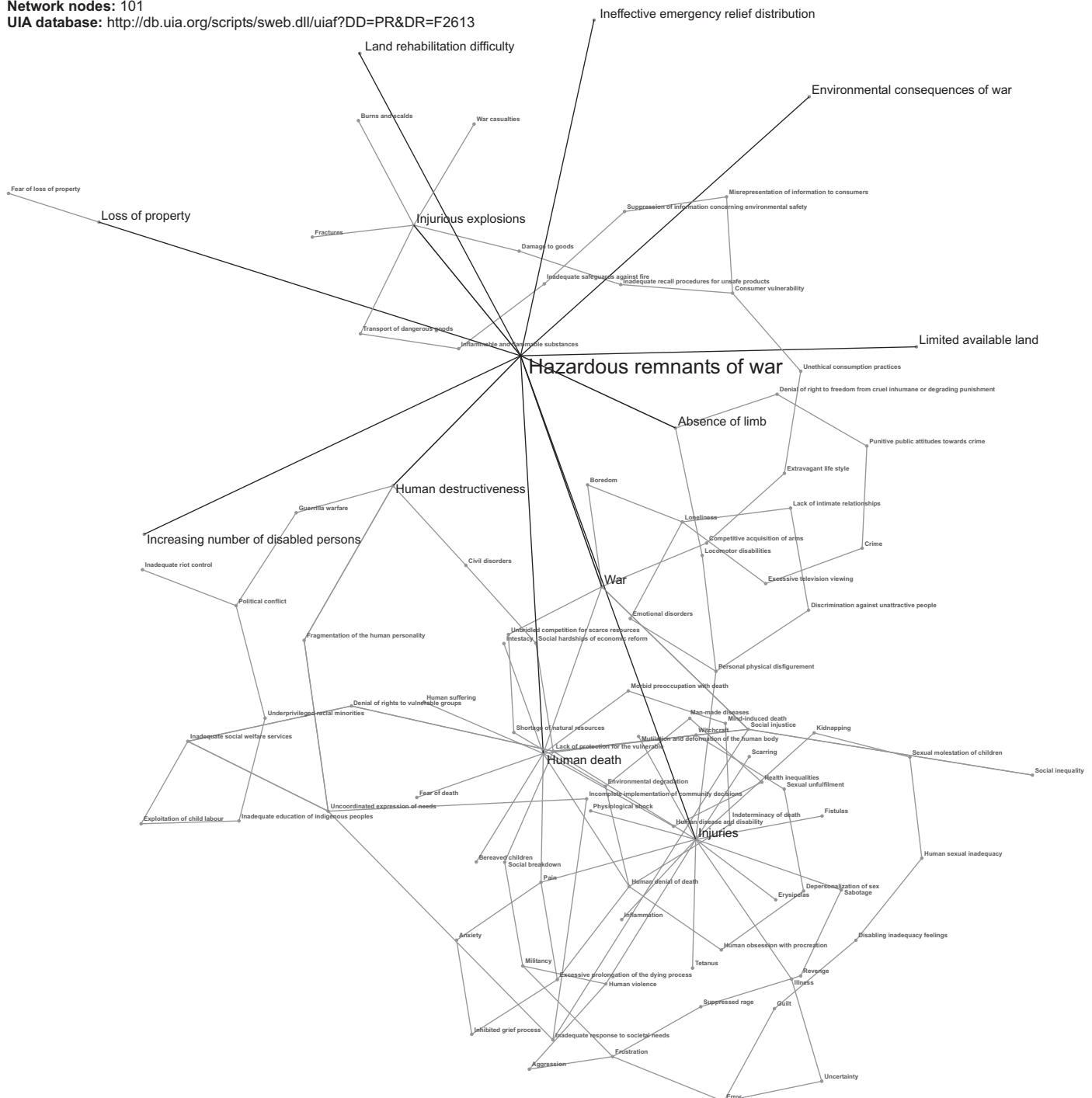


**Figure 10.1.2.12.**  
**Hazardous remnants of war**

**Link type:** aggravates problems

**UIA database:** <http://www.iaa.uva.nl>

**UIA database:** <http://db.uia.org/scripts/sweb.dll/uiaf?DD=PR&DR=F2613>



**E**xplosive devices engineered to detonate by pressure on contact or by proximity are used as antitank, antipersonnel and antivehicle weapons. They may be employed by regular military forces, by guerrillas, by terrorists, by saboteurs or by criminals. In large numbers, such land or naval mines afford the opportunity that one or more will escape detection and minesweeping removal actions. Such derelict naval mines, fixed or floating free, remain a threat to ships at sea or coming into ports. Unremoved land mines are a hazard to any vehicles, persons, livestock or single animals in the vicinity. Land mines made their first appearance (together with poison gas) in World War I, when Germans buried fused artillery shells to counter allied tank offensives. In the 1920s, the use of chemical weapons was successfully outlawed, in part because belligerents had a mutual interest in respecting the ban. By contrast, landmines were less obviously horrifying, easier to use than chemical weapons, and had the tactical benefit of forcing tanks into narrow passages that had been swept of mines. Soon, light, easy-to-handle explosives made possible anti-personnel bombs that could be detonated by a footfall.