

Are there Universal Causes and Strategies for the Prevention of Violence?

Yaneer Bar-Yam

President, New England Complex Systems Institute

Increasing global connectivity implies that the risk environment everywhere is tied to local events anywhere. I will review our analyses of revolutions and ethnic violence driven by economic factors such as changing food prices triggered by the financial crisis, ethnic conflict, as well as the consequences of revolution in social disruption [1-7]. In performing these analyses we developed new analytic approaches [8] and manifested the consequences of global socio-economic changes and government policies that created conditions and triggers for globally cascading events. We identify general strategies for prevention of violence: strategic attention to global food prices and the establishment of local (municipal) governance within federal governance systems. Beyond the immediate policy recommendations that can be inferred, the analysis indicates the vulnerability to and unanticipated consequences of actions by individuals, groups or governments. This suggests a growing need for new quantitative analyses of policy that depart from traditional statistical assumptions. Such analyses can identify effective policies in the face of ongoing changes and extreme events that will occur.

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