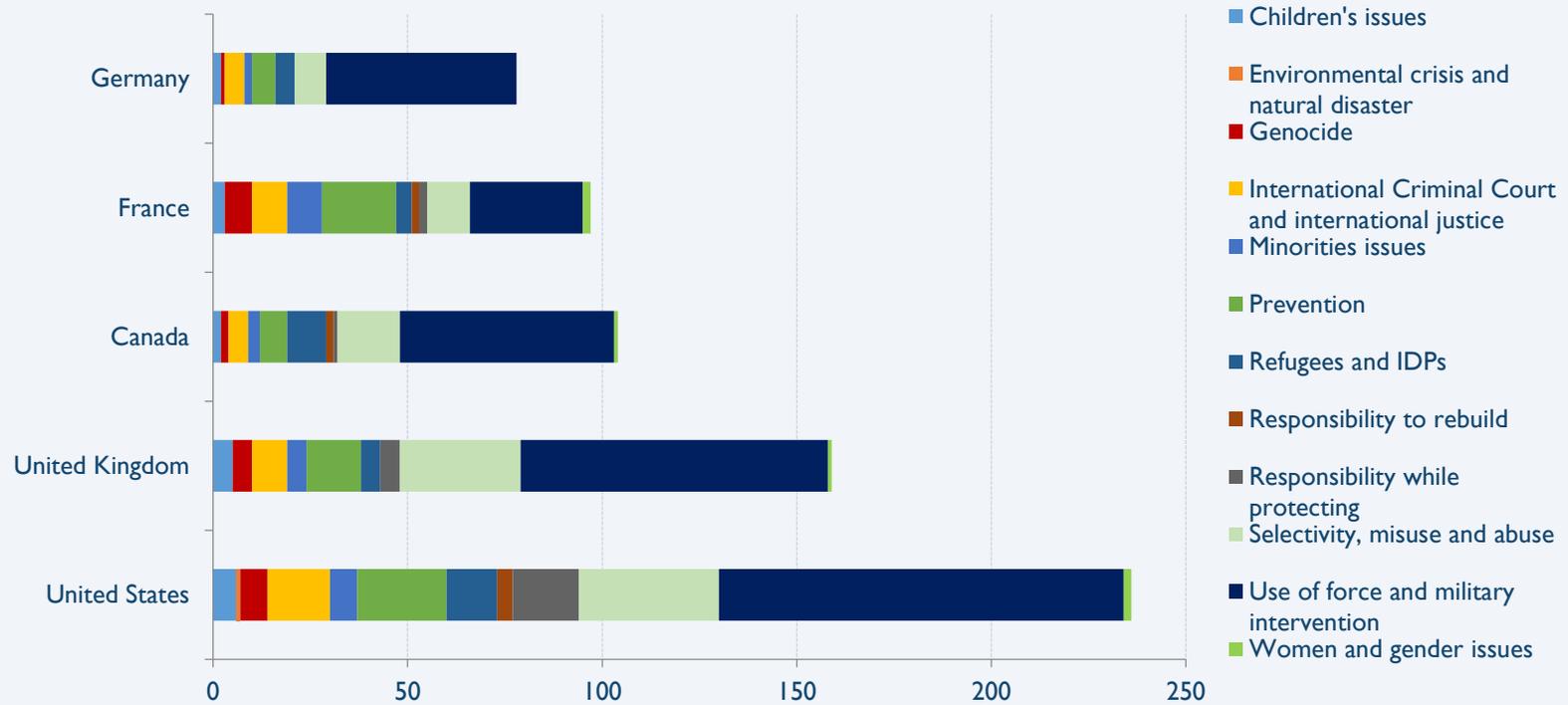


Source: R2PLive.org

The above graph attempts to display the change over time in volume of various nations' media coverage of R2P related issues as they pertain to the Syrian conflict. It is not surprising that, of these five countries, the United States and the United Kingdom consistently publish the most articles relating to R2P and the conflict. The various spikes in coverage, however, do merit explanation. The first spike near March of 2012 likely coincided with the conflict entering its second year. The second spike around June 2012 coincided with increased outcry and involvement by the European Union. During this month it condemned the violence in Syria, imposed new sanctions, and pledged funds to help refugees. The third and largest spike occurred in September 2013. This spike is likely due to the debate raging during this month amongst the G20, NATO, the United Nations Security Council, and others over the reported use of chemical weapons and the call for the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons stock.

# SYRIA: CIVIL WAR TO PRESENT DAY

No. of media tagged per theme, per source country



Legend:
- Children's issues
- Environmental crisis and natural disaster
- Genocide
- International Criminal Court and international justice
- Minorities issues
- Prevention
- Refugees and IDPs
- Responsibility to rebuild
- Responsibility while protecting
- Selectivity, misuse and abuse
- Use of force and military intervention
- Women and gender issues

Source: R2PLive.org

The above graph displays both an aggregation of the total number of articles per country as well as a breakdown of those articles by facet of R2P. While informative, the data is not surprising. The United States has published the most articles related to R2P of the countries analyzed and the use of force and military intervention was the most commonly mentioned facet of R2P for all countries.