

Global Environmental Politics

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Last class: climate change and migration

- Climate change reduces the opportunity cost of migration.
- Climate migration/displacement induces pressures on resources.
- These pressures can translate into conflict (zero-sum thinking).
- Circular migration may increase size of pie and redistribute.
- Borders are hardening.

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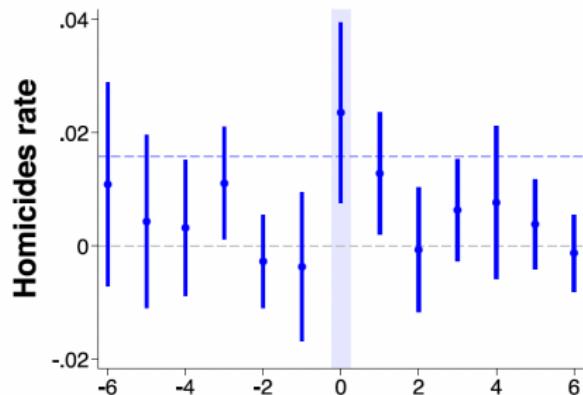
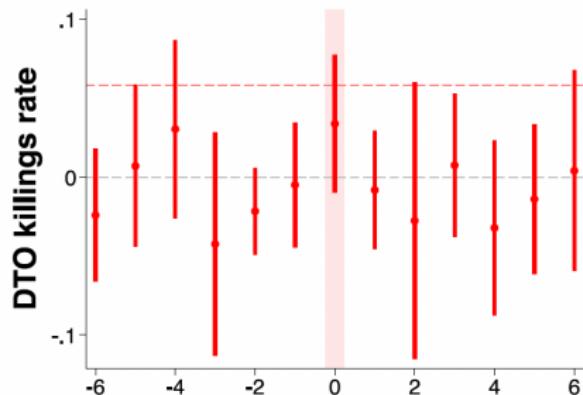
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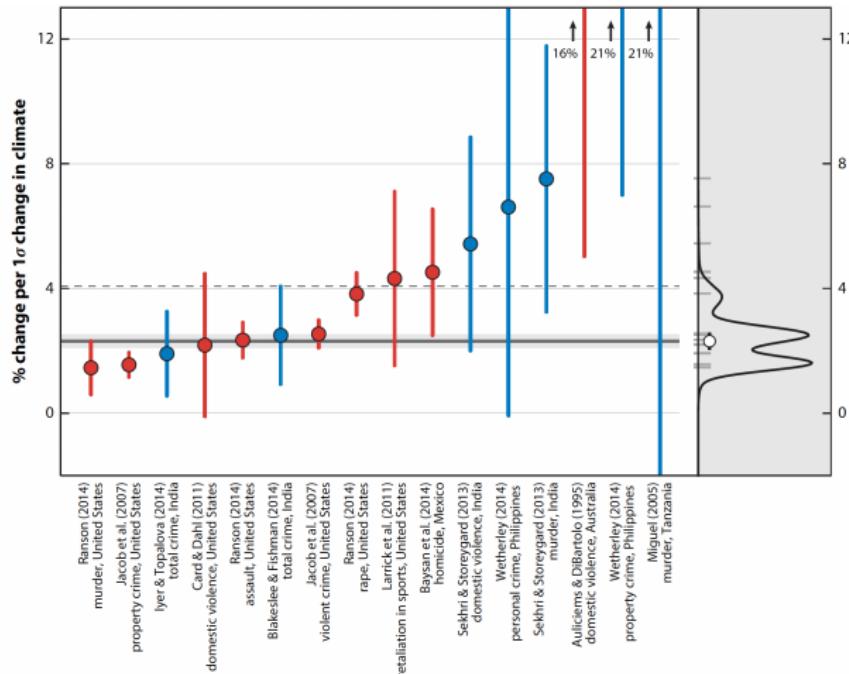
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Climate change induces and aggressive response



- Criminal activity and aggression.
- Consistent findings across numerous studies.

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Physiological impacts of climate change

- “Fight/flight” in response to excessive heat.
- Increased heart rate, testosterone and adrenaline.
- Archeology shows more violent deaths from climate shocks.
- Violent deaths occurred from competition for scarce resources.
- Ingrained biological process as a result of evolution.

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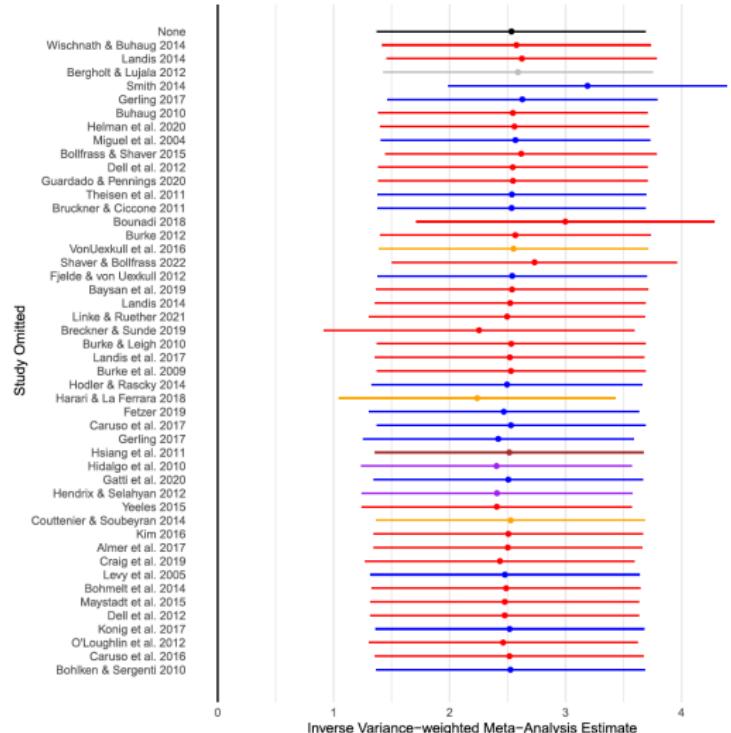
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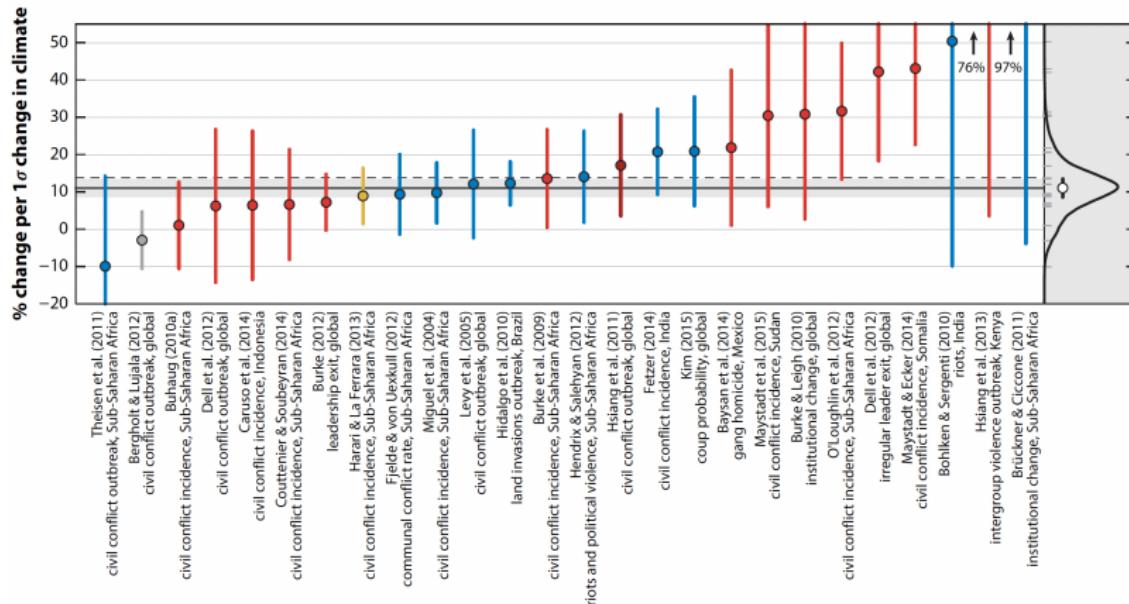
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Climate change and the opportunity cost of violence



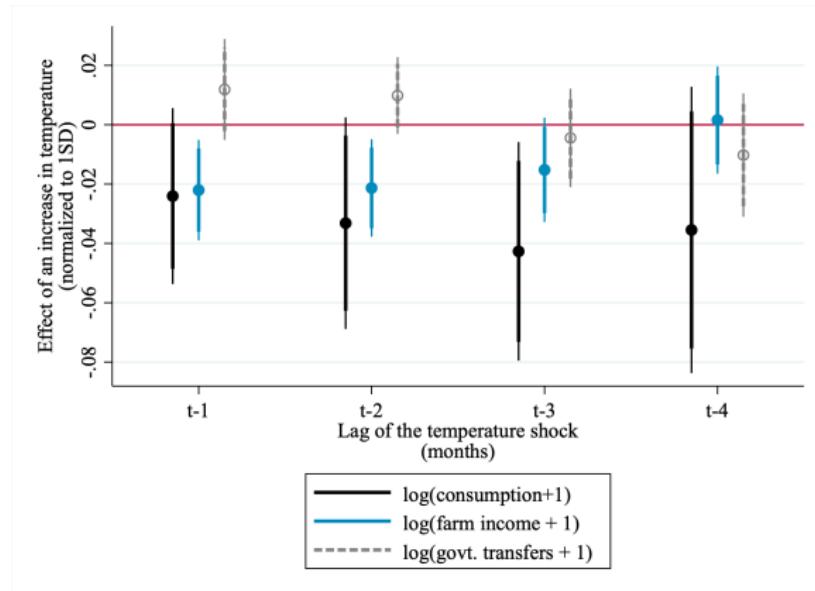
■ Climate shocks $\Rightarrow \uparrow$ conflict.

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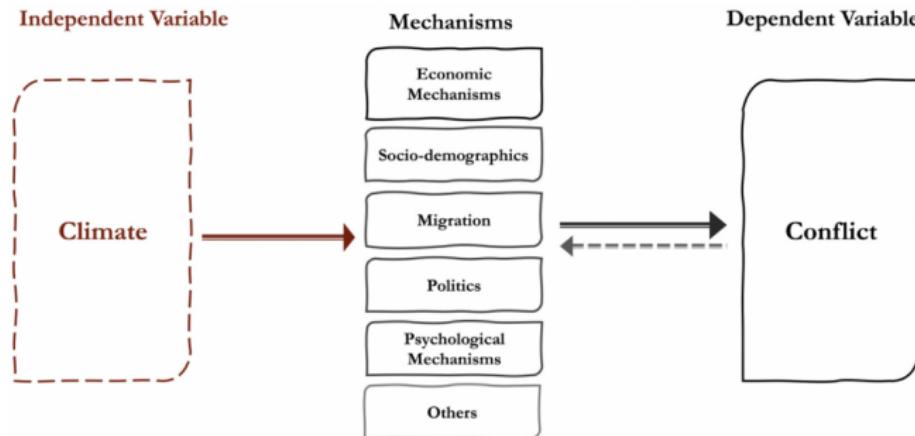
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- Climate change affects mainly agricultural wages.

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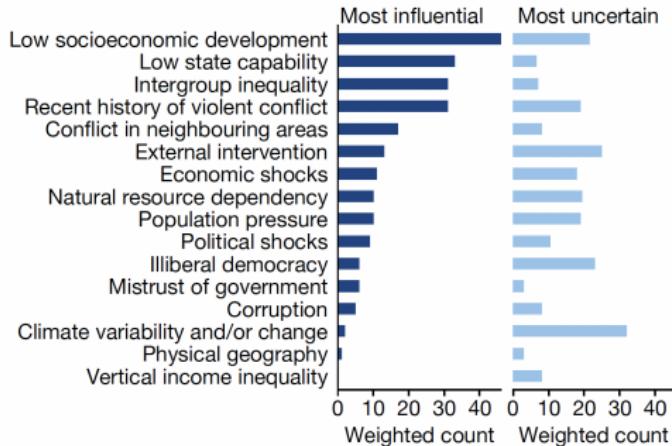
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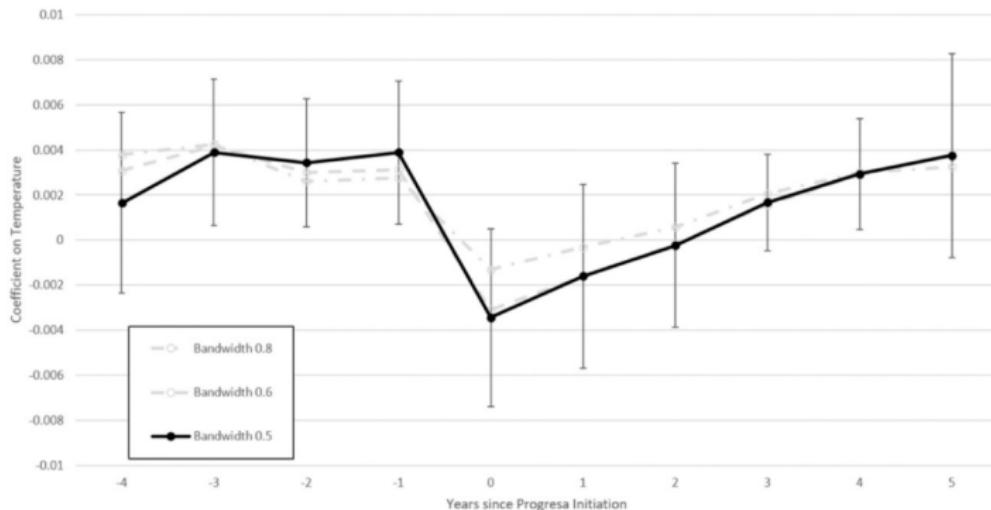
- The objective is to reduce the opportunity cost of violence.
- Public good provision/relief reduces the opportunity cost.
- What do we need for being able to do this?
 - Knowledge of needs, capacity to meet them, and low corruption.

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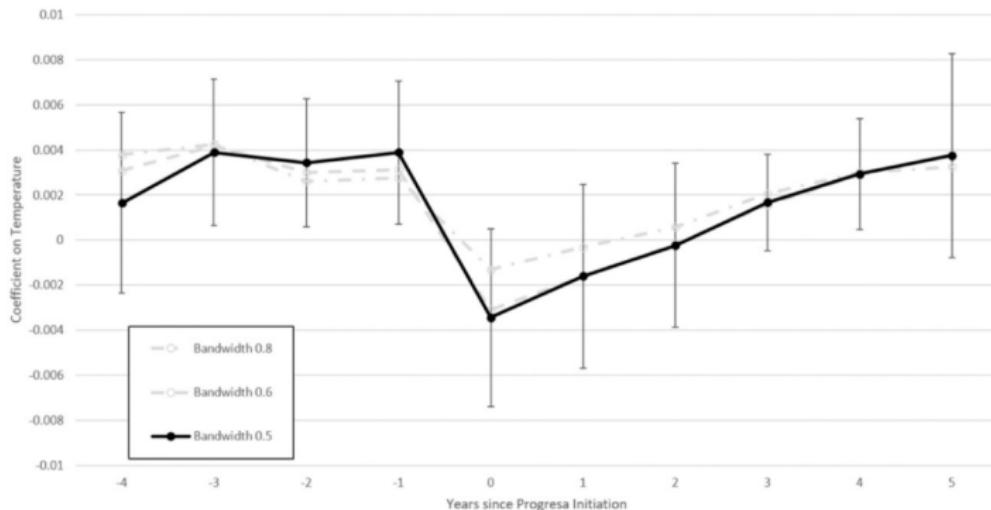
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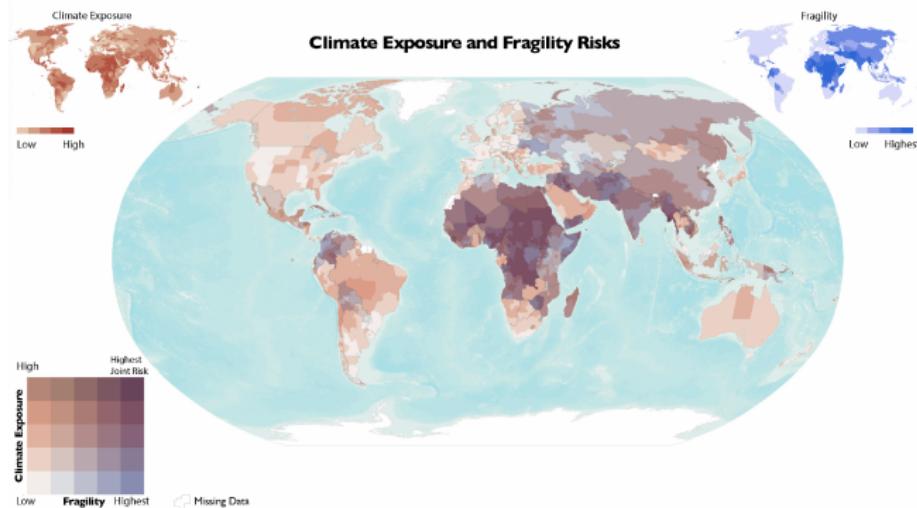
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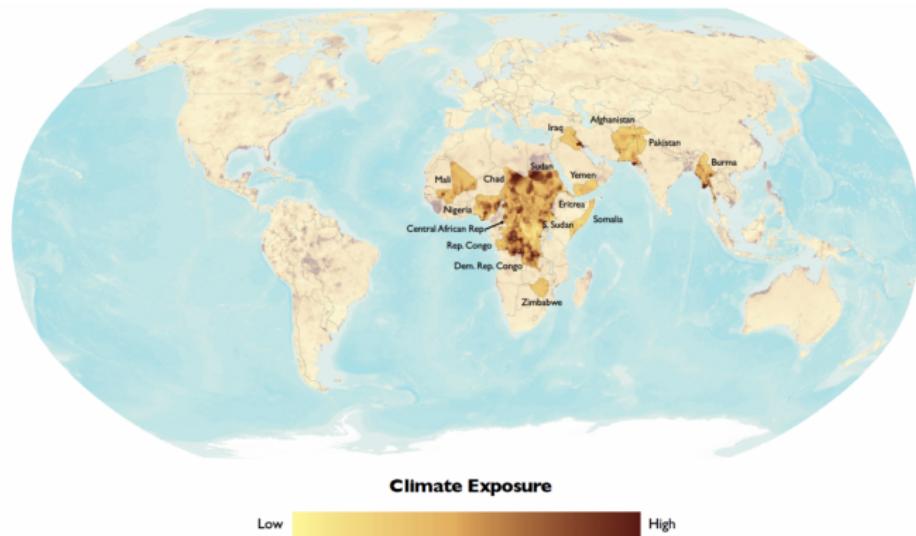
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Climate change, state fragility and conflict



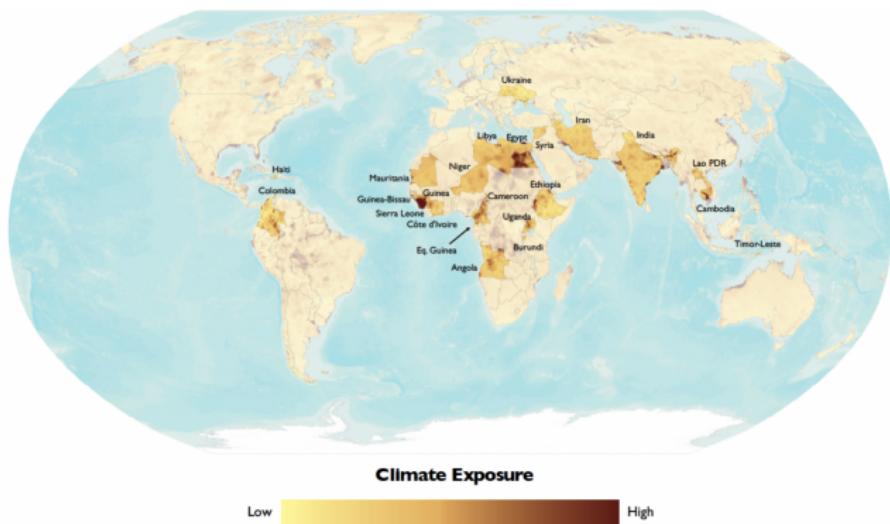
- High state fragility in developing countries.
 - ...especially in Africa.
- State fragility is associated to higher conflict.
- We need higher state capacity and lower corruption.
 - ...for preparedness and to provide effective relief.

Climate change, state fragility and conflict



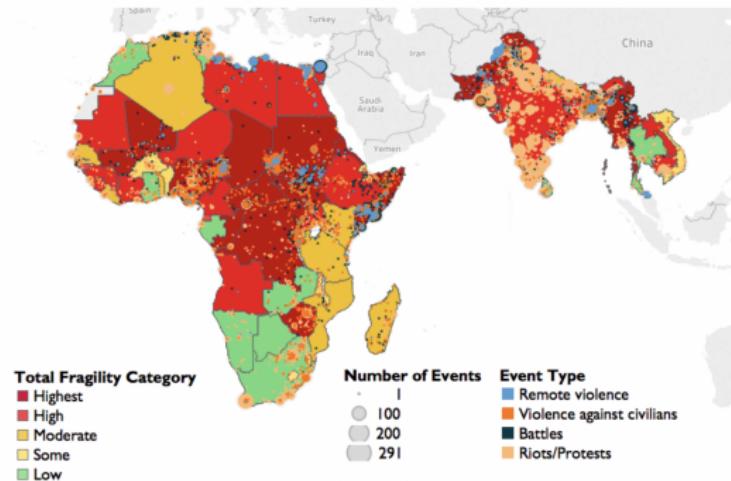
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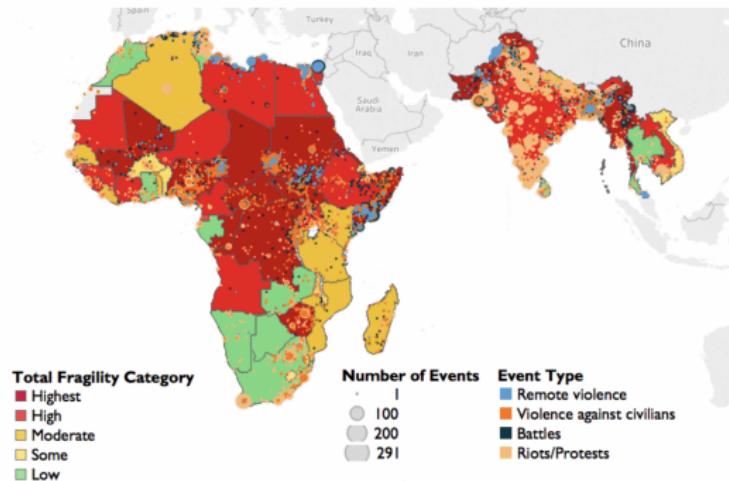
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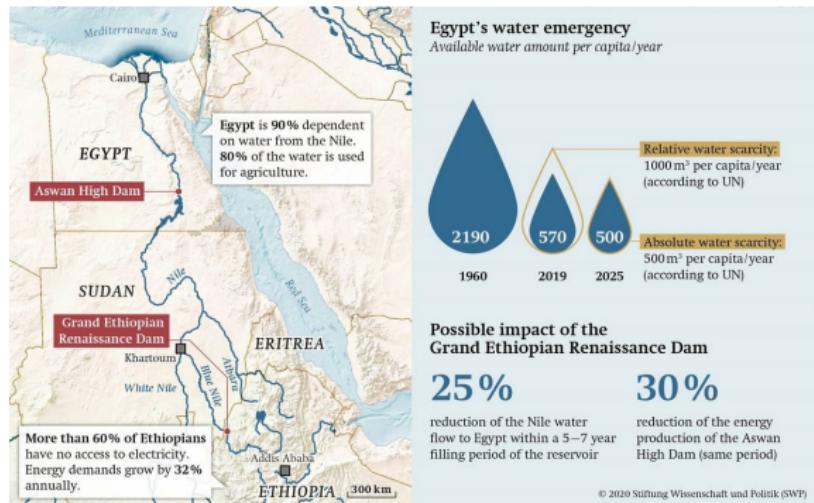
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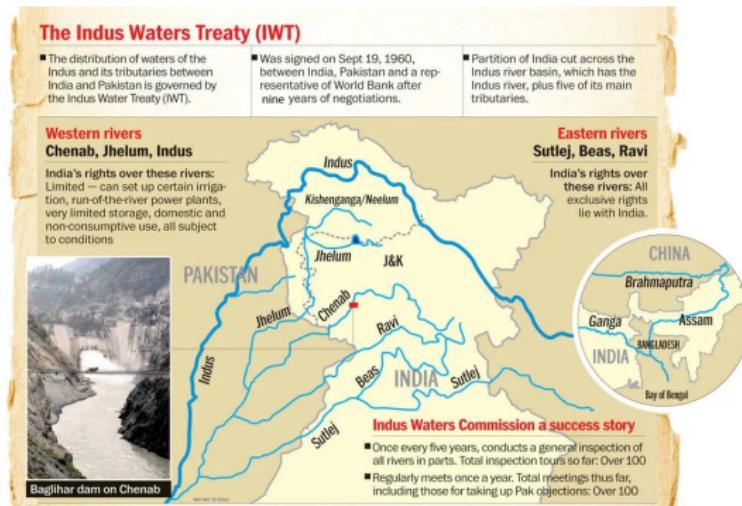
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Climate change and inter-state war



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- Well defined treaties/contracts can help.
- But what is the problem?

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Climate change and inter-state war

<i>Explanatory variable</i>	<i>Change in the explanatory variable value</i>	<i>Impact on the probability of MID onset</i>
Level of river treaty institutionalization	0 → 1	-23%
	0 → 2	-42%
	0 → 3	-58%
	0 → 4	-71%
Water availability	1 standard deviation around the mean From the 90th to the 10th percentile	-17% +40%
Upstream/downstream relationship	0 → 1	+91%
Trade interdependence	1 standard deviation around the mean	-43%
Relative power	1 standard deviation around the mean	-15%
Alliance	0 → 1	-30%
Distance	1 standard deviation around the mean	-90%

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- But what is the problem? **How can we address it?**
 - What is incentive compatible in this case?

Class exercise: Climate change and state capacity

- 1 Make groups of 2/3 people.
- 2 You work in an International Organization.
- 3 You provide loans and technical assistance.
- 4 Your client is the Colombian government.
- 5 You want to expand its state capacity.

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- 6 Which mechanism would you use to do this? Why? How?
 - 1 Loan by 1 billion pounds to the government to invest in expanding the bureaucracy and public service provision.
 - 2 Loan by 1 billion pounds to the government to strengthen military capacity to secure areas with little state presence.
 - 3 Technical assistance to strengthen their statistical capacity, so they can collect better survey data.
 - 4 Strengthen local NGOs to bridge gaps in information between citizens and the government.
- 7 15 minutes.