Introduction: Our project aims to characterize the relationship between conflict, cooperation and refugeeism across global regions. Specifically, we address questions surrounding genocide, the degree of cooperation and conflict over time, and the relationship between these factors and the numbers of refugees. Focusing on major events, we look at the Cambodian genocide starting in 1975, Rwandan genocide in 1994 and the Darfur genocide in 2003. Data: In order to address these questions, we examine two publicly-available sources of big data, the Global Database of Events, Language and Tone (GDELT - http://www.gdeltproject.org/) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR - http://popstats.unhcr.org) population data. The GDELT data are a rich source of real-time data from multiple news sources collected by the Google Jigsaw Project (https://jigsaw.google.com/), and captures detailed information on the amount of conflict and cooperation over time and regionally. The UNHCR data tracks refugee migration by country and time period. Results: We found that the numbers of refugees increases during periods of genocide and follows a polynomial trend. Moreover, this is consistent across Rwanda and Sudan. We also identified the importance of considering and adjusting for the mechanisms for data collection. Specifically, we uncovered the potential for confounding effects of historical shifts in the analysis of observational data over long periods of time. Conclusions: Similar trends in refugee patterns post-genocide are observed across global regions. Drawing conclusions about the relationship between genocide and the degrees of conflict and cooperation requires careful attention to the potential for confounding by time in the GDELT data resource.