

Systemic Institutional Collapse

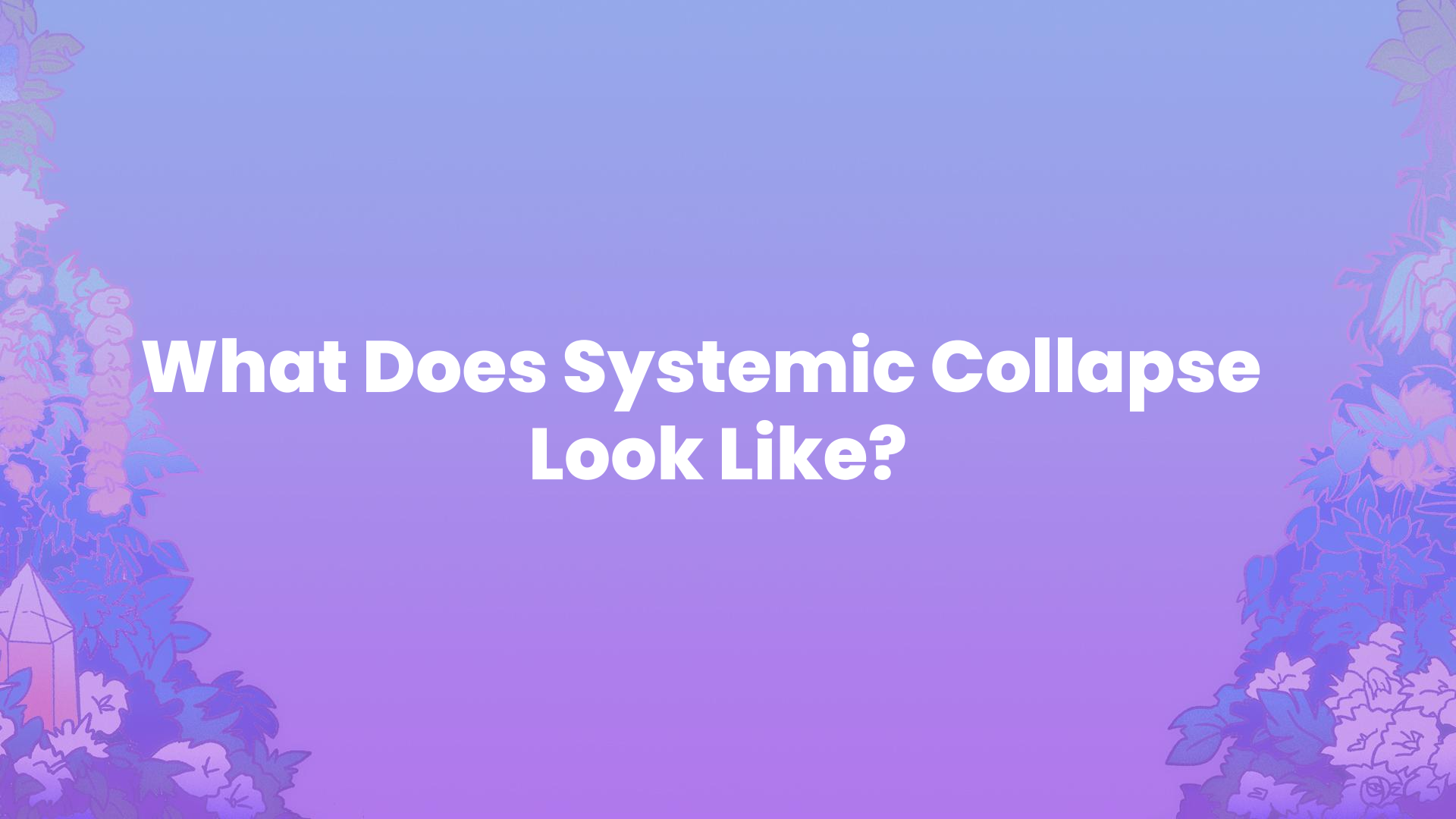
How bad can it be?

Ahmed Gatnash

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What Does Systemic Collapse Look Like?



Egypt

Problems faced:

- Rapid population growth
- Inadequate infrastructure
- Water scarcity
 - Drought
 - Climate change
 - Nile dam conflict
- Food system dependence
- Military control of economy
- Massive debt
- Currency devaluation
- Collapsing living standards
- Unemployment crisis

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Solutions pursued:

- Megaprojects
 - New capital city
 - Suez canal expansion
- Repeat IMF loans
- Expanding military role in economy
- Threatening neighbouring countries
- Building 37 new prisons
 - 5 US-style megaprisons



Reinforcement Cycles

- **Evade accountability**
- **Imprison critics**
- **Weaken independent institutions**
- **Centralize**
- **Borrow from your future**
- **Spend on consumption**

Multi-level political failures

Internal systems - Autocracies

- Corruption
- Weak leadership
 - Gerontocracy, generational divide
- Lack of future vision
- Lack of accountability
- Damaged error-correction mechanisms
- Chronic short-termism
- Misaligned incentives

Multi-level political failures

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- Corruption
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Internal systems - Liberal Democracies

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Different manifestations due to different institutions

External Failures: Liberal International Order

Outdated International Relations paradigm was built for separate, relatively independent/self-sufficient nation-states addressing nation-level problems, on sub-lifetime timescales.

New problems:

- Global inequality
- Climate change
- Transnational crime
- Terrorism
- Migration



So what can we do?

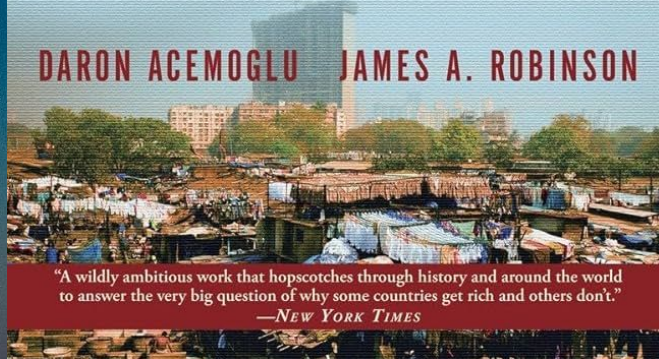


A NEW YORK TIMES AND WALL STREET JOURNAL BESTSELLER

THE ORIGINS OF
POWER, PROSPERITY, AND POVERTY

WHY NATIONS FAIL

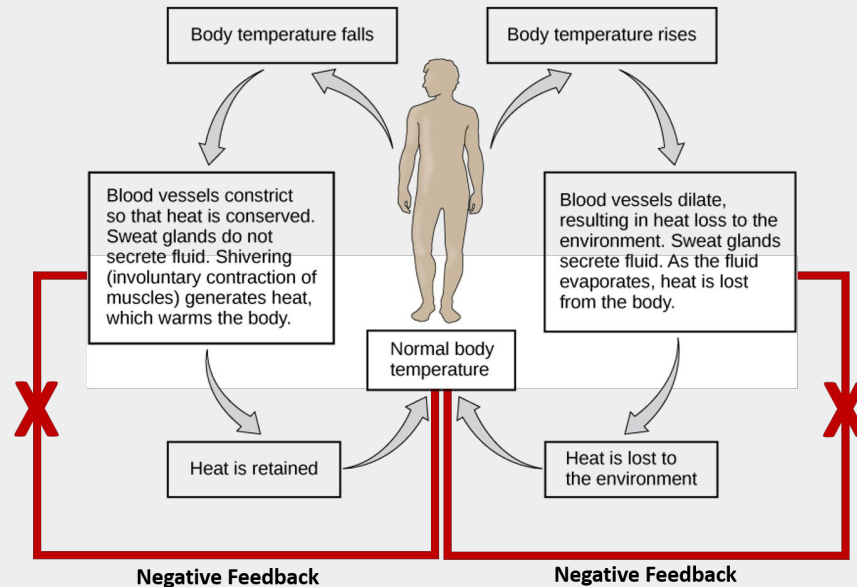
DARON ACEMOGLU JAMES A. ROBINSON



"A wildly ambitious work that hopscoches through history and around the world to answer the very big question of why some countries get rich and others don't."

—NEW YORK TIMES

Homeostasis: an error correction mechanism



What are the error-correction systems for governance?

Basic components:

- Freedom of speech
- Accountability
- Limits on power
- Power dispersal



How we're working on these problems

Kawaakibi Foundation

- A research centre
 - Deeply understand institutional dynamics and feedback loops
 - Social power-building and -distribution systems
 - The future of governance systems applied to our region
- Activist acceleration
 - Strategy development hub
 - Getting activists and organizations on-chain, transcending financial obstacles

No short-term solution is possible – we must build on the scale of decades.

Alternatives to the broken system

Taiwan model:

- Grassroots movements
- Experimentation
- Collaboration
- Tech serves citizens
- Applying values in new ways



Techno-authoritarianism:

- Find a competent leader
- Give them **all the power**
- Rapid technological & economic development
- **Pay the price**



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We choose which systems to empower

We can make a difference

Thank you!



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