There were a lot of instances of tension between countries all over the world. As China was coming up, US had an eye on its influence. Middle east was always in constant conflict over power control. India and Pakistan had their tensions still visibly present. Russia has been slowly taking over Ukraine again to regain control over oil pipelines. Although any of these might be enough to cause a world war a century back, 21st century was different. It was the age of nuclearism deterrence. Mutual assurance destruction it is called, they say, it prevents any nuclear state to initiate a nuclear conflict and hence even conventional warfare on large scale. By the first half of the century, it was satisfactorily assumed that there would never be enough reason that a world war III would ever happen. Then why do we see that quarter of the earth’s human population was lost by the end of the 21st century and another quarter with famines in subsequent years. Historians and war scientists are still debating at what would have been the trigger to this catastrophe. What was the breaking point of this ever growing bubble?

To answer this let’s see all the events that turned up in the early parts of the century, much before actual military tensions started. It was 2027 AD and military war for territorial expansion were oversized by economical motives. Historians say that it might have started with US becoming self- dependent after a long time. It had already started producing its own oil 2 decades ago, but the rest of the world was still dependent on middle east for their energy needs. Russia too was a big exporter and thus dependent hugely on its revenue on petroleum. US had been reeling against a historic debt after another crash in 2019 after which it aggressively started pumping debt into its economy. Meanwhile sustainable energy resources were also getting very popular in US. US became a huge exporter of oil now, but it had the monopoly in electric and solar energy equipment. Developing nations with very little domestic source of crude oil like India, Pakistan, Brazil saw this as an opportunity and started knocking US for sustainable sources technology and material, to become self-sustainable in energy themselves. Middle east especially Saudi Arabia and Iran were not happy with this and threatened US of refraining for exporting its technology to third world countries or face dire results. US ignored this and went on to mint its newly found monopoly of sustainable energy. Now some might argue that this might have been a trigger point, but I would not be so sure. It would have taken a long time for countries to become energy self- dependent and thus a need for war of such extreme nature was not imperative.

Let us look at developments that were happening in Africa and middle east during this time. Islamic militants have gathered more territory and defected economically ill performing nations like Afghanistan, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Syria and large parts of Iraq. They also gathered outside support of king of Saudi Arabia and Qatar. With an unprecedented control over economy and politics of middle east, but most importantly their control on nuclear warheads and technology through Pakistan’s involvement, they were unignorable. Their main source of economic prosperity still came from oil fields and its export. US’s decision to outdate petroleum also came from the motivate to dispirit the Islamic state expansion. To strike the last blow, US convinced NATO to create sanctions on oil usage by countries to cap global pollution in the lights of global warming. Ah well, global warming was one of the most prominent reason for the entire episode. With increasing oil usage there were more coastal catastrophes around the globe. By 2025, sea level rose by around 15 feet as compared to 2000, submerging huge amounts of lands and creating uneven climate conditions on rest of the land. This caused tension on global world population which was now close to its peak – 8.5 billion. Some islands were almost lost like Indonesia, Mozambique, Vietnam and Philippines. Countries that were hugely affected were Bangladesh, Indonesia, Russia, Japan, India, Canada and United States. These economies for all reasons wanted sustainable energy sources to be adopted at all costs. So in 2032, there was a heavy push by UN to impose “Global warming correction treaty” capping countries conventional sources of energy usage or face fall out from its monetary benefits. China and Russia did not like this and thus UN became irrelevant for any possible solution. China was going to be hit the most because of its heavy industrialization and usage of coal for almost all its power plants. US moved to its next stage of crushing oil dependent countries’ global dependence by killing US currency. US owed a huge loan to China and the world owed to these oil exporting countries. Due to all oil operations happening in dollars till then the oil exporting countries like Iran and Saudi Arabia were massively hit. US gained even more from this move as it owed a lot of money to China in dollars. This made China and Russia too furious. There were multiple attempts to find a diplomatic solution for a mutually beneficial global warming mitigation, but it was too early and too much for China to support its population. This is when the differences increased and US became the sole enemy of Russia, China and Islamic states altogether. Meanwhile US continued exporting solar energy equipment to India and India was silently becoming stronger. China and Islamic states warn India of impending doom if it continues its partnership with US. India ignored similarly to US, confident in its booming economy and military power. On 2049, July 8th, Islamic states attacked India with backing from China. Russia wanted to stay out due to its long term friendship which though recently were under test given how US-India trade was on the rise. But later when India ignored all of Russia’s warnings, Russia too started indirectly channeling arms and support through North Korea and China. The battleground was South Asia now, but even though all the superpowers were involved, it was still not World War III. This proxy war would go on for another 5 more years.