

Global Trends and Security Threats:

Top Ten Priorities for the 2020s

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Threat Generators

What factors and trends will generate instabilities and security problems in the 2020s?

➤ Many are non-military

➤ Most are intensifying and ongoing

Trends and Threats in the 2020s

# 10	Population trends
9	Economic imperatives
8	Resource needs
7	Climate changes
6	Pandemic perils
5	Great-power competitions
4	Technological advances
3	Transnational threats
2	Gender inequalities
1	Governance gaps

#10: Population Trends

- Population growth vs. stagnation/decline
 - Youth bulges vs. aging populations
 - Low-income vs. high-income countries
- Gender imbalances
- Population movements

Population Growth: Regions

	2000	2020	2050	2100
World	6.1	7.7	9.7	10.9
Africa (includes North Africa)	0.8	1.3	2.5 26 % of total	4.3
Asia (includes the Middle East)	3.7	4.6	5.3 55 % of total	4.7
Europe (includes Russia)	0.7	0.7	0.7 7 % of total	0.6
Latin America (includes the Caribbean)	0.5	0.7	0.8 8 % of total	0.7
North America (includes Greenland)	0.3	0.4	0.4 4 % of total	0.5

Figures: **In billions**

Source: UN Population Division

More than half of the global population increase (now–2050)

will be in 9 countries:

DRC	India
Egypt	Pakistan
Ethiopia	Indonesia
Nigeria	
Tanzania	USA

Population Trends, 2015-2050

China	Leveling off , starting to decline; now at peak labor; is aging
India	Will increase by 30% (from 1.3 to 1.7 billion)
United States	Projected to increase by 21%; mainly due to immigration
Russia	10% decline
Japan	15% decline
Germany	7% decline
Nigeria	Will more than double (from 182 to 400 million)

	2015 (millions)	2050 (millions)	Increase (%)
Algeria	40 million	56 million	40 %
Egypt	92	151	64 %
Libya	6.2	8.1	31 %
Mauritania	4.2	9	114 %
Morocco	34	44	29 %
Tunisia	11	13	18 %
Iran	79	92	16 %
Iraq	36	81	125 %
Israel	8.1	12.6	55 %
Jordan	7.6	11.7	54 %
Lebanon	6.9	6.9	0 %
Oman	4.2	6.8	62 %
Palestine	4.7	9.8	110 %
Saudi Arabia	32	46	44 %
Yemen	27	48	78%

Population Problems: Gender Imbalances

160 million women and girls are missing worldwide

◆ 100 million women and girls are missing in Asia

Human consequences

Stability implications

Domestic: **“Bare branches”**

International: **Human trafficking**

Population Movements

- A visible **indicator of stability/security problems**

- 1. Are the **result** of problems
 - Armed conflict and ethnic instability
 - Climate change
 - Resource access and economic opportunity

- 2. Are the **causes of additional problems**
 - Armed conflict and ethnic instability
 - Resource and economic competition
 - Human trafficking, border control

#9: Economic Imperatives

- Economic growth is essential
- Great economic progress since 1990
- Major economic setbacks in 2020-22
- Prospects for the 2020s are uncertain

Economic Progress since 1990

Since 1990, the global economy has more than **tripled**

+ Policy actions:

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs, 2000-2015)

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, 2015-2030)

→ **Tremendous reduction in extreme poverty**

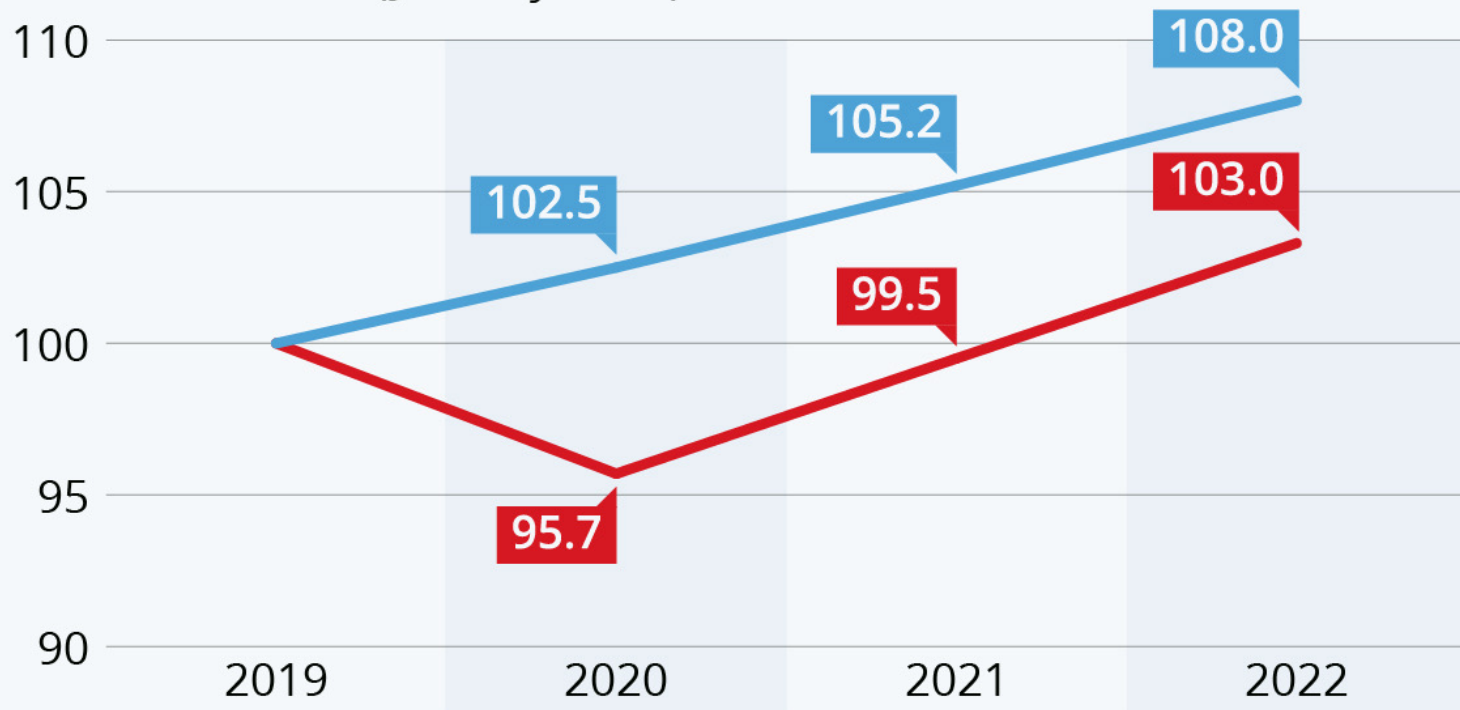
From 1.9 billion to 647 million

From 37% to 8.4% of global population (2019)

World Economy to Trail Pre-Pandemic Trajectory for Years

Estimated global economic output
(indexed to 2019, i.e. pre-pandemic levels)*

- Pre-pandemic forecast (January 2020)
- Latest forecast (January 2021)

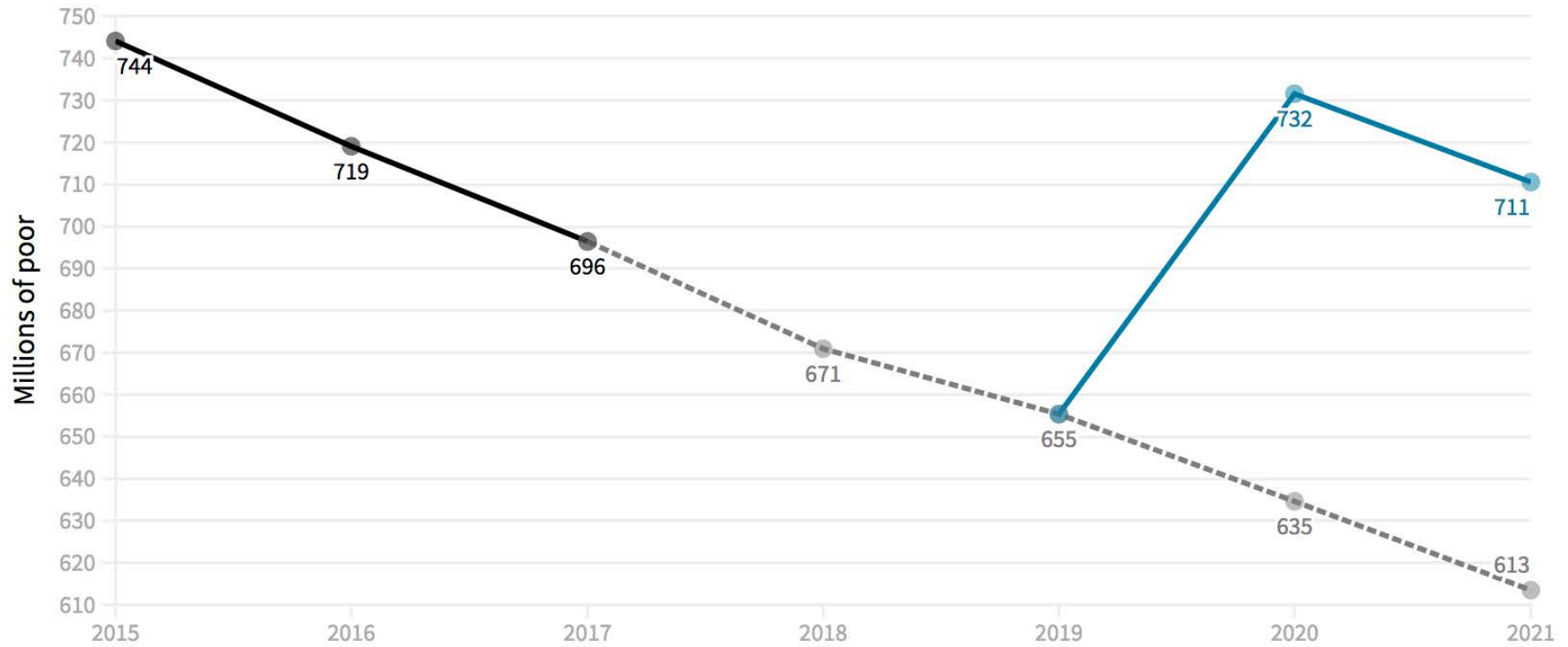


* real GDP at 2010 prices

Source: World Bank

Extreme Poverty, 2015-2021

■ Historical ■ Pre-COVID-19 Projection ■ COVID-19 Projection



Source: World Bank, June 2021

Global Poverty 2020s: Pandemic, Recession, Climate Change Problems

7.9 billion	World population
647 million (8.4%) in 2019	Extreme poverty (< \$1.90 per day) Increased by 100 million in 2020 First increases in 20+ years Progress in 70 countries set back 3-10 years Climate change: Additional 130m by 2030
690 million (9%) in 2019	Undernourished, hungry, facing starvation Increased by 130 million in 2020

#8: Resource Needs

◆ Water security, food security, energy security

➤ Resource demands: Increasing

➤ Resource supply: Problems

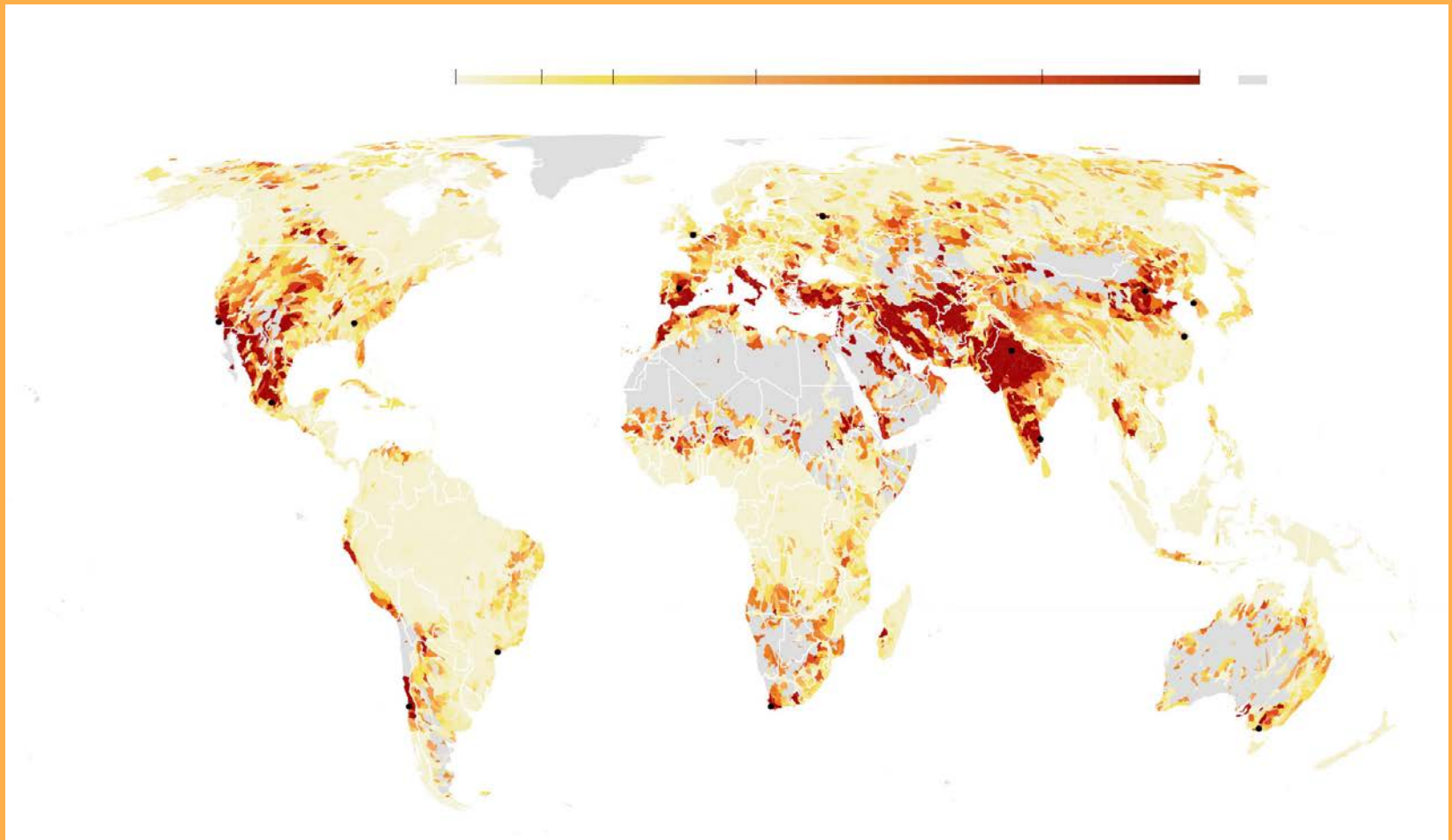
➤ Resource access: Inequities

➔ Resource scarcity

➔ Migration + expulsion (population movements)

➔ Resource competition + conflict: Intra-state + inter-state

Water Risk Atlas



17 countries, home to 1/4 of the world's population:
“extremely high” water stress (2019)

7: Climate Changes

- Weather extremes → emergencies
- Weather patterns
 - Changes in temperatures and rainfall
 - Changes in habitat
 - Reductions in arable land
- Collateral damage
 - Melting glaciers
 - Melting icecaps + rising sea levels

Water Tower of Asia



**MAJOR RIVERS
SOURCED IN TIBET**

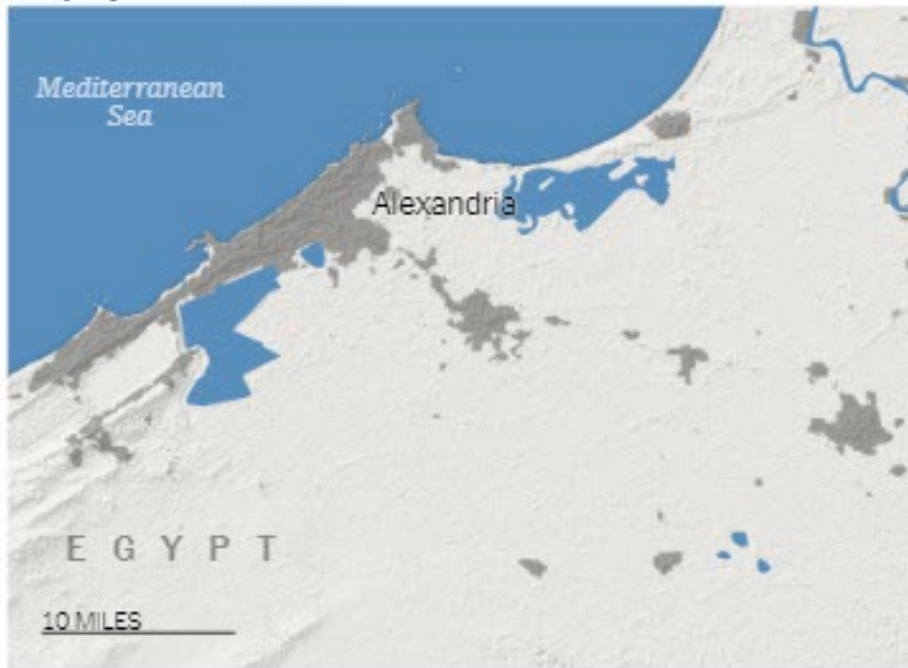
www.MeltdowninTibet.com © Michael Buckley

INDIAN OCEAN

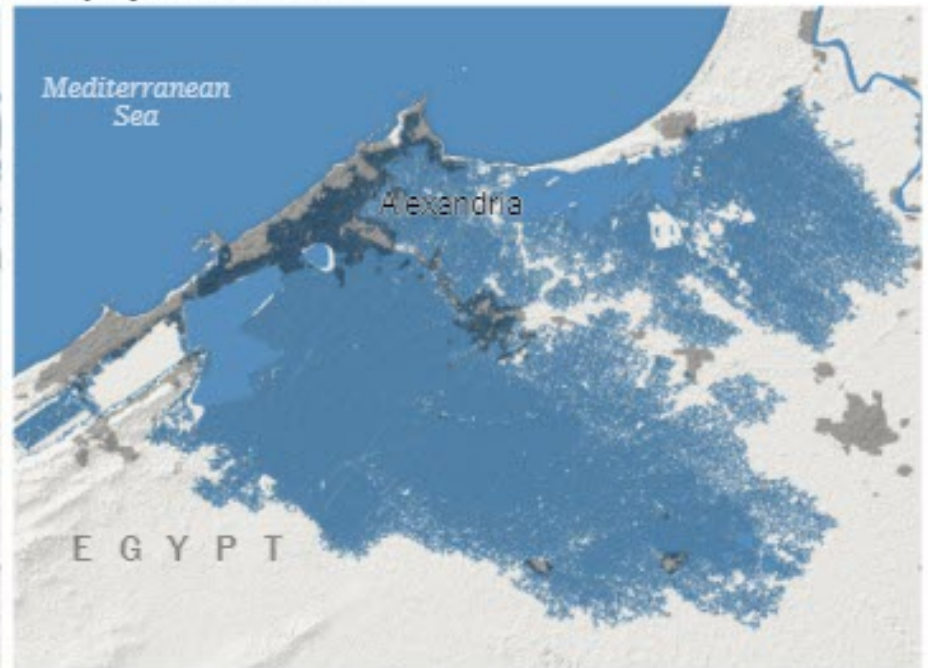
High-Tide Projections for 2050: Egypt and Alexandria

■ Land underwater at high tide ■ Populated area

Old projection for 2050



New projection for 2050



If all the ice melts...

Sea levels rise by: 65 meters = 216 feet

Source: National Geographic, 2013



Dublin

London

Copenhagen

Amsterdam

Brussels

Riga

Venice

Rome

Barcelona

Lisbon

Tunis

Odesa

Istanbul

Black Sea

Beirut

NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC



Tunis

Tripoli

Alexandria

Cairo

Beirut

Baghdad

Kuwait City

Doha

Dubai

Karachi

Jeddah

Dakar

Bissau

Freetown

Monrovia

Abidjan

Lagos

Accra

Djibouti

Aden

Mogadishu

Mombasa

Dar es Salaam

Luanda

Maputo

Cape Town

Asia

Land now inhabited by 600 million Chinese would flood, as would all of Bangladesh, population 160 million, and much of coastal India. The inundation of the Mekong Delta would leave Cambodia's Cardamom Mountains stranded as an island.



Georgetown
Paramaribo

Lima

Asunción

Rio de Janeiro

Buenos Aires

Montevideo



Hasta la vista, baby



Climate Effects: Migrants / Refugees

200 million by 2050

Perhaps 1 billion

International Organization for Migration

#6: Pandemic Perils

“The scientific evidence reviewed in this report demonstrates that pandemics are becoming more frequent....

Without preventative strategies, pandemics will emerge more often, spread more rapidly, kill more people, and affect the global economy with more devastating impact than ever before.”

UN Expert Panel, October 2020

“To prevent the hardship of this last year from happening again, pandemic preparedness must be taken as seriously as we take the threat of war.”

Bill Gates, January 2021

#5 Great-Power Competitions



US-China Relations

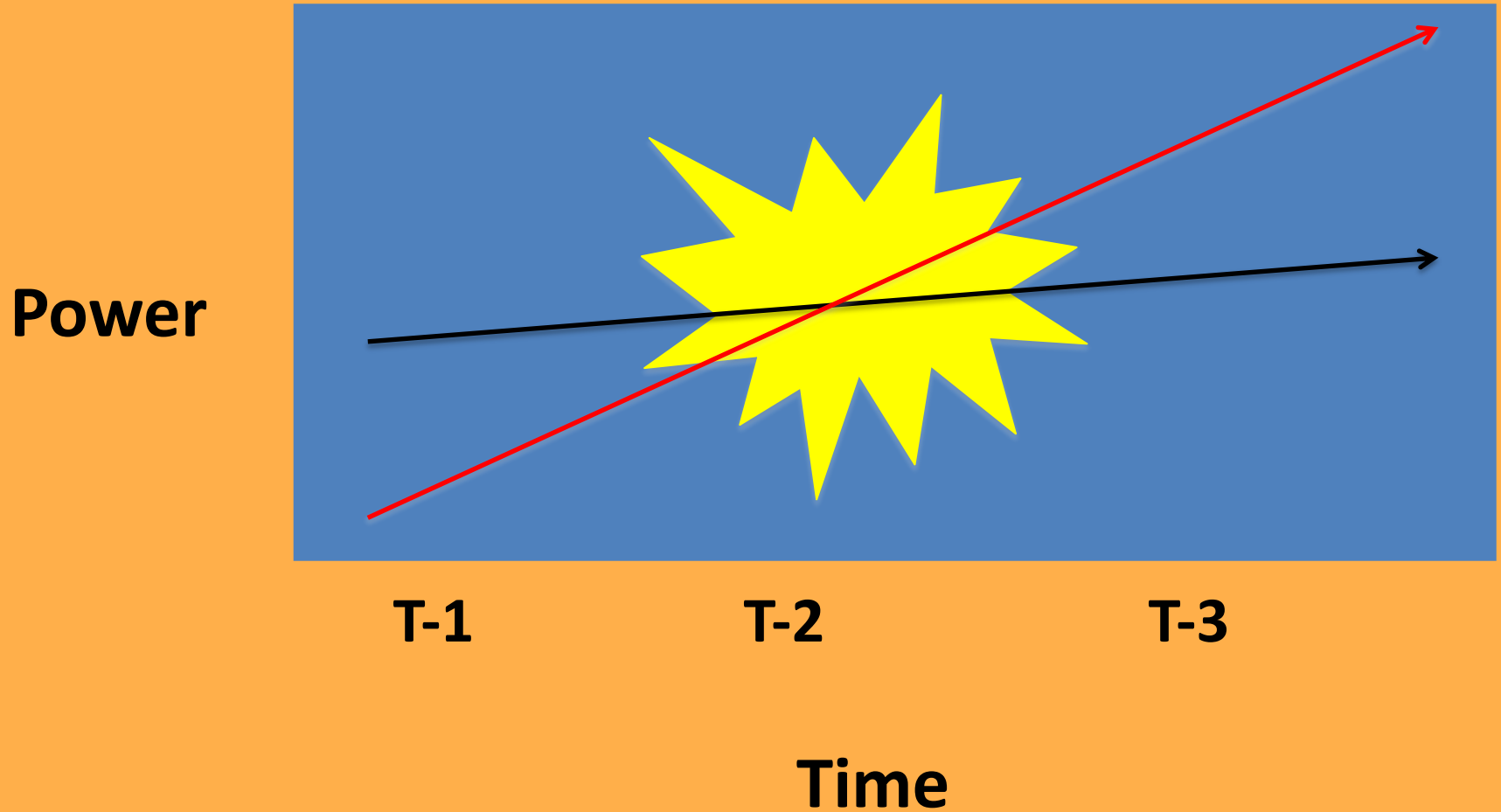
In the past 500 years,

12 of 16 great-power transitions

have led to war

(Graham Allison)

Great-Power Danger Zone



US-China Scenarios

Détente: Managed, mainly economic competition

Cold War: Intense competition for superiority

Economic/technological competition

+ Arms racing

+ Regional spheres of influence

+ Global competition

War: Direct, major armed conflict

#4: Technological Threats

- Nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons
- Drones
- Hypersonic weapons

- Cyber-security
- Social media

The Race for Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The national competition is intense

The corporate competition is intense

“The ultimate arms race”

Artificial Intelligence: Disruptions and Dangers

Economic: Obsolete jobs and businesses

Political: Government intrusions on privacy
Digital totalitarianism

Safety: Self-driving vehicles, drones
Protection of personal information/data

Security: **Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS)**
Super-intelligence

“Whereas the short-term impact of AI depends on who controls it, the long-term impact depends on whether it can be controlled at all.”

Stephen Hawking, Max Tegmark,
Stuart Russell, Frank Wilczek
2014

#3: Transnational Troubles

Transnational terrorism

Transnational criminal organizations

Transnational corporations

Transnational population movements

#2: Gender Inequalities

The number of missing women and girls today may be greater than number of war deaths in 20th century

“An account of security that does not take into account gender-based violence is an impoverished account of security.”

Valerie Hudson et al.

“The Heart of the Matter: The Security of Women and the Security of States” (2009)

Sex and World Peace (2012)

**A strong connection between the treatment of women
in a society and the peacefulness of states
(internally and externally)**

<u>Gender equality:</u>	Associated with stability and peace
<u>Gender inequality:</u>	Associated with instability and conflict
<u>Stronger than:</u>	Democracy, prosperity (prevailing explanations)

**One of the most important findings in war/peace studies
in the 21st century**

Valerie Hudson et al.

“The Heart of the Matter: The Security of Women and the Security of States” (2009)

***Sex and World Peace* (2012)**

Why Every National Leader Should Be A Feminist

Interest-based case: **It's the smart thing to do.**

- Enhances national prosperity and economic power
- Enhances national military power
- Enhances national stability
- Enhances decisionmaking and good governance
- Enhances national stature and soft power
- Enhances national security
- Enhances peace agreements
- Leads to a more stable, safer, better world

#1: Governance Gaps

At every level

- National and local competence
- Global and regional cooperation

A

>

B

>

C

Pressures

Population trends

Economic needs

Resource scarcities

Environmental problems

Governance

(Good/Bad)

Stability/Instability

Peace/War

Fragile States Index 2021



Yellow = Warning Conditions

There are gaps

between the magnitude of our policy problems

and our capacities to act.

Mind the Gap

