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# Constellations of Capital: Applying Architecture's Spatial Language to Global Networks of Food, Armed Conflict, and Reverberations of Violence

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Constellations of Capital: Applying Architecture's Spatial Language to Global Networks of
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**Dedication**

This project is dedicated to the countless victims of armed conflict, forced displacement, international neglect, and the violence of global trade. To the innocence lost in Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhia, Kherson, Kharkiv, and Odesa; in Tigray, Amhara, and Afar; the boundless webwork of violence that catalyzes in the decisions of the few that reverberate across the innumerable.

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**INTRODUCTION**

The praxis of International Social Sciences (ISS) has traditionally been a field contained to academic essays and lectures, ever so often powdered with accompanying graphics illustrating relevant statistical data. The traditional limitations against applying alternative systems of thought and practice into a sector hinged upon the universal palatability of research papers has in recent years been met with an increased demand by both academic circles and through the increasingly convoluted affairs within the realm of international relations (IR).[1] The expansive political, economic, and social networks within and around global warfare often employ the metaphorization of international politics in an attempt to simplify and disentangle using familiar symbols and systems. While these are often beneficial to embedding a basic comprehension of a global dynamic across a wide audience, metaphors can perpetuate inherent bias, eliminate "less important" details from their illustration for the sake of simplicity, and lead to flawed predispositions of the actual as conditioned by its metaphorical portrayal. Common metaphors for international relations, logistical networks, and warfare complexes are found across analogies of the human body's circulatory system and other natural processes akin to the food chain; ecological comparisons that naturalize the socially constructed. In essence, the *language* we use to discuss the matters of intricate political-economic entanglements are of a far higher importance than what may be commonly thought.

Architecture, as the art and/or practice of designing and constructing buildings, offers an often overlooked array of representational devices that, as tested within this senior capstone project, prove significant in reframing geopolitical perspectives in a manner that circumvents the

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[1] Austin, Jonathan Luke, and Anna Leander. "Designing-With/In World Politics: Manifestos for an International Political Design". Political Anthropological Research on International Social Sciences (PARISS) 2.1 (2021): 83-154. https://doi.org/10.1163/25903276-bja10020 Web.

limitations of metaphorization. The physical products and results of architectural design are the built objects that facilitate and coordinate socio-political spaces, yet it is the spatially descriptive process of architectural design itself in representing built relationships that can be valuable in constructing provocative and experimental investigations of present and future spatial environments. Architectural models and drawings function as a distinct visual language, operating through a communicable and diverse language of the translation of space read or deciphered as a dimensional and material translation. Blending the borders between the actual and grounded with the conceptual and illusory into a singular impression, the language of architectural representation behaves less in the metaphorical as it does in the *magnification* or *illumination* of potential and pre-existing space, alongside the systems or ideas that these spaces introduce and/or perpetuate.

The intersection of IR theory and global politics with architecture is one that is strengthened by the mutual clarity and transparency provided by the innate relationship between the body politic and its built environment, informing one another in a cyclical operation. Where domestic, internal politics is found organized around a local municipality, geopolitics and intergovernmental diplomacy is framed by a cohesion of disconnected and autonomous urban entities. It is the often expansive territory of contemporary states that prompt a demarcation of subdivisions into subordinate administrative domains; countries partition into oblasts, provinces, and regions, while cities divide across neighborhoods, districts, and boroughs. This effectively legitimizes the cognitive equivalence of the city with the state and the state with the global, the global separable by sheer physical scale and scope and the seemingly absent presence of a singular world power and administration.

In substitution of a centralized and all-encompassing global power is the universalized and homogenized authority of capital exchange, sculpting the earth into pipelines, cables, and avenues as countries and nation-states participate as clients, vendors, consumers and producers. Economic globalization has successfully codified and embedded free market absolutism and multinational economic involvement as compulsory for the wellbeing of the nation; the divinization of GDP as a measurement of success and enforced subservience to capital executives. Interlocked and interdependent, global politics and their intertwined economic systems have arranged under neoimperialist and neocolonial frameworks; instilling and enforcing a hierarchy of dependencies and relationships that maintain a supremacy of great power agents over a body of countries disproportionately vulnerable to violence under a global network of trade fragile to disruption.

These disruptions, or *fractures* in global trade routes have escalated into catalysts for violent reverberation across countries already under dire straits. The legitimization of a global hegemony of Western powers has furthered their agency in designing the international hierarchy of countries, enacting economic determinism as a means of control in the zero-sum game of the global marketplace. Assimilation of underdeveloped countries into the global capitalist system in the ironsights of Western-led neoliberal governance has formed relationships of extraction; where the self-proclaimed projects of "modernization" has brought with it the commodification of food, medicine, and other basic necessities. Resource scarcity, economic crisis, inadequate rights to existence, and governmental corruption all under the umbrella of international dependency coalesce into bloodshed; as pawns of neo imperial powers who deem these impoverished regions as the margins of their economic objectives.

This project focuses on this tripartite: food sovereignty in the hierarchical landscape of a globalized economy, the delicate network that carries these commodified and crucial foodsorts, and the embedded interrelationship of armed conflict and war. Recomposing the spatial relationships embedded in wide-reaching geopolitical networks through architecture's spatial language of material intimacy, there emerges the opportunity to recontextualize and reorientate the ways we perceive global events by using alternative methods of information design. Centered in this project is the case of Ethiopia, Eritrea and the greater Horn of Africa, as armed conflict, famine, forced displacement, and corruption has – over the past four years – wrought the region with unprecedented violence and hostilities. Ethnic cleansing, mass starvation and hunger, and countless war crimes from the Ethiopian and Eritrean governments have submerged the Horn into gruesome conditions.[2] Amplifying this disaster, and catastrophic in itself, the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine that began in February of 2022 saw the halting of cargo transports in the Black Sea and the Russian bombing of seaports and grain elevators vital to providing the Horn of Africa with much-needed grain and cereal products.[3] The War in Tigray and the Russian Invasion of Ukraine appear at face value to be disparate situations, separated by geographic proximity, by involved parties and belligerents, and by the societal relevance they provide to international audiences. This senior project orients toward an understanding that these events, while individually facing brutalities beyond the comprehension of most individuals, are fastened

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[2] Roth, Kenneth. "Ethiopia's Invisible Ethnic Cleansing." Human Rights Watch, Foreign Affairs, 16 June 2022, www.hrw.org/news/2022/06/16/ethiopias-invisible-ethnic-cleansing.

[3] Ukrinform. "Одеське Узбережжя Обстріляли Два Кораблі Рф – Артилерія ЗСУ Відігнала Ворога." *Українське національне інформаційне агентство*, Укринформ, 21 Mar. 2022, www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-ato/3435618-odeske-uzberezza-obstrilali-dva-korabli-rf-artileria-zsu-vidignala-voroga.html.

together by an auxiliary category of violence with external actors and agents pulled and bound together by the global chassis of capital.

To approach and provide sufficient context to the case studies and the subject matters at hand, I will begin by briefly discussing the physical space and societal conditioning that has designated the state of "armed peace" within contemporary warfare dynamics; how war has historically performed as a generative process and how war seemingly operates on a distinctly more isolated basis than the past several hundred years. I will then establish the way in which warfare, security dilemmas, and their dynamics with international relations have trended away from warfare as a means of acquisition and instead have adopted an arsenal of economy-based devices. After situating the present-day conditions of economic war and the neo-imperialist strategies pervaded across global superpowers, I will introduce the cases of Ethiopia and Ukraine, the ways in which these conflicts are revealing of flawed international systems and institutions, and the reverberations of the economic bond between the two countries. Finally, I will discuss the site plan model and the ways in which it is designed to facilitate and interrogate how the operation of the global militant-economic theater functions using the spatial language of architecture.

Translating the networks that exist atop and between the states and institutions contained within these two wars requires a caveat by the ongoing nature of these conflicts. The War in Tigray, while officially ending after the signing of a peace accord in November of 2022, continues to report mass killings and occupation by Eritrean forces.[4] As for the Russian invasion of Ukraine, as of December 2023, the war continues to wage on with the rising possibility of a

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[4] "Ethiopia: Mass Killings Continue, Risk of Further 'large-Scale' Atrocities | UN News." United Nations, United Nations, 18 Sept. 2023, news.un.org/en/story/2023/09/1140872.

stalemate as the respective Ukrainian and Russian militaries further entrench themselves along a mostly unwavering frontline.[5] In observation and consideration with the fact that these conflicts continue to transpire, with aftermaths and outcomes yet to be calculable, certain, or traceable, I want to implore that even through the abundance of research, dialogues, and analysis in the aim to reach a comprehensive understanding of these conflicts, they are fractional to the on-the-ground, lived experience. War is an event that can appear easy to understand, to form opinions on, to paint black and white, and to disregard as someone that has not faced its inexplicable and traumatic consequences. This work presents a spatial strategy to untangle information that is otherwise weighed by political and financial perception; physically situating otherwise disparate spaces of conflict as one singular network. This network of accessible information, designed through exploring and situating in the ultimate goal of translating into a spatial legibility, is processed in a strategy through which other conflicts and their rippling effects might be communicated.

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[5] Dress, Brad. "Ukraine stalemate shifts war in Putin's favor." The Hill, 9 Dec. 2023, https://thehill.com/policy/defense/4350776-ukraine-stalemate-shifts-war-putin-russia/

**CHAPTER ONE: FROM MILITARY FORCE TO ECONOMIC DEPRIVATION**

*"When whole communities go to war—whole peoples, and especially civilized peoples—the reason always lies in some political situation, and the occasion is always due to some political object. War, therefore, is an act of policy."*

– Carl von Clausewitz, *On War*

To understand the place of war in today's information age, it is important to consider that, in the last hundred years, the globe has bore witness to the deadliest conflict in human history in the Second World War, the ominous and menacing threat of thermonuclear fallout during the Cold War, and the emerging mainstay of contemporary warfare that frequently faces off state actors against ad-hoc militias, guerilla groups, and terrorist organizations that span the globe. In Jens Bartelson's "Toward a Historical Ontology of War", he states: "we tend to believe that, unlike the character of war which is indefinable because it is always changing, the nature of war can be defined because it does not… war has a nature which is eternal but which at the same time takes a finite form."[6] The form of war is ever changing; whether it be technologically, strategically through methods of attack, networks of participation, expanding localities, scaling, instigation, and local to global victims.

Scholars argue today over whether war itself has trended on the decline, or that it has simply taken alternative forms that ambiguate their relativity to the great wars we name of the past.[7] The arguments that state that war is in decline often discuss the place of human nature – that our intrinsic primal impulses toward violence have become subdued or suppressed by our continual exposure to it; that we have gradually felt a lessened urge to behave in violent practices. While this may provide a partial reasoning for how war has arrived at today's abhorrent ontological position, one of the primary positive analyses of war decline is accredited to the disincentivization of engaging in war as a product of internationalism and globalization.

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[6] Bartelson, Jens. "Toward a Historical Ontology of War." War in International Thought. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2017. 1-32. Print.

[7] "Contrary to expert predictions, the United States and the Soviet Union did not launch World War III, nor have any of the great powers fought each other since the end of the Korean War in 1953. After a 600-year stretch in which Western European countries started two new wars a year, they have not started one since 1945. Nor have the 40 or so richest nations anywhere in the world engaged each other in armed conflict." Pinker, Steven. "The Decline of War and Conceptions of Human Nature." *International Studies Review 15, no. 3*. Sep. 2013. 400-405. Print.

Bartelson additionally writes, as products of human cognition reducing the incentives to wage war that we have made "[a]n infrastructure of commerce, which makes it cheaper to buy things than to plunder them and which makes other people more valuable alive than dead." furthermore that "[i]ntergovernmental organizations, which can encourage commerce, resolve disputes, keep belligerents apart, police infractions, and penalize aggression."[8] Global infrastructure. Interconnected accountability. International institutions collectively seeking the same goal of capital growth while subduing and enshrouding any and all moral and ethical "hiccups". The proposed solution to global war by means of economic integration has not acted as an elimination process against the instruments of war or the supreme moral and lawful condemnation of armed conflict (the Kellogg-Briand pact outlawed war in 1928, but it goes without saying the trajectory of the next 95 years);  but is instead a translation. Our contemporary translation of warfare and security politics has emerged as economic deterrence and, reciprocally: economic weaponization.

Since the creation of intergovernmental alliances and organizations that have amalgamated capital and military interests in the late 1940's, contemporary warfare has transformed into a mixture of economic punishment and implemented sustained structures of violence in a battle for influence rather than outright territorial expansion. This is not to say that economic strangulation of an adversary during wartime has been a new phenomenon, rather, this role of the economic target has expanded as territories and borders have become cemented and armed warfare – for the most part – has become societally deemed as uncivilized and a last resort. The era of military conquest in public view has arguably come to a close, and in its place – economic and thus political influence has reigned as the new strategy of acquiring capital while

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[8] Ibid. p.404

avoiding full-scale mobilization. While this carries true for the agents of imperialism of the past

several centuries (the United States, Russia, France, Italy, Great Britain, Spain, and the remaining

majority of Western Europe) and consequently a majority of media and news outlets, violence

and conflict continues to devastate throughout what has been considered the Third World, across

Africa and particularly, in this study, in the region known as the Horn of Africa. This eastern

peninsula of Africa consists of Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Somalia, and provides an

enormous strategic value for global players for its geographic location below the Suez Canal and

the Red Sea.

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the second most populous country in

Africa with upwards of 120 million inhabitants, has been in a seemingly endless state of violence

and conflict since the early 20th century. Narrowly avoiding colonization during the era of

imperialism by centralizing the region's vast, multiethnic territories under a post-isolationist

empire that fended off against Egyptian and Ottoman expansion, the country today is afflicted by

drought, famine, ethnic and political armed conflicts, and evidence of ethnic cleansing by its

incumbent premier, Abiy Ahmed. Elected in 2018, Abiy promised unity and prosperity

throughout the state that had been ruled by the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF) since

the party's 1991 military and political victory over the Derg – the Marxist-Leninist military

dictatorship that had ruled since 1974. Abiy was able to end the long-running territorial conflict

between Ethiopia and its smaller northern neighbor Eritrea, whom the Ethiopian government and

military had been in armed combat with since the late 1990s. Although this negotiation earned

him a Nobel Peace Prize in 2019, the optimistic harmony throughout Ethiopia and Eritrea was

short lived as the COVID-19 pandemic broke out throughout the region and led to a

postponement of parliamentary elections in 2020.

    The TPLF criticized this postponement, viewing this decision as potentially illegitimate to the Ethiopian constitution. The TPLF had decided to continue with elections in the Tigray region against the central government's will, resulting in Abiy reducing funding to the regional government and inciting anger throughout the region. Following a strike by Tigray Special Forces upon the Ethiopian National Defense Force's (ENDF) Northern Command Headquarters in the capital city of Tigray, Abiy declared a full mobilization of Ethiopia's armed forces against the TPLF – now allied with Eritrea, who share their southern border with Tigray. While international audiences were occupied with the US presidential election between Joe Biden and Donald Trump, Abiy declared a state of emergency and halt of central government services in Tigray as Ethiopian and Eritrean forces began their strikes upon the TPLF and the Tigrayan people as a whole.

    As the initial weeks of the War in Tigray went on, crucial food and humanitarian aid to the region was cut off by the Ethiopian government, including journalists and news networks who were restricted from entering the territory. Reports soon told of massacres of civilians, evidence of widespread ethnic cleansing, rape, and mass starvation as the Eritrean armed forces, Fano militias (an ethnic militia from the Amhara region of Ethiopia), the Ethiopian National Defense Force, and Ethiopia's police forces pushed through Tigray.[9] Armed with Qods Mohajer-6 UAVs from Iran, CAIG Wing Loong drones from China, and Turkish Bayraktar TB2 drones equipped with Turkish MAM-L smart munitions, the Tigrayan people were granted no

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[9] Roth, Kenneth. "Ethiopia: Crimes Against Humanity in Western Tigray Zone." *Amnesty International*, 6 Apr. 2022, https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/04/ethiopia-crimes-against-humanity-in-western-tigray-zone/

mercy as mass civilian casualties and hunger deaths exponentially increased.[10] The resulting

forced displacement and destruction of infrastructure that resulted from these strikes exacerbated

the pre-existing famine conditions that were introduced from the sequential failure of rainy

seasons in the region since 2019, as the reliance on imported foods exponentially increased.[11]

As battles in the Tigray and Amhara regions continued to unfold, 4,436 kilometers to the

north beyond the Red Sea, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Turkey, the Black Sea, in a separate continent,

another war had commenced upon Ethiopia's primary wheat and grain supplier: Ukraine.[12] This

unanticipated event would not only cut off the crucial Black Sea trade passage to the Horn,

increase the price of wheat in Africa by over 45%, and increase fertilizer prices up 300%, it

would immerse the people of the Horn of Africa directly into the pool of victims under a

Russian-led military conquest.[13]

When the full-scale invasion of Ukraine began in the early hours of February 24th, 2022,

Russian military forces simultaneously launched a ground and air campaign that spread across

Ukraine's southern, eastern, and northern borders. Video footage of drone strikes, cacophonies of

Russian shelling, and firefights emerged across the online platforms Telegram, Twitter, and

Reddit, showing that the events taking place were not in line with the "Special Military

Operation" that Vladimir Putin had announced. This was War, in contradiction to international

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[10] Bearak, Max, et al. "How Ethiopia Used a Turkish Drone in a Strike That Killed Nearly 60 Civilians." *The Washington Post*, 7 Feb. 2022, www.washingtonpost.com/world/interactive/2022/ethiopia-tigray-dedebit-drone-strike/; Telke, Tefsa-alem. "U.S. says Iran supplied Ethiopia military drones for Tigray war." *Sudan Tribune*, 19 Oct. 2022, https://sudantribune.com/article265557/; Bryen, Stephen. "US hands China a victory in Ethiopia." *Asia Times*, 6 Dec. 2021, https://asiatimes.com/2021/12/us-hands-china-a-victory-in-ethiopia/.

[11] Yibeltal, Kalkidan, et al. "Ethiopia drought: Fifty die of hunger in Tigray and Amhara amid aid freeze." *BBC News*, 23 Nov. 2023, https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-67505676

[12] Hodge, Nathan, et al. "Battle for Ukrainian capital underway as explosions seen and heard in Kyiv." *CNN*, 24 Feb. 2022, https://www.cnn.com/2022/02/24/europe/ukraine-russia-invasion-friday-intl-hnk/index.html

[13] Green, Mark. "Forty Percent of the World Food Program's Wheat Supplies Come from Ukraine." *Wilson Center*, 2 Jun. 2022, https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/forty-percent-world-food-programs-wheat-supplies-come-ukraine

law, contemporary political discourse, and increasingly-universal norms of morality.
Comprehensive, totalizing, unforgiving war that has continued to decimate and destroy innocent lives, childhoods, homes, communities, and the Ukrainian identity and culture up to today.[14]

These events of past and present are fastened together not only by its perpetrators and its victims, but—crucially for the position of this project—by the very land that Ukraine is made up of.[15] Along the northern shores of the Black Sea, Ukraine and its Crimean counterpart has been renowned for centuries for its incredibly fertile and potent agricultural makeup; a fructuous terrain ripe for cultivation of maize, sunflower products, wheat, and other cereals. Termed "The Breadbasket of Europe" following the fall of the USSR, and "The Breadbasket of the Soviet Union" in the decades prior, Ukraine's incredibly arable land has shaped it into a target of imperialist and expansionist powers who seek to acquire the very sustenance that feeds its people, its economy, and its armies. Catherine II, influenced by French Physiocrats, sought to expand the Russian Empire to encompass the rich soil of Ukraine; establishing the city of Odesa[16] and providing the economic means to propel the prospect of further Russian expansion. These Physiocrats of 18th century France, led by François Quesnay, introduced an economic theory that arguably marked the beginning of contemporary economics. A predecessor to Adam Smith's The Wealth of Nations, physiocracy upheld that land was the source of all wealth.

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[14] This senior project was submitted for publishing on December 12, 2023. As of the date of submission, Russian presence has continued in Ukraine and no ceasefire or truce has been called.

[15] Mass displacement, murder, the eradication of culture and language, and the collective trauma that has been embedded during this period is unfortunately not a new experience to the Ukrainian identity. From Catherine the Great's late 18th century expansion of the Russian Empire and subsequent Russification policies within annexed Crimea, to the Soviet era's strategic weaponization of food and engineered starvation through Stalin's Holodomor, Ukraine has been victim to the unrestrained violence of its eastern neighbor for generations.

[16] This paper uses the Ukrainian spelling of relevant locations throughout Ukraine rather than the Russian transliteration. In this case, *Odesa* is used rather than *Odessa*. The violent history of the Russification of the Ukrainian language and hence its culture is worth exploring as it provides a strong historical context to the way that language has become weaponized by Russia for centuries.

[...] But the principle of all these benefits is in agriculture, which provides the first need of material, which provides reserves to the king and to the owners, tithes to clergy, and profits to farmers. These are first wealth, always renewed, which support all the other states of the kingdom, which give the business to all other professions, which blooms the trade that favor the population, which animate the industry, which maintain prosperity of the nation (Quesnay, 1888 [1757], p. 215-216).[17]

This ideology of the supremacy of the land and its soil has become manifested from the hunter-gatherer progenitors of society to the concrete jungle of Wall Street. This economic centrality of land is what has constructed today's dynamic between the Horn of Africa and the Ukrainian breadbasket, and proves its violent consequences trump its economic yield. The minuteness of grain has evolved into the determinative political and military object that it represents today – a facilitator of survival oriented into the sphere of market values and lenses of profit. It is this particle of grain that binds these armed conflicts together; where war's structural property in designing economic networks enters a forced dialogue and synthesis with war as an episodic, armed conflict.

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[17] […] mais le principe de tous ces avantages est dans l'agriculture, qui fournit les matières de premier besoin, qui donne des réserves au roi et aux propriétaires, des dîmes au clergé, des profits aux cultivateurs. Ce sont ces premières richesses, toujours renouvelées, qui soutiennent tous les autres états du royaume, qui donnent de l'activité à toutes les autres professions, qui font fleurir le commerce, qui favorisent la population, qui animent l'industrie, qui entretiennent la prospérité de la nation (Quesnay, 1886 [1757], p. 215-216).
https://www.anpec.org.br/encontro/2015/submissao/files_I/i1-a2ad21c2db0ad0dec204bea186d63de4.pdf

**CHAPTER TWO: THE BLOCKADE, THE BREADBASKET, AND THE BATTLEFIELD**

In the months following the Russian invasion, missile strikes and drone attacks further dismembered the infrastructural network of Ukraine's grain industry. Recurring precision bombings of ports on the Black Sea destroyed thousands of tons of grain in storage, export infrastructure, and grain terminals.[18] The Russian Federation's blockade and destruction of Ukrainian seaports and the prevented navigation throughout the Black Sea had immediately cast global consequences to the world food supply; the drastic drop in exports from Ukraine to the Global South and Europe furthering food insecurity. Prior to the war, Ukraine was one of the top agricultural exporters in the world, providing 50% of the world's sunflower oil, 12% of the world's wheat, and 16% of the world's maize according to the International Grains Council.[19] As of May 2022, 25 million tons of grain had been trapped and unable to be processed and exported.[20] In an attempt to recover and revive this transportation network that had now lost its primary access route from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean, the United Nations alongside Turkey, Ukraine, and Russia organized a joint agreement known as the Black Sea Grain Initiative. This coordinated settlement between neighboring countries came to fruition in mid-July of 2022, in consideration that the World Food Programme (WFP) had sourced 40% of

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[18] Harmash, Olena, et al. "Russian attack damages Chornomorsk port grain infrastructure, destroys grain - Kyiv." *Reuters*, 19 Jul. 2023 https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russian-attack-damages-chornomorsk-port-grain-infrastructure-destroys-grain-kyiv-2023-07-19/; "Russia bombards Ukrainian grain port Odesa." *Al Jazeera*, 6 Nov 2023. https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/11/6/russian-aerial-attack-damages-odesa-national-art-museum#:~:text=The%20attacks%20injured%20at%20least,designed%20kamikaze%20unmanned%20aerial%20vehicle.
[19] "Infographic - How the Russian invasion of Ukraine has further aggravated the global food crisis." *International Grains Council,* Council of the European Union. 23 Oct. 2023, https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/infographics/how-the-russian-invasion-of-ukraine-has-further-aggravated-the-global-food-crisis/
[20] Farge, Emma. "Nearly 25 million tonnes of grain stuck in Ukraine, says UN food agency." *Reuters*, 6 May. 2022, https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/nearly-25-mln-tonnes-grain-stuck-ukraine-un-food-agency-2022-05-06/

its wheat for emergency food relief from Ukraine.[21] Somalia, Sri Lanka, Moldova, South Sudan, Yemen, and Afghanistan are just a few countries whose pre-existing food security instability had reached dangerous and emergency levels following the disastrous conditions of a fragmented food supply network.

The Black Sea Grain Initiative had, for the most part, appeared as a light on the horizon for those displaced and hungry in the Tigray region. However, the international community had maintained a blind eye to properly addressing the continued atrocities the Ethiopian government had been committing as the Tigray War entered its twenty-third month of continued conflict. Internet access was cut off in northern Tigray, successfully eliminating communications between human rights organizations and humanitarian aid distribution.[22] Although an official ceasefire came to actualization on the 4th of November, 2022, that seemingly brought a close to the war, this had been more so of a formality than a proper end to the violence. The ethnic cleansing campaign against the Tigrayan people, killings of detainees, torture, disappearances, and forced expulsions saw no break in momentum.[23] The Ethiopian government and its Eritrean ally, encircling Tigray, continued to cut off and blockade arriving grain packages provided through the Black Sea Grain Initiative.[24]

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[21] Harter, Fred. "'Marching towards starvation': UN warns of hell on earth if Ukraine war goes on." *The Guardian*, 17 Jun. 2022, https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/jun/17/united-nations-wfp-hell-on-earth-ukraine-war-russia

[22] Keaten, Jamey, et al. "Ethiopia hosts UN internet meeting after cutting off Tigray." *Associated Press*, 12 Nov. 2022, https://apnews.com/article/technology-africa-internet-access-ethiopia-abiy-ahmed-4370e0a6ee0c7a30c128b7bc50d70a5c

[23] "Ethiopia: Ethnic Cleansing Persists Under Tigray Truce." *Human Rights Watch*, 1 Jun. 2023, https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/06/01/ethiopia-ethnic-cleansing-persists-under-tigray-truce

[24] "Ethiopia's Tigray still awaiting humanitarian aid, agencies say." *Al Jazeera*, 11 Nov. 2022, https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/11/11/ethiopias-tigray-still-awaiting-aid-agencies-say-as-u-s-urges-immediate-help

The culmination of these events—the continued resource deprivation and ethnic cleansing of Tigray, the Black Sea Grain Initiative's sustained inability to ameliorate famine conditions and its subsequent suspension, and the further escalation of Russia's invasion and destruction of Ukrainian export infrastructure—arrived in March of 2023, where the United States and United Nations suspended its food aid to the country after discovering enormous theft of grain shipments into the country that had supported one-sixth of the population.[25] Unfortunately, it was not long before the Black Sea Grain Initiative had reached the end of its third term, and expired in July of 2023 due to Vladimir Putin's refusal to sign and renew the deal.[26] This refusal arose from accusations of the west of importing a majority of the Grain Initiative's packages rather than the promise of prioritizing countries in the Global South, as well as claiming that Russia's own exports had not been met under the sanctions imposed by the EU and US.[27] In the months prior, under the continued dangers posed against transportation vessels crossing through the Black Sea, the European Commission, the United Nations, and NATO worked with Ukraine to form new land routes to drive or rail grain packages through infrastructure networks in Ukraine's eastern neighboring countries. This redirection of grain shipments, however, had unintended consequences as supply gluts of grain in Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and Bulgaria generated

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[25] "UN agency investigating humanitarian food theft in Ethiopia." *Associated Press*, 11 Apr. 2023, https://apnews.com/article/ethiopia-un-wfp-food-theft-investigation-c6fa95e3f81f4f8867376a2221a41370

[26] Picheta, Rob, et al. "Russia pulls out of Ukraine grain deal, in potential blow to global food supplies." *CNN World*, 17 Jul. 2023, https://www.cnn.com/2023/07/17/europe/russia-ukraine-grain-deal-intl/index.html

[27] The Editorial Board, "How to Defeat Putin's Grain Blockade." *Bloomberg*, 27 Jul. 2023, https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2023-07-27/how-to-defeat-russia-s-black-sea-grain-blockade?in_source=embedded-checkout-banner&embedded-checkout=true

protest and uproar over the inability of local farmers to sell their own crops, undercut by Ukrainian prices.[28]

The actions of Russia's retraction from the grain deal, the Polish and Bulgarian farmer's blockade of cargo routes in and out of Ukraine, and the Ethiopian government's corrupt thievery of international humanitarian and food aid to Tigray can not be equated moralistically – but they do exist on the same grounds of the economic objective that systematizes their values into the same capital desire. The linkage of economic institutions to the means and resources of survival–collectively vulnerable to the advent of war and armed conflict–is an interrelationship that does not exist as an accident or fault in the designed capital framework; it is a hallmark of it. Violence across collectives of people is believed to perform as a means to an end, and yet violence has become this very end; violent practices in the aim of "peaceful" results perpetuate their own processes as capitalist projects duplicate themselves across scales and spaces.

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[28] Kijewski, Leonie, et al. "Eastern EU countries strike deal with Commission to clear Ukrainian grain glut." *Politico*, 28 Apr. 2023 https://www.politico.eu/article/eastern-europe-poland-deal-with-eu-clear-ukrainian-grain-glut/; Petrova, Valentina, et al. "Farmers across Bulgaria protest against Ukrainian grain as EU divide grows." *Associated Press*, 18 Sep. 2023. https://apnews.com/article/bulgaria-farmer-protests-ukraine-grain-3d27f995ab9156ca72666c5cf8c336b9; Arhirova, Hanna, et. al, "Polish truck drivers are blocking the border with Ukraine. It's hurting on the battlefield." *Associated Press*, 9 Dec. 2023. https://apnews.com/article/poland-ukraine-border-protest-truckers-lines-cbb2524630fdefcd4f58718d3a04d16a

**CHAPTER THREE: INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE AND A TEST OF THE SYSTEM**

In an era where ground warfare has become one of the least viable methods and means of acquisition, control, and public image, the Russian invasion into Ukraine was an immediate shock to global audiences. For the Russian Federation, a permanent member of the UN Security Council, whose entire self-proclaimed purpose, task, and responsibility is to the "maintenance of international peace and security," to mobilize and initiate a massive attack upon a sovereign post-soviet nation-state in the name of "Denazification" is an action of absolute contradiction to the integrity and trust of an international organization entirely intended to uphold peace.[29] As stated earlier, war as an armed conflict between state actors has become increasingly less common and illegitimate as an extension of politics. When the spoils of war can often be acquired in "cleaner" ways through means of the economic, the common societal comprehension of full-scale warfare has grown increasingly synonymous with the tendencies of the "uncivilized".[30] This additionally can perform as an invalidator of sympathy for actors in contemporary armed conflicts as they have become embedded in the view of what are declared as underdeveloped or third world nations (a la the conflicts of Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Syria, and Afghanistan). Civil wars generated from political or religious ideologies, ethnic tensions, and

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[29] The United Nations Security Council's website directly states that: "The Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote. Under the Charter of the United Nations, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions." https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/; The term "Denazification" was used in a public address from Russian president Vladimir Putin on February 24, 2022 in declaration of the "Special Military Operation" that was taking place in the Russian borderlands of Ukraine. http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/67843

[30] "The demoralization of war, the disappearance of the ethic of the warrior, a return of the wild into culture, of the primitive into civilization, a resurgence of archaic death drives… When it comes to internal conflicts, tearing apart spectral States, we never cease to pick out litanies and complaints about these 'savages' who do not even know how to fight properly, and destroy the past honour of the warrior with pillage and rape, sackings and raids." Gros, Frédéric. *States of Violence: An Essay on the End of War*, Seagull Books. pp. 266

military dictatorships have been, in many ways, organized and categorized as separate from wars involving the "first-world" or the "developed".[31]

These wars have raged on continuously and globally since the period of colonial disintegration that dominated the late 1940's and 1950's, but have in essence become forced into the peripheries of Western-centric values and concerns as they have become "absolved" of involvement in violent circumstances that they hold strong historical ties to. Now that an identifiable, all-familiar actor the magnitude of a global superpower has instigated a war that aims to rearrange its borders with a neighboring country, the international response both present and in the near future is of extraordinary value in setting the norm of global reaction to an unquestionably criminal and unwarranted act of war.[32]

It is valuable to briefly discuss the variety of present conditions that have made an interstate war of this caliber an arguably unthinkable occurrence. There are three primary reasons for the deterioration of legitimacy in engaging or commencing international warfare in the contemporary age: nuclear deterrence, validity of justification and the re-framing of war as a strategy of self defense, and economic interdependence between global players. The role of nuclear bombs has been the central factor that formed the US NATO nuclear umbrella that has successfully centralized the United States' nuclear arsenal and military dominance throughout its European partnerships. The socially-constructed fear and threat that nukes have played over the last several decades following the fall of the Iron Curtain have transformed the state security

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[31] "...we perceive a little racism and a whole lot of ethnocentrism in reading our history and that of others in this way: horrifying us with their 'dirty' wild and degenerate wars, as though we could, *as Europeans, as Westerners,* glory in our clean, civilized, courteous conflicts, and proudly proclaim the nobility of the brutalities we commit." Ibid. pp. 266

[32] "Russia's invasion of Ukraine violates Article 2(4) of the U.N. Charter, which prohibits the use of force against the territorial integrity of another state. Russian President Vladimir Putin cloaked Russia's military action in legal justifications during his speech on Feb. 24." Brunk, Ingrid. "International Law and the Russian Invasion of Ukraine." *Lawfare*, 25 Feb. 2022, https://www.lawfaremedia.org/article/international-law-and-russian-invasion-ukraine.

complex into a dynamic of *preparation* and *readiness* by consistently pouring funds into military and surveillance projects, rather than applying or amplifying these resources when global conditions or circumstances call for them. Justification of warfare has also become an increasingly stretched and obstacle-ridden path for potential warmongers, as the framing of war and mobilizations have become more and more difficult to rally support when not using victimization rhetoric as a crux for military action.[33] Finally, echoing Bartelson's earlier statement: economic interdependence between nation-states have made the initiation of war upon another nation-state immediately detrimental to the instigator's economy as financial exclusion often brings with it greater consequences than the potential rewards of military action.

As for the Russian Invasion of Ukraine, as I write this on its twenty-first month of the full-scale invasion and almost ten years since the illegal 2014 annexation of the Crimean Peninsula, it is apparent that the global consequence of interstate war led by a major economic and political player is yet to show serious effects against this Russian aggressor. Europe continues to purchase upwards of 45% of its energy and gas from Russian petroleum corporations, donor and aid fatigue appears on the rise as internal disputes have begun under the shadow of the 2024 US presidential election, and it appears that Russia has yet to face adequate punishments to compel them to withdraw or withhold their military activity in Ukraine.[34]

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[33] "A war called unjust is not, to paraphrase Hobbes, a war misliked; it is a war misliked for particular reasons, and anyone making the charge is required to provide particular sorts of evidence. Similarly, if I claim that I am fighting justly, I must also claim that I was attacked ("put to it," as the Melíans were), or threatened with attack, or that I am coming to the aid of a victim of someone else's attack." *Walzer, Michael*. "Just and Unjust Wars: A Moral Argument with Historical Illustrations." *Basic Books*, 2006, pp. 12

[34] Pécout, Adrien. "Europe has increased its imports of Russian gas by sea, regardless of the war in Ukraine." *Le Monde*, 13 Sep. 2023, https://www.lemonde.fr/en/energies/article/2023/09/13/despite-the-war-in-ukraine-europe-has-increased-its-imports-of-russian-natural-gas-by-sea_6133777_98.html.

Russia's expulsion from the SWIFT financial transaction processing system was one of the first sanctions to have been implemented following their February invasion, crippling the economic capability and maneuverability of the Russian Federation as international organizations began the process of economically punishing them.[35] The collapse of the Russian ruble, and unprecedented sanctions against Russian energy imports are still seemingly unable to make long-lasting disturbances to the Russian economy to disincentivize the continuation of the war. Military aid, on the other hand, has proven to be the central instrument of international aid for Ukraine, providing much-needed defense technologies, armaments, ammunition, training, and surveillance support for the Ukrainian defenders.[36] This has organized a societal and cultural debate over the role of involvement in supplying Ukraine with arms under the threat of a potential full-scale involvement and declaration of war that could lead toward the conceptualized "World War 3" that has become a fear instilled since the Cold War.[37] The trajectory of the next several months of the war will prove vital in setting the global standard of peacekeeping, or else wars of this nature are sure to continue.

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[35] Zorthian, Julia. "Here's What the New, Tightened SWIFT Sanctions on Russian Banks Actually Do." *Time Magazine*, 2 Mar. 2022, https://time.com/6153951/swift-sanctions-russia/.

[36] The United States have been the largest military assistance donor since the war's beginning in 2022, committing over 47 billion dollars worth as of December 6, 2023. "U.S. Security Cooperation with Ukraine." *U.S. Department of State*, 6 Dec. 2023, https://www.state.gov/u-s-security-cooperation-with-ukraine/#:~:text=To%20date%2C%20we%20have%20provided,invasion%20of%20Ukraine%20in%202014; The European Union have additionally provided a collective total of 91 billion which includes humanitarian aid, emergency assistance, and crisis response funding. "EU Assistance to Ukraine (in U.S. Dollars)." *Delegation of the European Union to the United States of America*, 17 Nov. 2023, https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/united-states-america/eu-assistance-ukraine-us-dollars_en?s=253

[37] Sforza, Lauren. "Nearly half in new survey say US spending too much on Ukraine aid." *The Hill,* 11 Dec. 2023, https://thehill.com/policy/international/4353436-us-spending-ukraine-aid-poll/

**CHAPTER FOUR: TRANSLATING INTO A SPATIAL LANGUAGE**

*Constellations of Capital: Applying Architecture's Spatial Language to Global Networks of Food, Armed Conflict, and Reverberations of Violence* adopts and instrumentalizes a common and conventional spatial tool of architecture: the site plan. Often an essential module of past and present design processes, the site plan is organized around actualizing a proposed structure or space within a defined spatial context. Architectural design, in its common application, places a near-equal value on how a building interacts with its surroundings as much as it values the spatial dialogues contained by its enclosed environment. The site plan operates by registering this context as a fixed and abbreviated dimension of space, while indicating a focal point through a spectrum–or *hierarchy*–of resolution and definition. Surrounding structures become reductions of their physical form; diluting their detail, character, and composition through spatially paraphrasing into a generalized silhouette. Neighboring buildings will often become homogeneous in color and material, ornament becomes flattened and absorbed into its facade, subtle and gentle curves become tapered edges. Their purpose is not to draw attention from the true, centralized structure at hand, but instead to exist as objects relative purely by proximity. They are the static noise whose cavities become optimistic prospects to the hopeful architect; another step closer in the spatial argument that reasons and converses with a determined locale.

As for the approach toward manipulating this technical norm of the site plan, *Constellations* positions specific and particular buildings in the site with named addresses and real-world locations. At a scale of 1:1500, each structure in the model depicts existing places throughout the various territories ranging from Tehran to Paris, Boston to Mariupol, and Moscow to Beijing. In this procedure, the blurred and extracted form of present structures contributes to a combative duality of specificity and massing, intending to evoke a variable perception of the model dependent upon the distance between the viewer. From ten feet away, the site appears to

be reflective of the urban metropole, consisting of distinct skylines, the presumption of high-density "downtown" districts and low-density suburban conglomerates. As the viewer approaches the model, their field of view dominated by the urban mass that it presents, a new reading of space is formed by the distinction between territories and the now-visible spatial relationships between them.

Proximity defines the inclusion and relevance of a site plan's context, highlighting and emphasizing the way a building behaves as an interruption to the present conditions of its adjacencies. The significant value of physical proximity and closeness that is materialized through the site plan is one that coordinates across almost all facets of political and social exchange. From cybersecurity and global surveillance systems determining potential vulnerabilities and the avenues by which foreign threats are capable of penetrating, to the ominous threat of thermonuclear war instituting the construction of extraterritorial launch sites along the periphery of the state; an awareness of the proximate "other" has facilitated what we know presently as geopolitics. Spatializing in opposition against the disparate nature of international political *action* and its subsequent *consequence*, the model presents a built environment that dislodges fractions of urban fabrics from the home territories of international players and situates them in a shared abstraction. The genesis of a spatial legibility and physically intimate relationship between these spaces coordinates a new, alternative cognition of this network of actors that operate in seemingly distant locations.

The objective of *Constellations of Capital* is to form a built environment that compounds the global participants of the Russian invasion of Ukraine through a process of conglomerating and territorializing the multitude of intertwined economic, political, and violent networks into the architectural site plan. As a project that aims to map sites and objects of violence, of financial

gains and losses, and the resulting humanitarian complex, the produced networks of exchange between agents transcend the physical boundaries of their home institution and travel through sophisticated webs of infrastructure. This infrastructure is the crux of this project as it is to its dependents – as mobilizers of capital, (synonymously) as arteries of foodsorts and sustenance, and as nexuses of lethal weapons and ammunition.

Eliminating the illusive comprehension that physical distance between global players and peoples makes them disparate, the spatial language of architectural representation becomes an opportunity to reestablish and redefine the legibility of relationships between the specific operators that have instigated, profited, and most importantly fallen victim to the violence of neo imperialist protocols produced by global capitalism. Uprooted and extracted from their home countries and territories, a capriccio of built environments across the globe form into an amorphous organism-like body of buildings united and equalized by political relationships, economic dependencies, and the reverberations of interstate war. The product of this application of the architectural onto landscapes of geopolitical networks results in a cityscape that forms its own artificial geography; a geography formed not under nature's indiscriminate and indifferent hands but one shaped by the institutions that spawned from and weaponized it. Working outside of actual spatial boundaries to show a political network that is precipitated by the spatial, the model portrays a new map of the existing network that equalizes political partnerships with the physical.
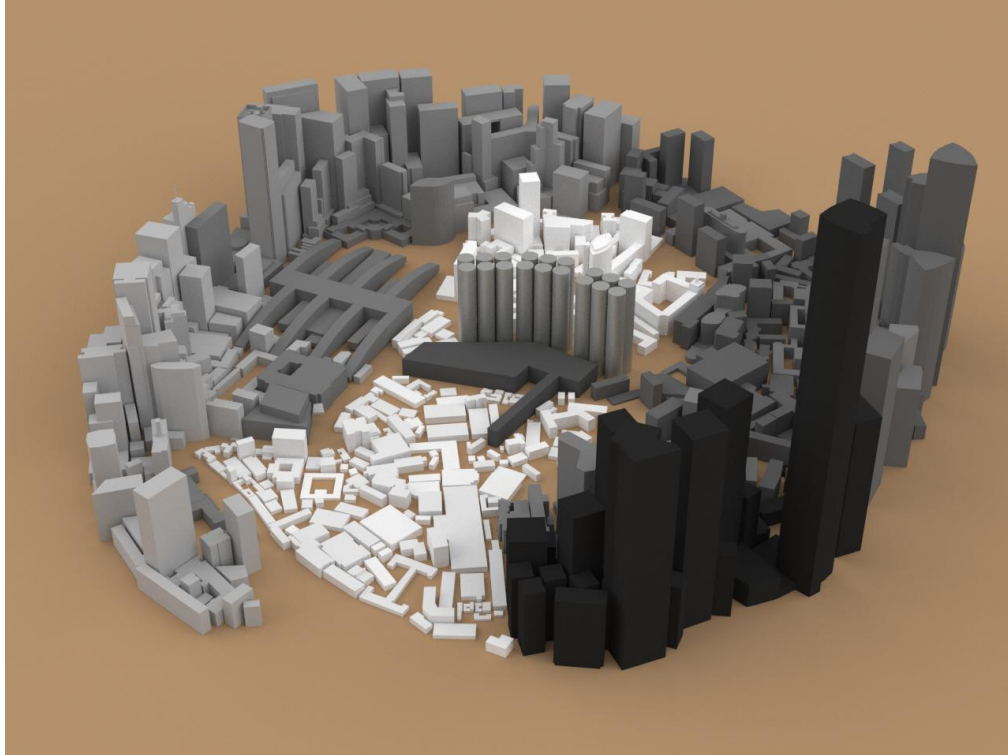
Image: Digital Site Rendition of *Constellations*

The model presents groups of buildings and spaces belonging to the respective territories of Ukraine, the Horn of Africa, Russia, the United States, the European Union and the United Kingdom, Russia, Iran, and China. Adopting slightly different shades of gray to designate the subtle nature of their material contrast from one another, their identity becomes lost in the midst of the broader built environment. In the sites where these regions overlap, relationships are drawn as merged sectors of their economic, political, or military bindings. Within these territories, agents and specific institutional actors are situated in accordance with their real-world location. These institutions range from China's *Norinco* arms manufacturing company supplying ammunition and armor to the Russian army, *Wagner PMC*'s involvement in the Russian invasion, the *International Monetary Fund* providing loans to Ukraine and the Horn of Africa, *Lockheed Martin* in supplying the Ukrainian armed forces with armaments while restocking their arms

supply with aid money, to Iran's *HESA* (Iran Aircraft Manufacturing Industries Corporation) who have provided Shahed drones to Russia since the start of the war.
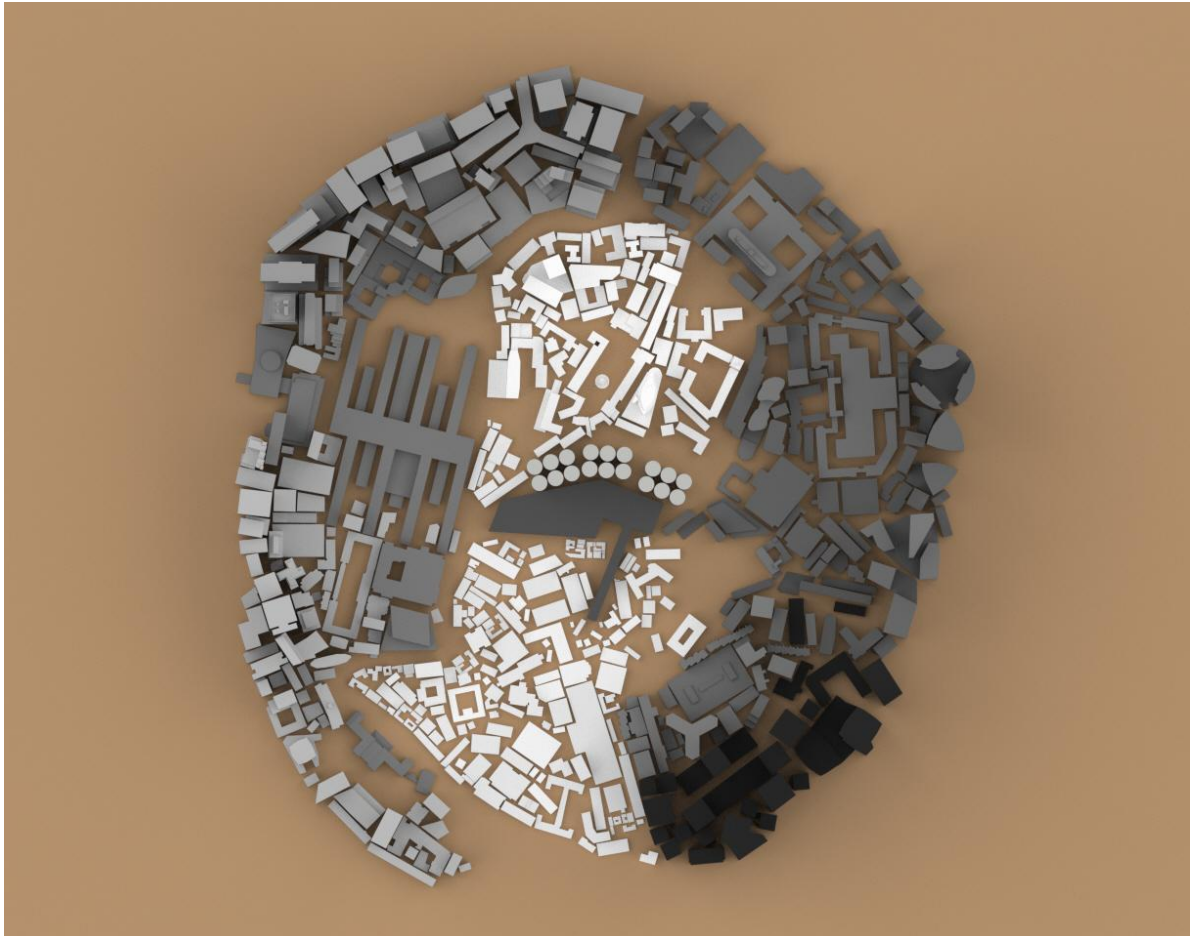


Image: Top Down Digital Site Rendition of *Constellations*

The process of territorializing and turning spatially a graphic dataset built upon political relationships essentially makes the site plan a venn-diagram that has been translated and transformed into an architectural object. The organizational parameters that have defined its final form is one that disembarks from the geographical; where these regions become shaped into imperfect and asymmetrical smudges of buildings. The only region that does not follow this unstructured composition is the Horn of Africa itself, whose geographic centrality and enclosure

by surrounding territories acts as an opposing characteristic of its marginalization by global powers.

Central to the actualization of the model is the installation of a multiplicity of potential readings; upholding at its forefront the transparency of legibility in spatializing factual political and economic relationships. The model's immediate presentation evokes an interpretation of the urban environment; a metropole of disfigured and displaced structures that are brought together by what appears to be an organic or naturally-occurring phenomenon. The clarity of the city grid is sacrificed and usurped by the aggressive nature of randomosity in the built environment, drawing contrast to the coded and digestible fluidity of contemporary cities. Buildings are situated wildly within their territorial boundaries, surpassing these borders at times and alluding to the absence of intentional planning or plotting. Viewing the devices of the global network as a system that acts in a performed contradiction between its parts—the built, capital-demanding towers, skyscrapers, and municipal buildings—and its whole—the sum of these parts as situated haphazardly, unplanned, and unable to offer the convincing infrastructural makeup that legitimizes the site as a livable city. It brings to question the place of this location in the real world and if that conceptualization can find legitimacy; its urban makeup dissectible into the physical world.

As the title suggests, *Constellations of Capital* refers to the data-linking process of astronomy. A constellation, by definition, labels and categorizes "an assemblage, collection, or group of usually related persons, qualities, or things."[38] Typically applied to the named groupings of stars that form conspicuous configurations in the sky, this system of classification determines

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[38] According to Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary, "Constellation" is defined as "an assemblage, collection, or group of usually related persons, qualities, or things," or "the configuration of stars especially at one's birth".

the collected bodies of particulates by their proximate relationship to each other. While functioning as individual agents and disjunctive particles, the human eye's natural pattern-seeking inclination assorts these granular entities into a united image, linked together by forming artificial chains in the existing negative space between them. Applying this thinking to the realm of global politics and networks does induce the same metaphorical complications as stated earlier, however, the dual definition of the constellation outside of the space of astronomy can be applied by its capacity to identify assemblages.

Reading the site model as, instead, a constellation of urban entities, institutions, and territories, rather than as a comprehensive urban body, can become integral to the evaluation of geopolitical networks as a socially constructed form symbiotic with the built environment. The clustering effect of the city forwards a sense of claustrophobia, unnerving by the organic nature of its artificiality. War becomes a gravitational device, absorbing surrounding bodies indiscriminately through a physical web of infrastructural relationships. This grouping effect that binds together the spatial territory of the Horn of Africa to Ukraine is spawned by their relationship being one of asymmetrical dependency and consequently the collateral violence that has become physically intimate.

The phenomena of war exists within a global framework that both introduces and amplifies violence through pre-existing cables of inequality, aimed toward neo-colonized bodies and disproportionately harming societies that exist on the margins of great power countries and their influence. The advent of multinational government institutions and global overarching economic powerhouses promised interdependent and interlocked global networks as a deterrent to future interstate war; stabilizing diplomatic relationships through mutual economic and political reliance. The events of the past three years themselves have proved the inadequacy of

interdependence as a viable device of peacekeeping, as colonial and imperialist operators continue along neo colonial and neo imperialist paths simply applying a new and palatable toolset of organizing and upholding hegemony.

**CHAPTER FIVE: EPILOGUE**

In reflecting on this project and the past year of research, enrolling in courses about approaching Ukraine within a decolonial lens, exploring the place of war in contemporary society and its potential for abolition, and finding methods and opportunities by which the spatial and situating aspects of architecture can be brought into geopolitical discourse, it had become apparent the question of attempting and designing an object of apolitical nature without the weight of a certain political position. Scouring online databases and news websites to explore a series of subject matters in a location essentially unrelated to me was a process I had never experienced before or honestly cared to involve myself with. It can quickly become a depressive experience, researching and engaging with a brutal material reality that you are, in essence, incapable of helping or making change to. The sea of misinformation, of biased articles and inhumane descriptions of real-world victims by economists, reporters, and politicians that discuss the matters of mass violence, starvation, and war in a lens dissociated from the recognition of humanity.

The process of reducing and concentrating the focus of the project became more and more difficult as the consequences of the war in Ukraine broadened; from the increase of gas prices in the US leading towards a series of deaths of people living in their cars unable to keep the heating on in wintertime, to the enormous Ukrainian diaspora as a result of the war's forced migration toward neighboring countries. I had begun to understand the overwhelming nature of global politics and the point by which regression appeared desirable. It became an experience of what it was to be a citizen and civilian in a world built from violence and actively perpetuating it; spending hours upon hours just to find the minute sense of logic behind Putin's invasion or by Abiy Ahmed's feud with the Tigrayan people. Becoming absorbed into the information sphere of contemporary warfare, its politics, and its economics, becomes a process that reconstructs

individual values and priorities. I had often entered chats with my project advisor just to try and comprehend how extremely opposite my own life is to those who can not sleep safely at night, whose families are permanently fractured or lost by their sheer vicinity to war. My appreciation of architecture entered a fog; I could not imagine taking myself seriously in discussing the way that a skyscraper "opens up to the public" or "represents X or Y" while sitting idle to the fact that armed conflict and bloodshed occurs at this very moment.

Making this feeling legible and evoking the shared precariousness with a global population was valuable when forming an accessible network of information using architectural methods. At the heart of this project is the goal to translate the dysfunction, the violence, the intertwined webwork of capitalist greed, the commodified particle of grain that has left hundreds of thousands on the brink of survival, and the instigators of war into one composition. The model I've produced is an attempt to make legible the overwhelming, violent rabbit hole that is global politics and its participants. As these conflicts continue and systemic injustices on a global scale further allow the success of warmongers and murderous institutions, it is a more valuable time than ever to present this information for what it truly is and in the most legible fashion – not manipulated by political objectives or deemed irrelevant by distance.

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