

Conflicts of the Future

A futuristic tank with a green camouflage pattern and large, treaded wheels is positioned on a dirt path in a lush forest. The tank is angled towards the right, and its reflection is visible on the ground. The background is filled with tall trees and green foliage.

Our Ref: [DSTL/TR112480](#)

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/defence-science-and-technology-laboratory>

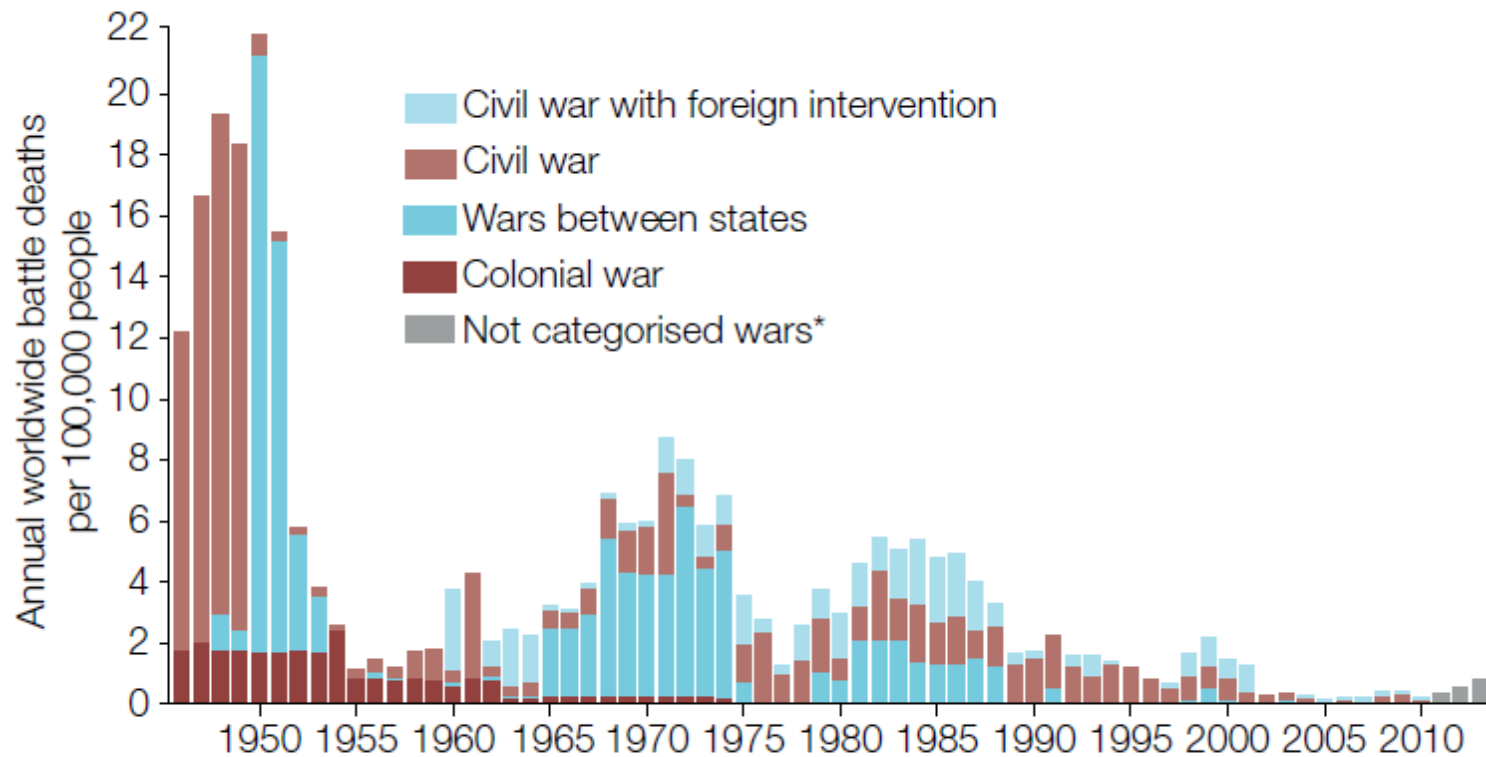
Future Threat Understanding and Disruption *Programme*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/future-threat-understanding-and-disruption-programme>



“As trade between countries has increased, so have the ties between them, and as mutual dependency increased ,so does the cost of conflict.”

Global battle death rates in state-based conflicts

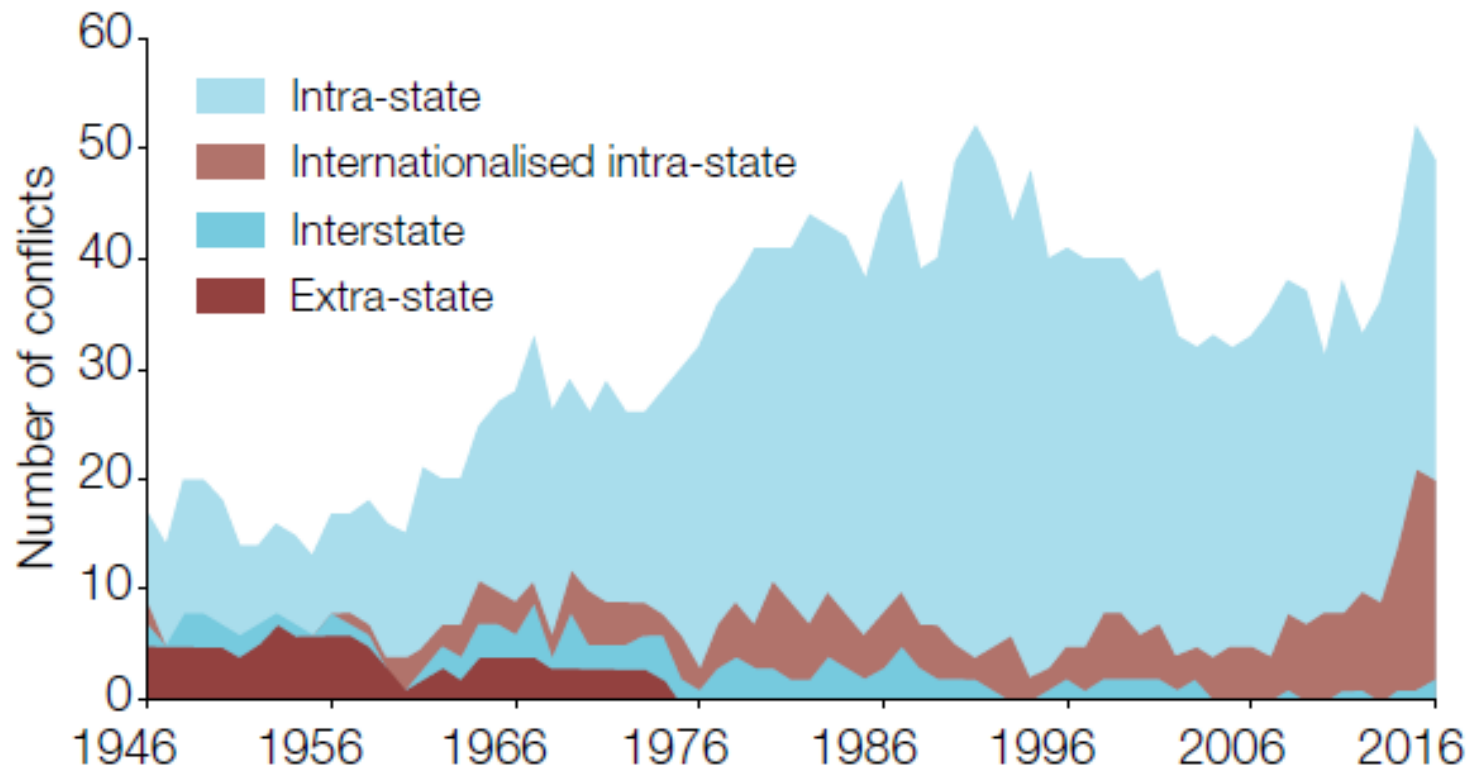


* For the period 2011-2013 wars are not designated by type.

Source: Our World in Data, University of Oxford

“Countries are likely to adopt an increasingly broad understanding of what constitutes an armed attack.”

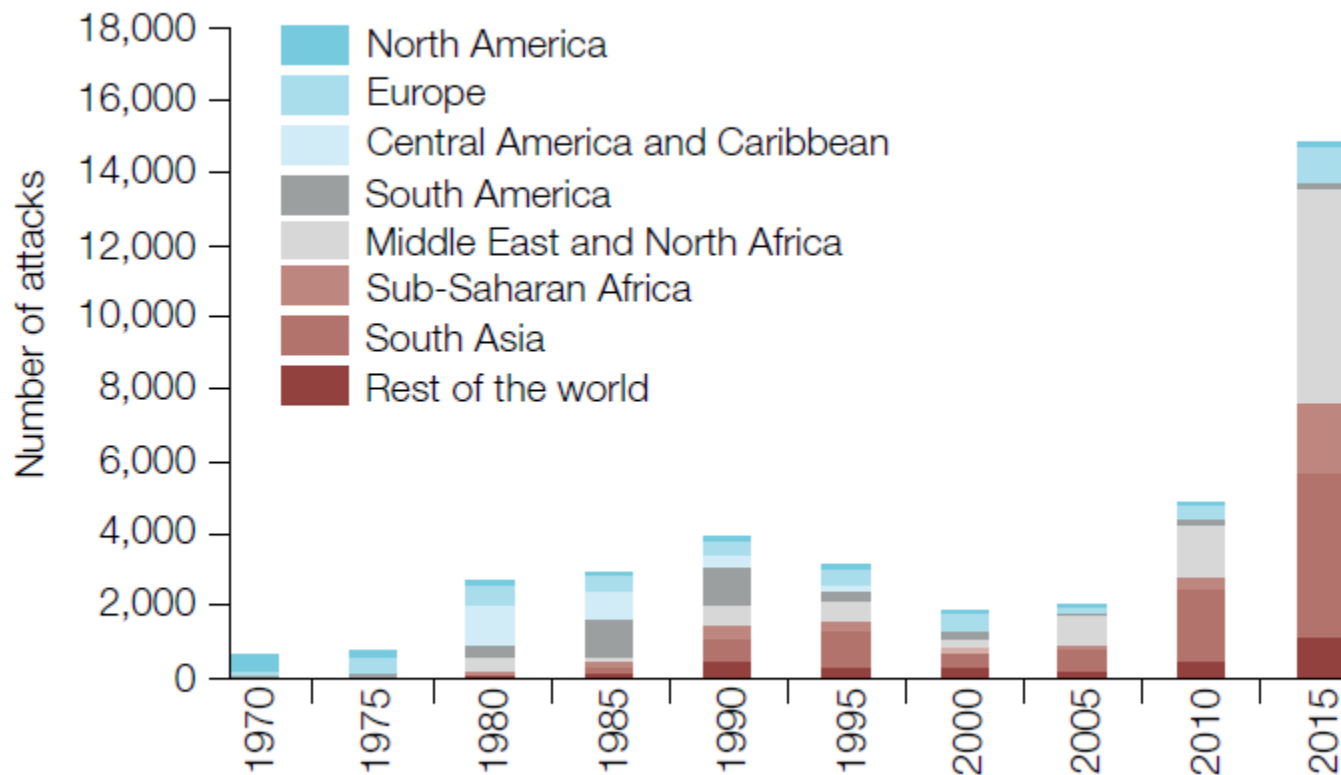
Global armed conflict by type



Source: Uppsala Conflict data Program

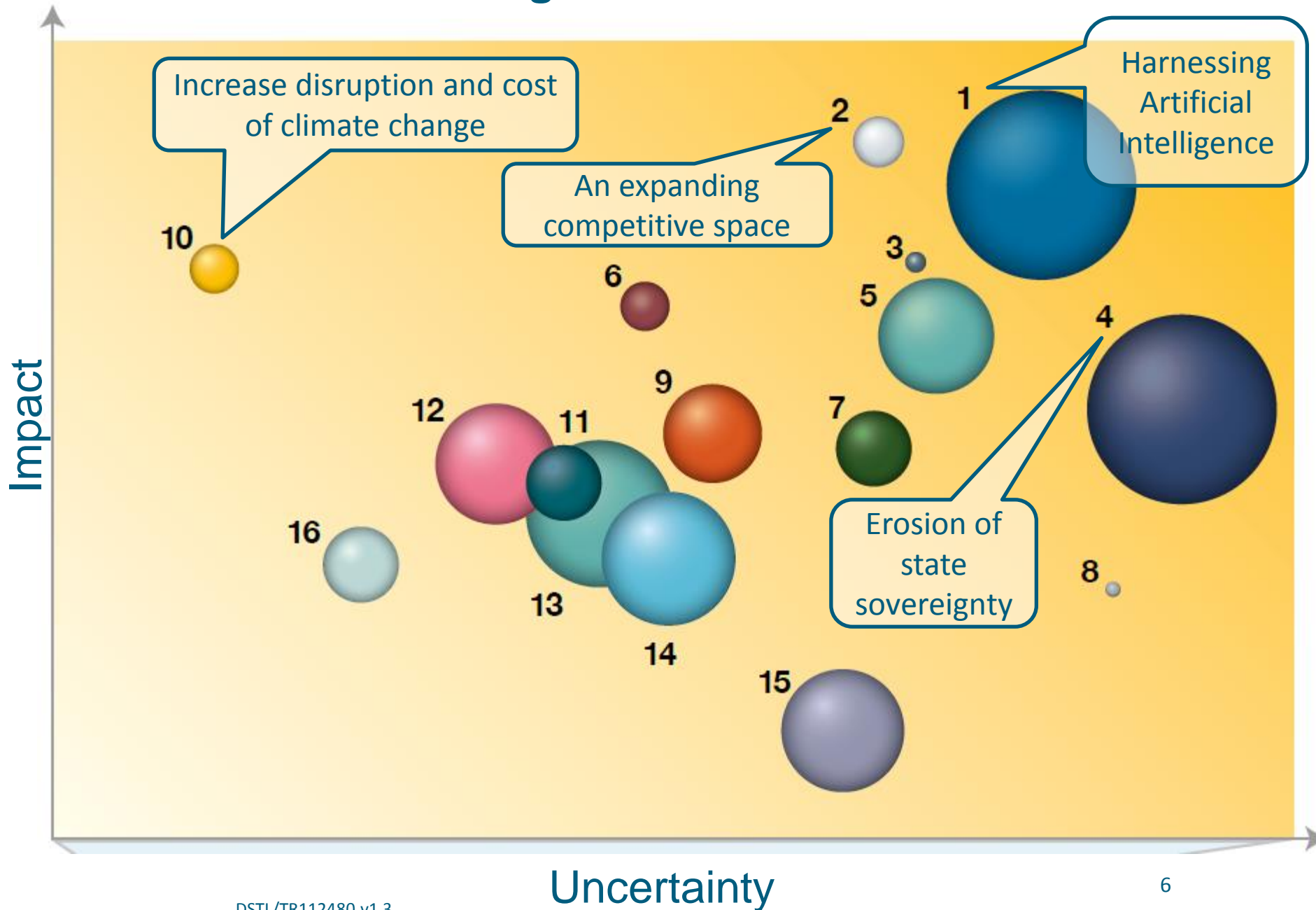
“The likelihood of violent extreme group acquiring and using nuclear weapons remains low but plausible.”

Number of terrorism attacks per region

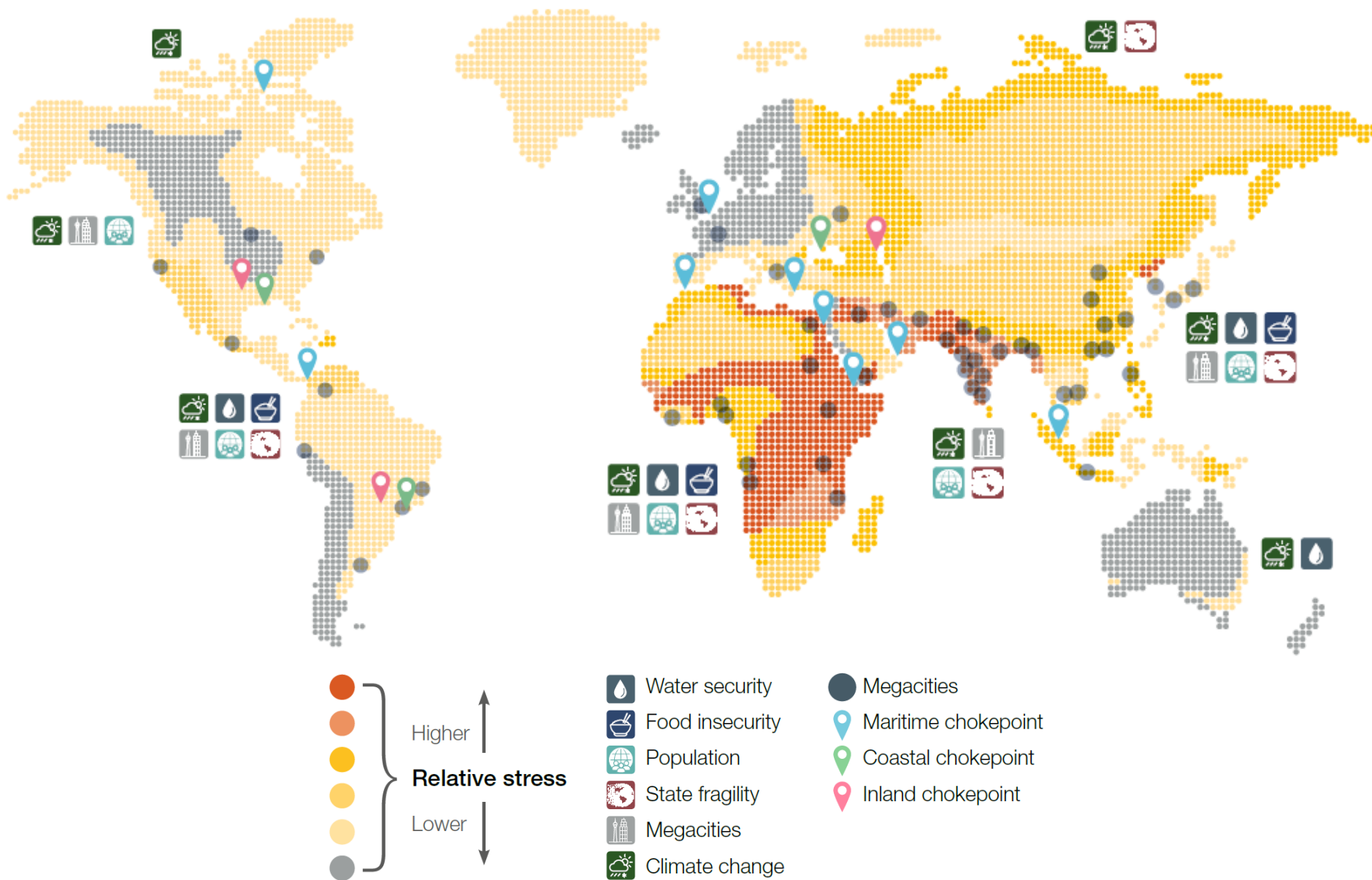


Source: Datagraver

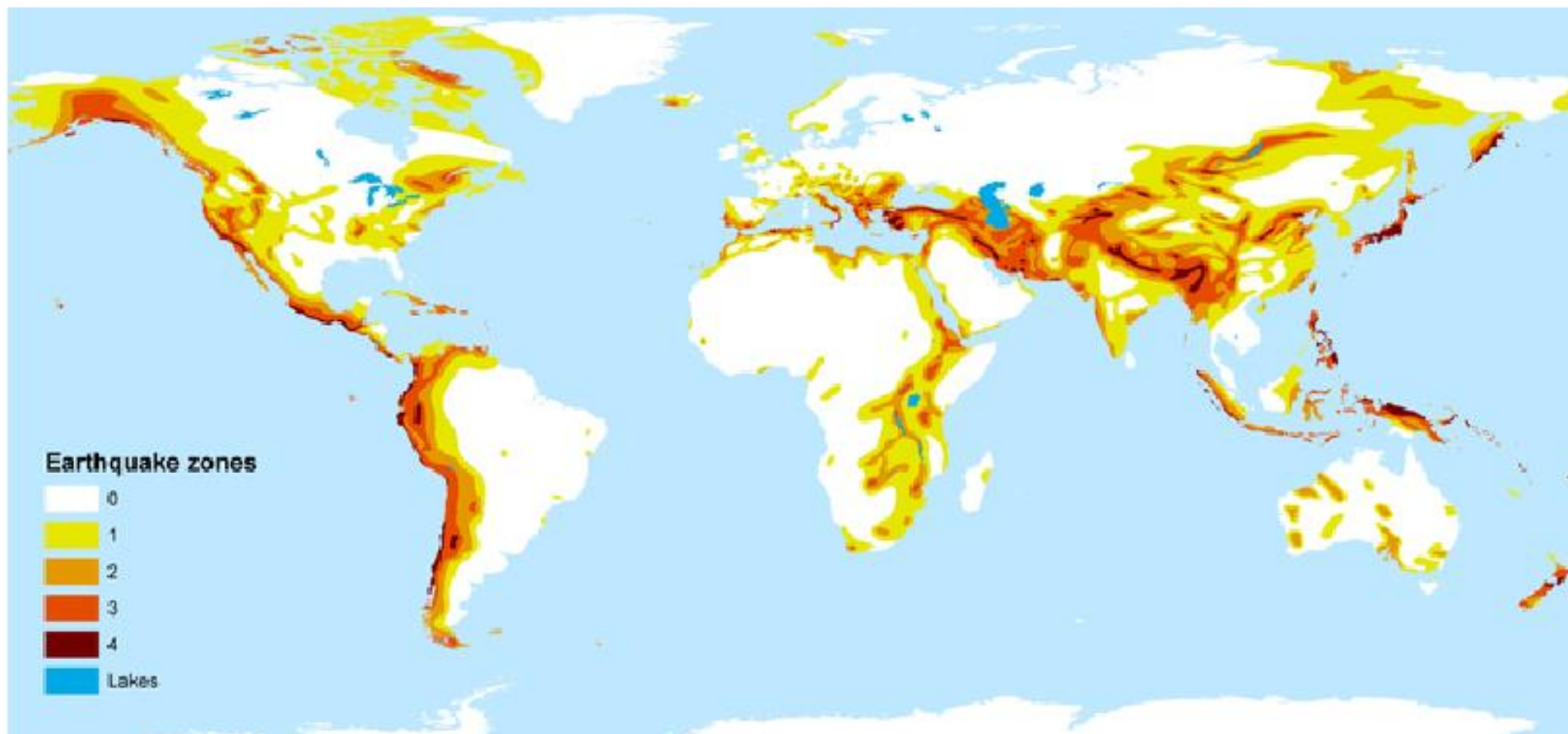
Global Strategic Trends 16 focus areas



Global Stress Map



Earthquake zones





DSTL/TR112480 v1.3



What works?

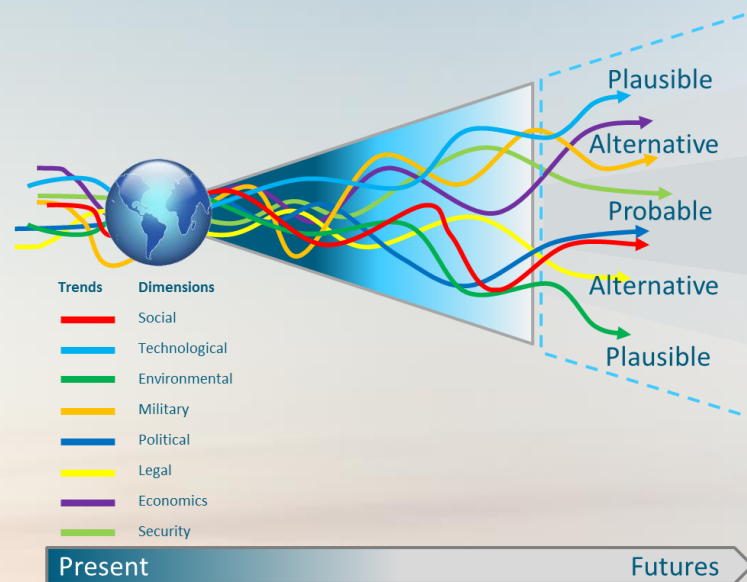
"Most of the planning I've seen in about 250 American and foreign companies is like a ritual rain dance performed at the end of the dry season to which any rain that follows is attributed.

Rain dancing has no effect on the weather even though it may have therapeutic effects on the dancers.

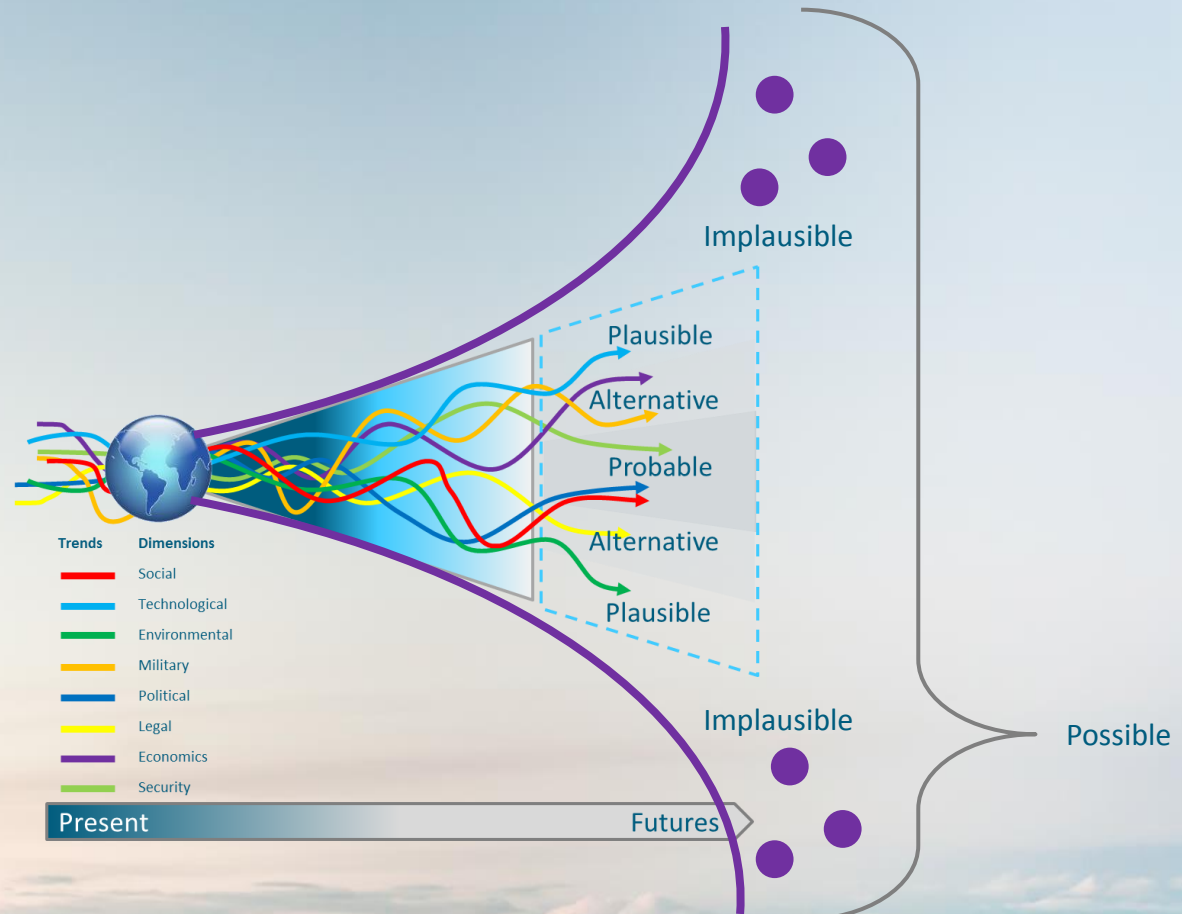
Despite this, I find that as a so-called professional planner, I am repeatedly asked to help improve corporate dancing, not to help control the weather."

Ackoff, R. (p. 3, 1977)

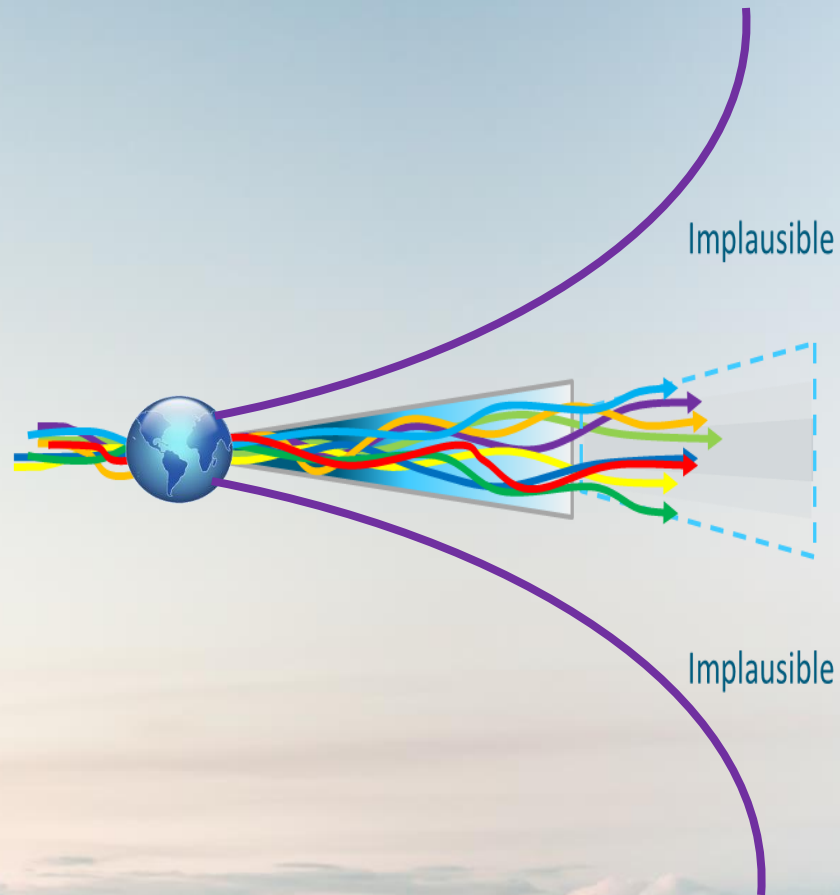
“cone of plausibility”

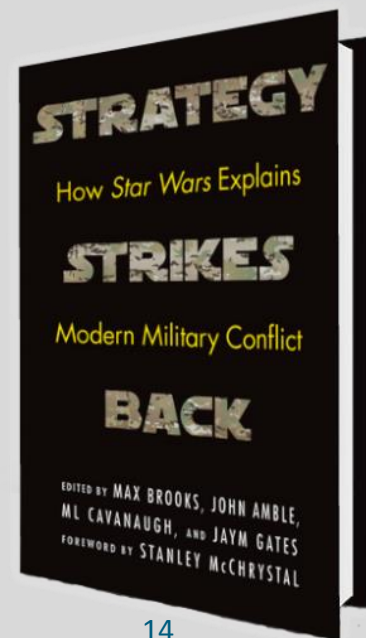
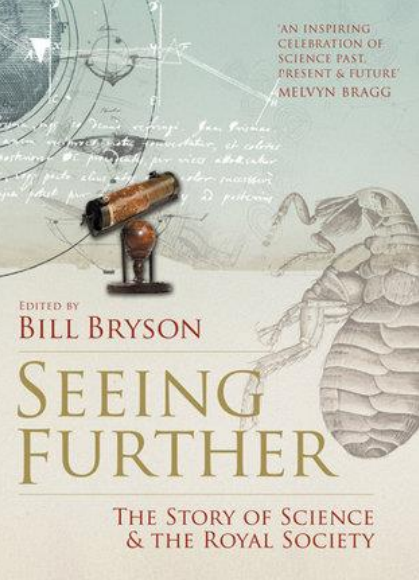


“trumpet of possibility”



“trumpet of possibility”





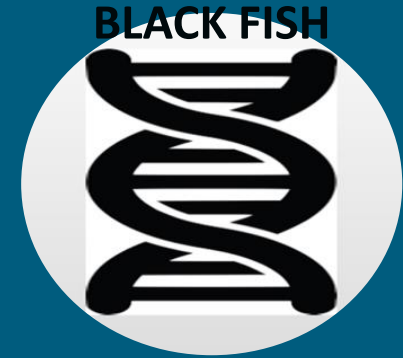
Future Fictions - “Bringing the Futures to life”



Video
Roebuck Ltd



Augmented Reality
TECG



Design Fiction
Changeist



eBooks - Twine
Aleph Insights

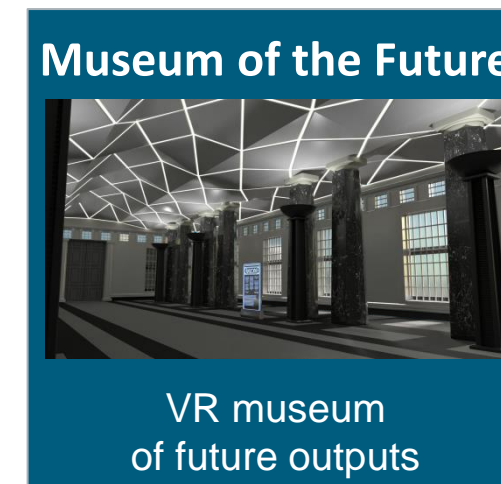
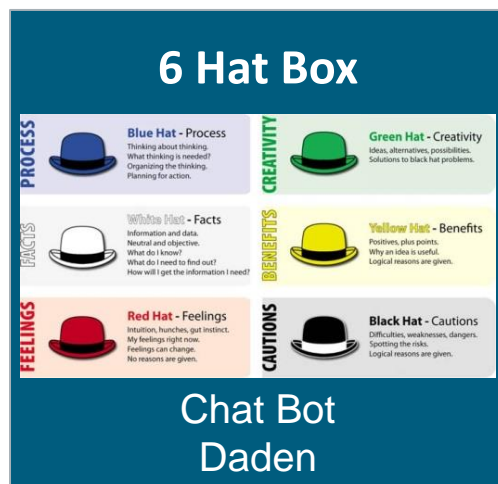


STEM outreach
Strong Enterprises



Design Fiction
Changeist

Future Analysis - “Non-deterministic Analysis”



Questions?

- Does this differ from your approaches?
- Are you addressing any of the challenges posed here?
- Other thoughts?

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References

Slide 1

1. Dstl website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/defence-science-and-technology-laboratory>

Slide 2

2. Description of Future Threat Programme : <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/future-threat-understanding-and-disruption-programme>

Slide 3

3. Global Strategic Trends : “the Future Starts today” 6th Ed., p.128
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/771309/Global_Strategic_Trends_-_The_Future_Starts_Today.pdf
YouTube Video
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748294/Global_Strategic_Trends_video_transcript_with_timestamp.odt

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4. Global Strategic Trends : “the Future Starts today” 6th Ed., p.130

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5. Global Strategic Trends : “the Future Starts today” 6th Ed., p.138

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6. Global Strategic Trends : “the Future Starts today” 6th Ed., p.10

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7. Global Strategic Trends : “the Future Starts today” 6th Ed., p.148-149.

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8. Image source: “Acts of God? Religiosity and Natural Disasters Across Subnational World Districts” - Scientific Figure on ResearchGate. Available from: https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Earthquake-zones_fig1_278727183 [accessed 5 Jun, 2019]

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11. Images from Pexels - (rh) by Engin Akyurt

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20. Maltby, JFJ., Brampton, C. (2018) "Applying robustness to long-term defence planning", Dstl/TR107069.
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- 28. eBooks: <https://datadrought.com/> and <https://silenceintallinn.com/>

Slide 16

- 29. ChatBot: <https://www.6hats.uk/Hats>
- 30. FutureScaper: <https://www.futurescaper.com/#about>

Slide 21

- 31. Global Strategic Trends : "the Future Starts today" 6th Ed., p.10

1. Harnessing artificial intelligence
2. An expanding competitive space
3. Increasing proliferation of weapons of mass effect
4. Erosion of state sovereignty
5. Adaptation of the rules-based international system
6. An expanded and unregulated information space
7. Rising inequality, reducing social cohesion, and fragmented societies
8. Understanding human enhancement
9. Increasing competition in the global commons
10. Increasing disruption and cost of climate change
11. Increasing demand and competition for resources
12. Greater automation and an increasingly diverse workforce
13. Managing technological change
14. The challenge of affordability
15. Increasing threat from crime and extremism
16. Managing demographic change