



Atlantic Council

The World in 2030

Mathew Burrows



What Kind of Strategic Environment?

IT WAS the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity...we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way...

Charles Dickens

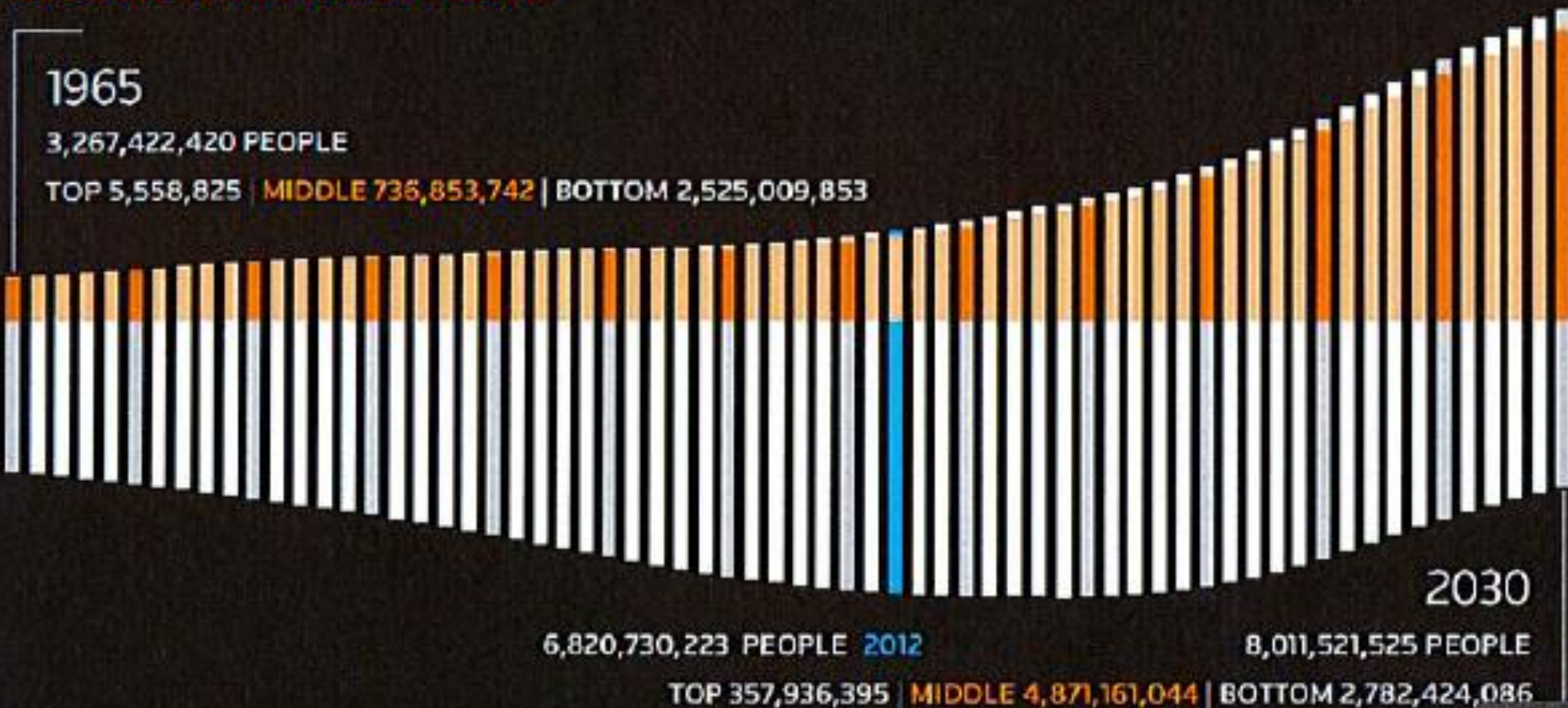
Unprecedented Number of Tectonic Shifts

- **Individual Empowerment** reflected in growth of the Global Middle Class
- Wider Access to **Lethal and Disruptive Technologies**
- Definitive Shift of **Economic Power to the East and South**
- **Urbanization**
- **Food and Water Pressures**
- Growing Risks of **Conflict and Multipolarity**
- **US Energy Independence**

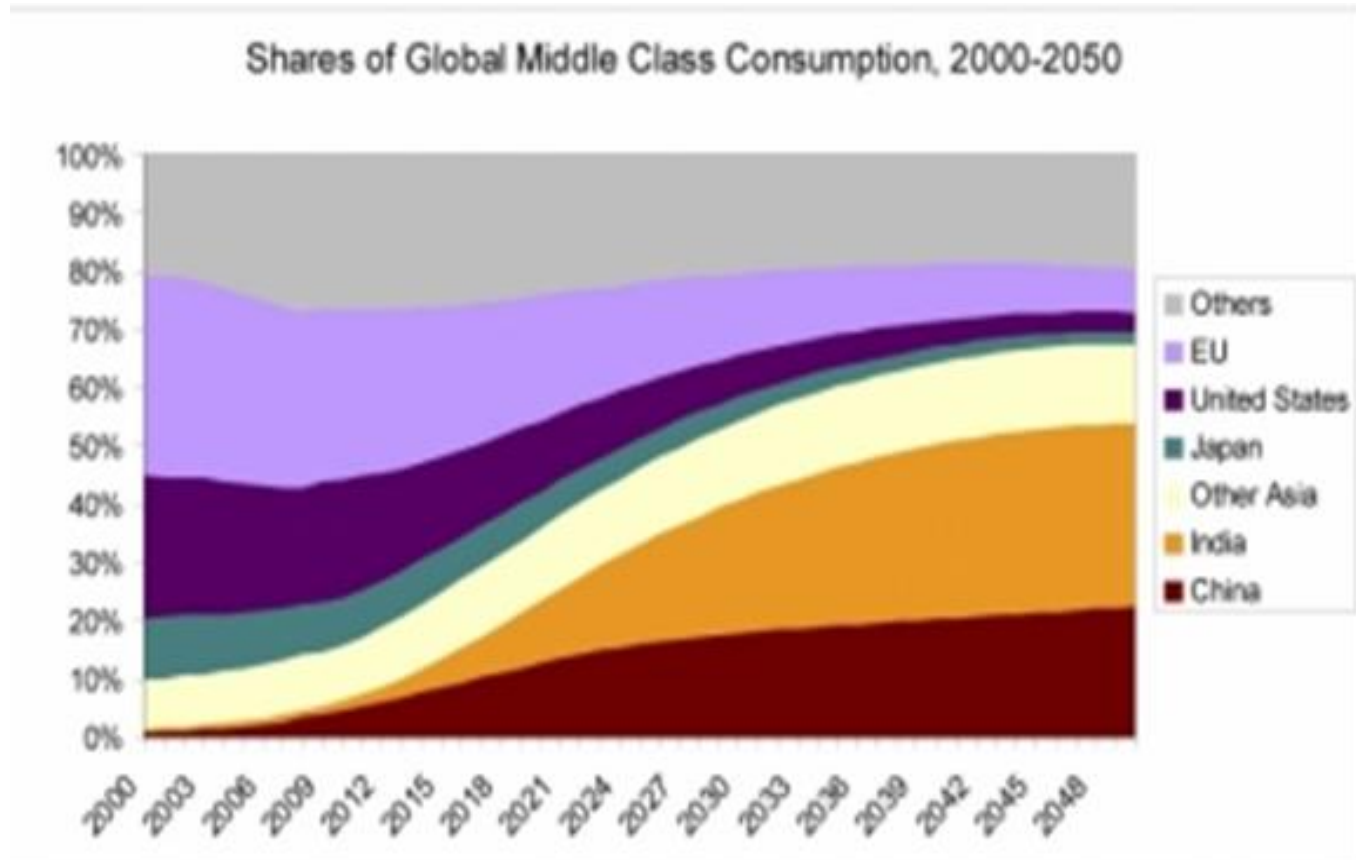
Growth of the Global Middle Class

The Middle Class Is Growing...

GLOBAL POPULATION BY INCOME



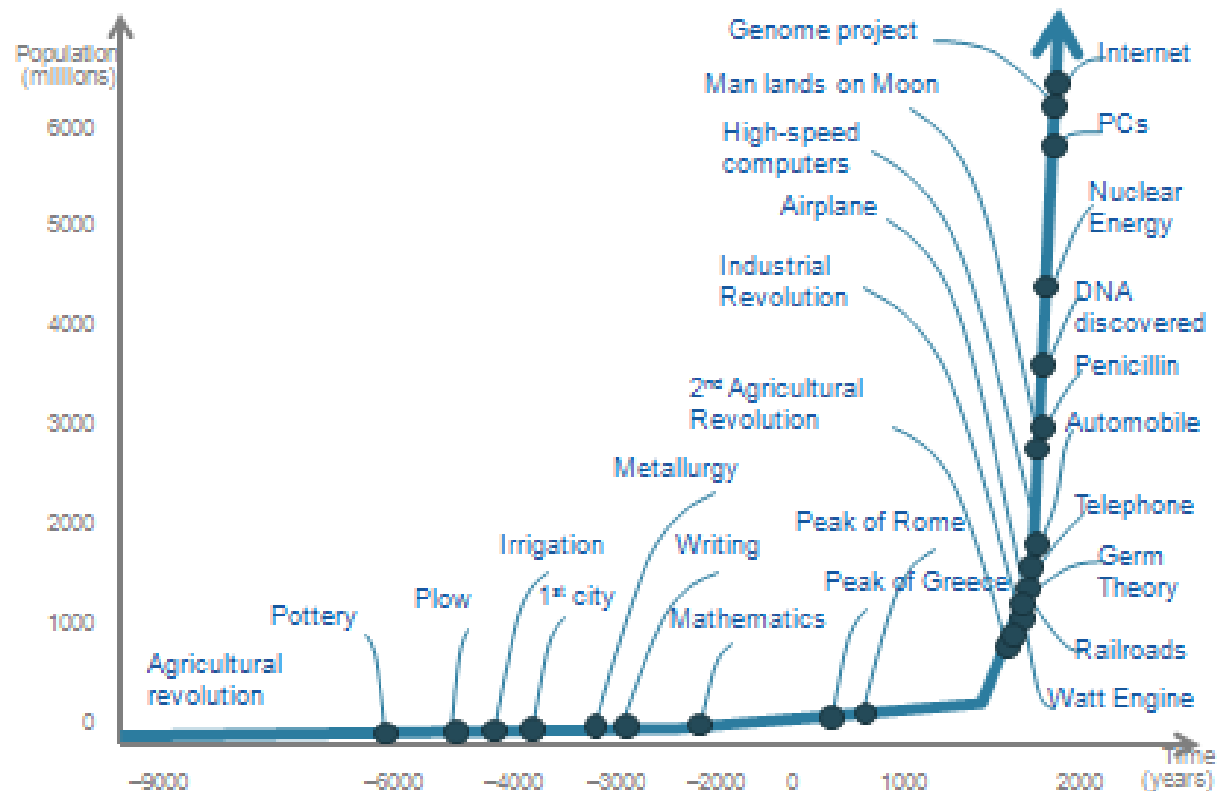
...and Moving Eastward



Disruptive Technologies

- Rapid growth in computing innovation leads to subsequent new revolutions
- Moore's Law is now applicable to more than computing, which means several technologies are evolving exponentially at the same time

The History of Technology



Biotechnology

- Disease management → prolonged lifespan
- Greater resources (e.g., food, water, energy)
- Human augmentation
- Tailored attacks on individuals (e.g., “hacking DNA”)
- Bioerror and bioterror

Importance of Cities

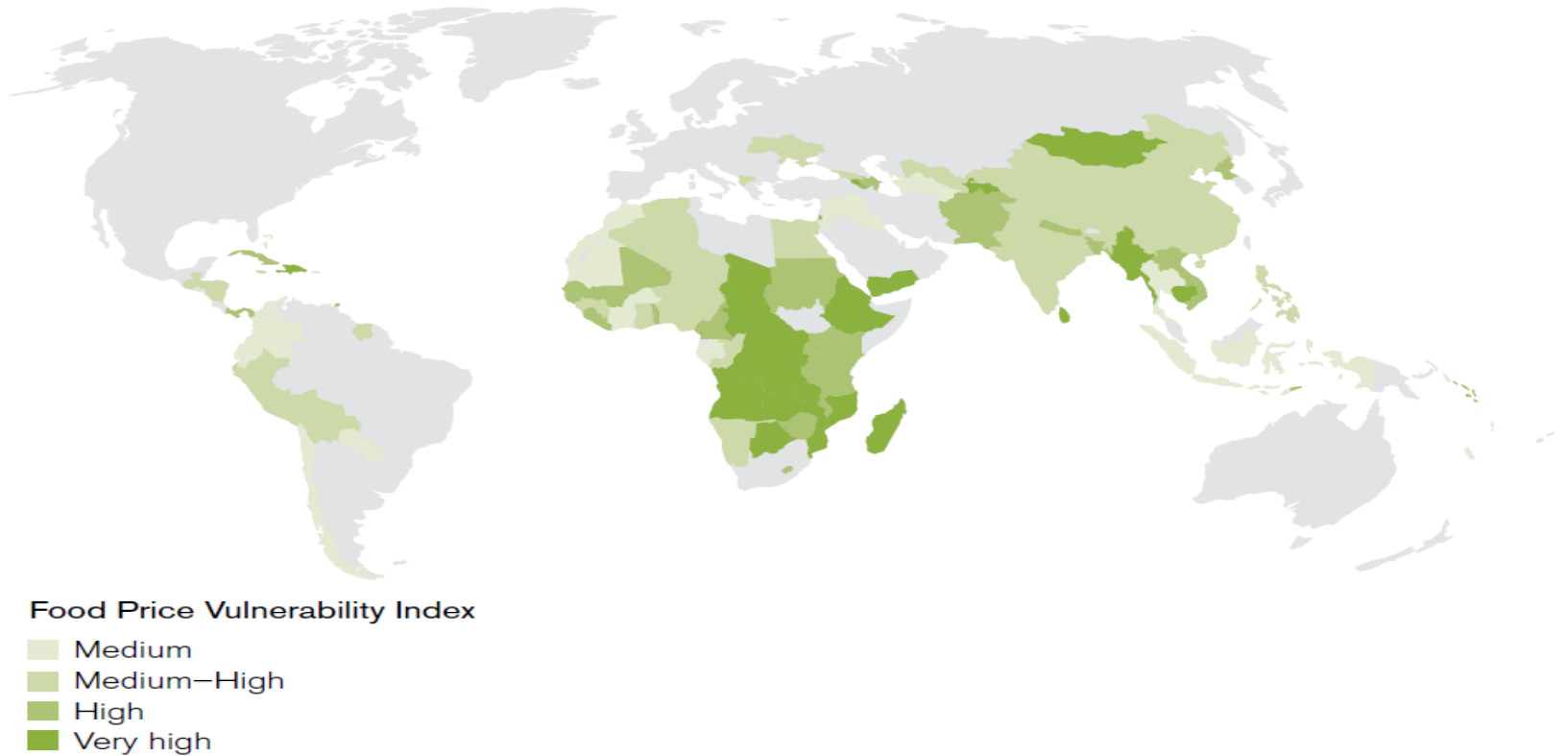
577 cities

will contribute half of
global growth
through 2025



Food Spikes

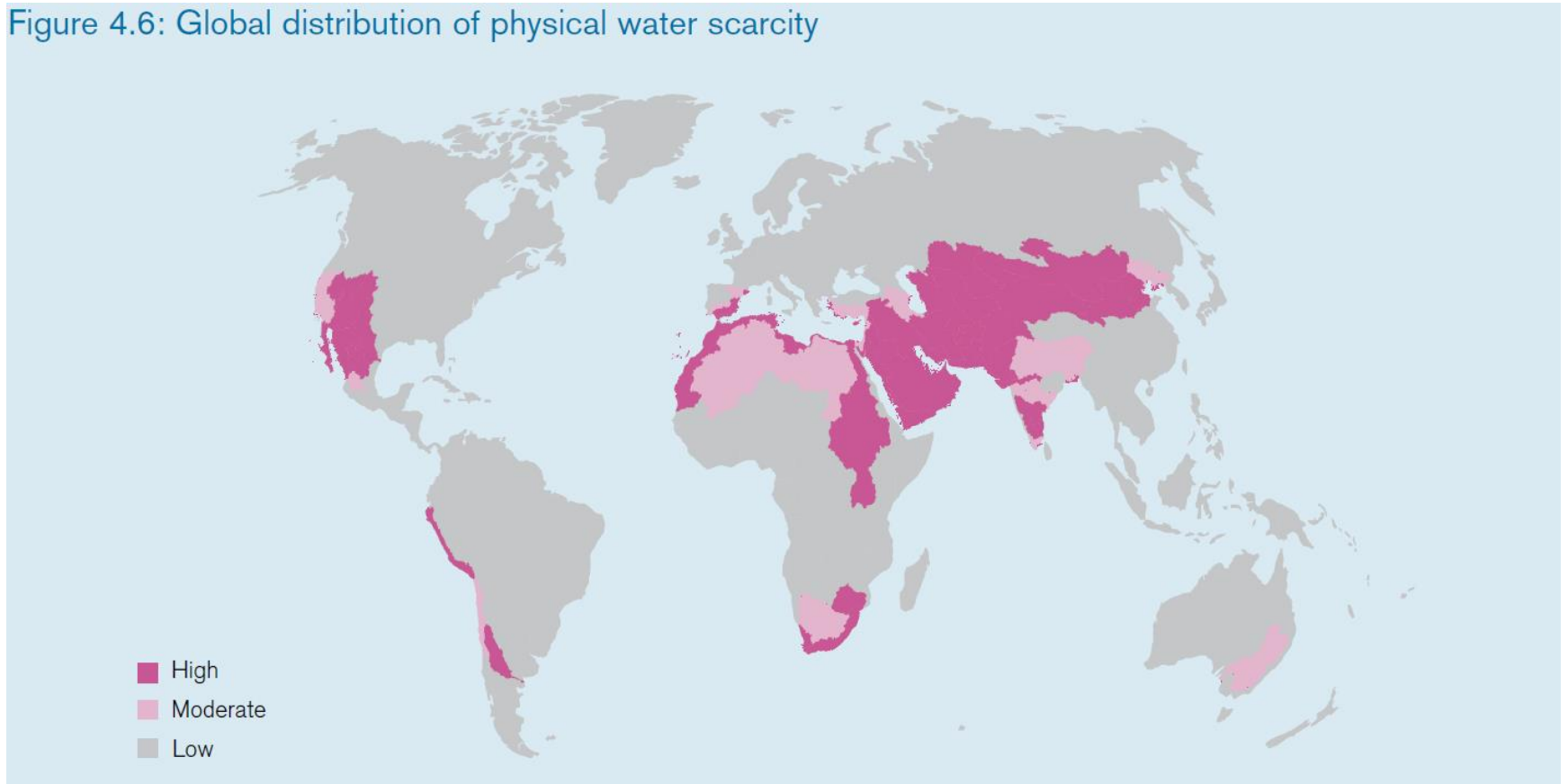
Figure 4.4: Vulnerability to food price spikes



Source: Chatham House analysis – index based on data from World Bank and FAO.¹⁵⁹

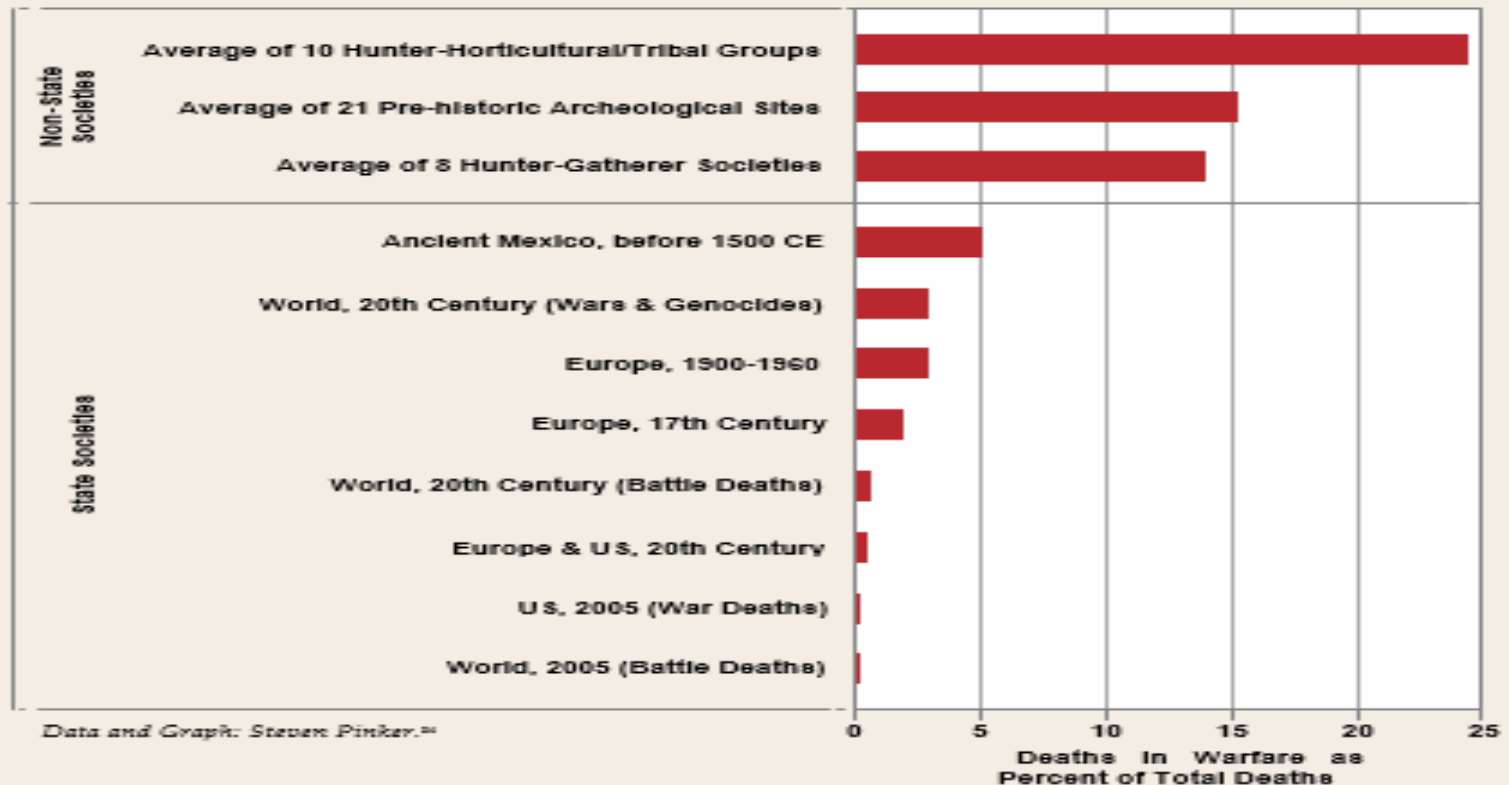
Increasing Water Stress

Figure 4.6: Global distribution of physical water scarcity



The Most Peaceful Age in History

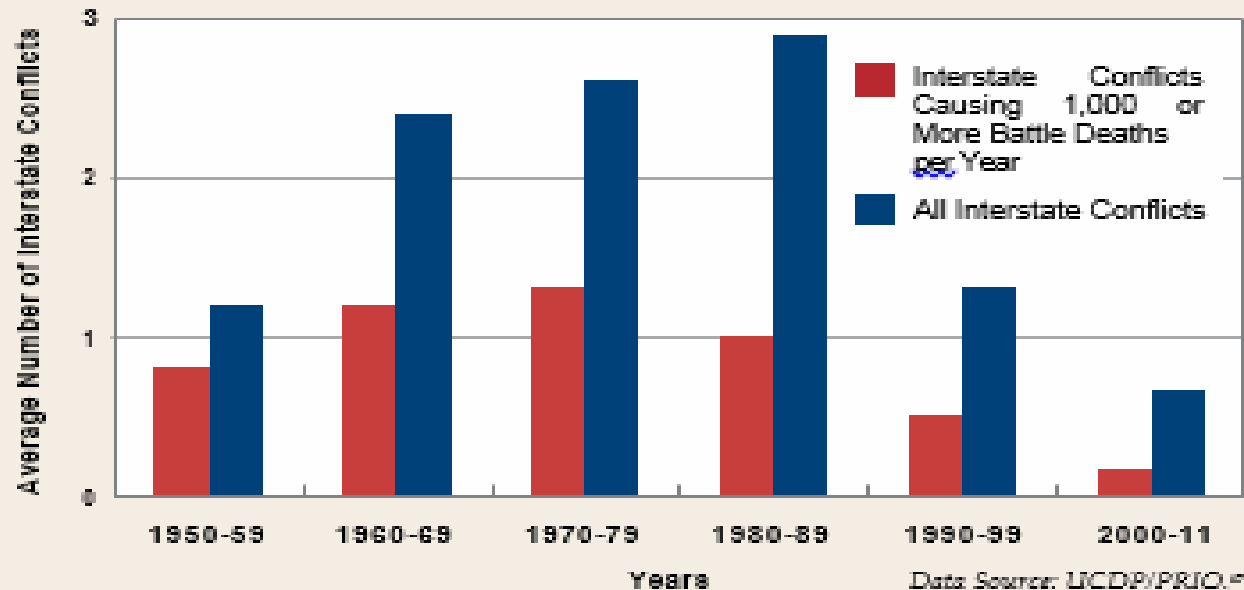
Figure 1.2 Deaths in Warfare in State and Non-State Societies



Non-state societies tend to be much more violent than societies where state institutions hold a monopoly on the legitimate use of force. As a percent of total deaths, battle deaths from recent wars pale in comparison.

Interstate Conflict Going Down

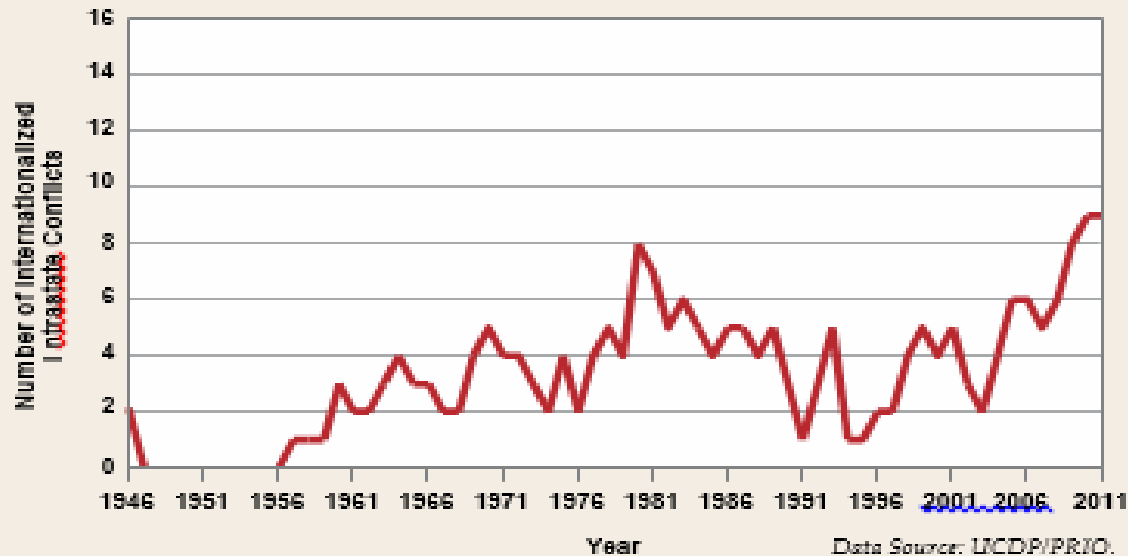
Figure 1.3 Average Number of Interstate Conflicts per Year by Decade, 1950-2011



Conflicts between states—especially high-intensity conflicts—have become very rare since 1989. There has been less than one interstate conflict per year on average since 2000, down from almost three during the 1980s.

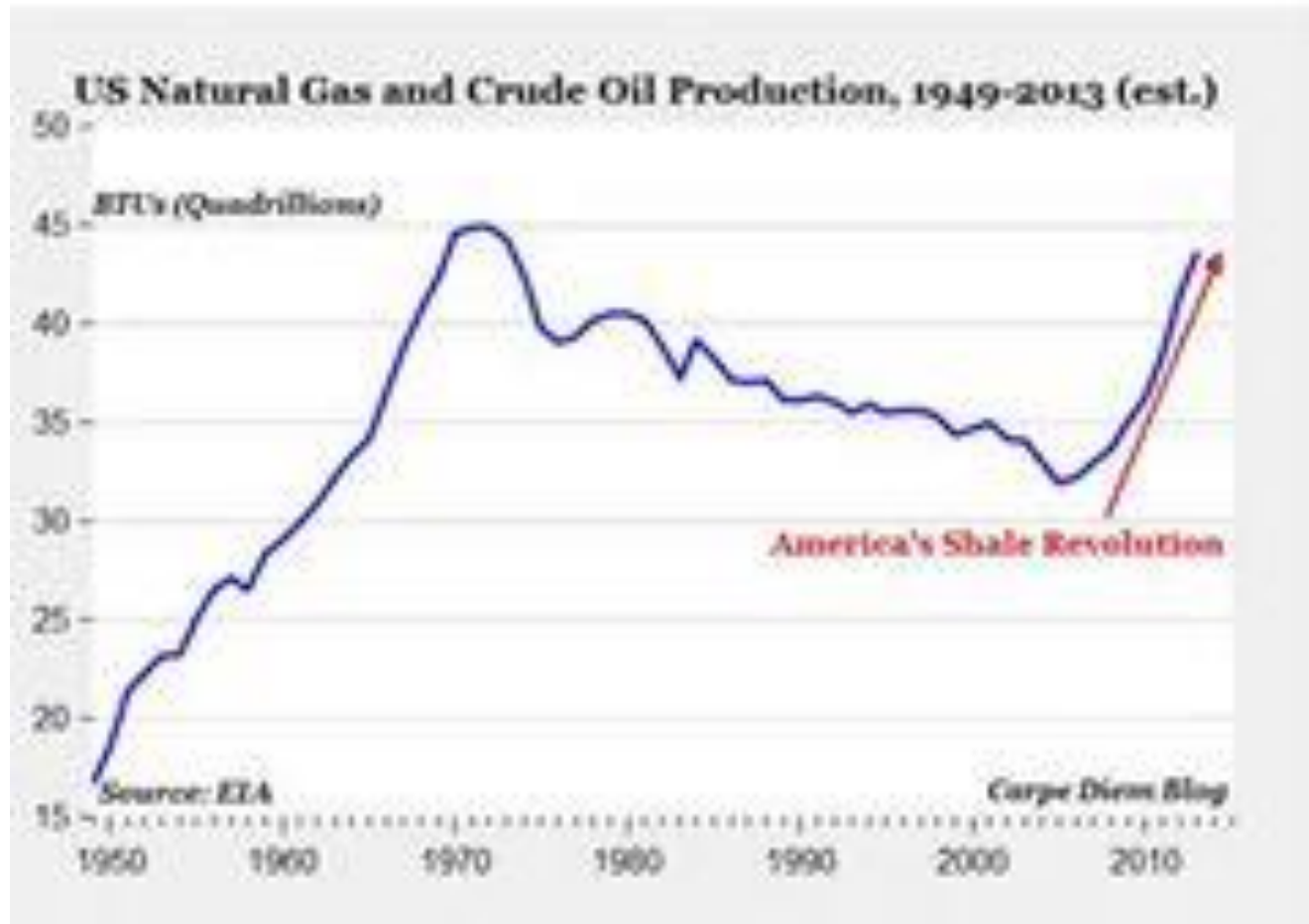
But Spreading Intrastate Conflicts Going Up

Figure 4.5 Global Trends in Internationalized Intrastate Conflicts, 1946-2011



Only a minority of intrastate conflicts involve foreign troops. But the number of these internationalized intrastate conflicts has increased over the past 10 years. In 2010 and 2011 there were more of these conflicts than at any other time since the end of World War II. Internationalized intrastate conflicts in both years took place in several locations, including Afghanistan, Iraq, Rwanda, Somalia, Uganda, and Yemen.

US Shale Revolution



The New Multipolar World

New Multi-Component Global Power Index Forecast
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