



**GLCb2020
Environmental
threats and security**

**Do environmental changes
cause conflict? Debate from
the 90s.**

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Agenda

- How is environment linked to conflict?
 - Environment → war
 - War → environment

Environment → war

Argument: Poor environmental conditions cause war.

Securitization of overpopulation

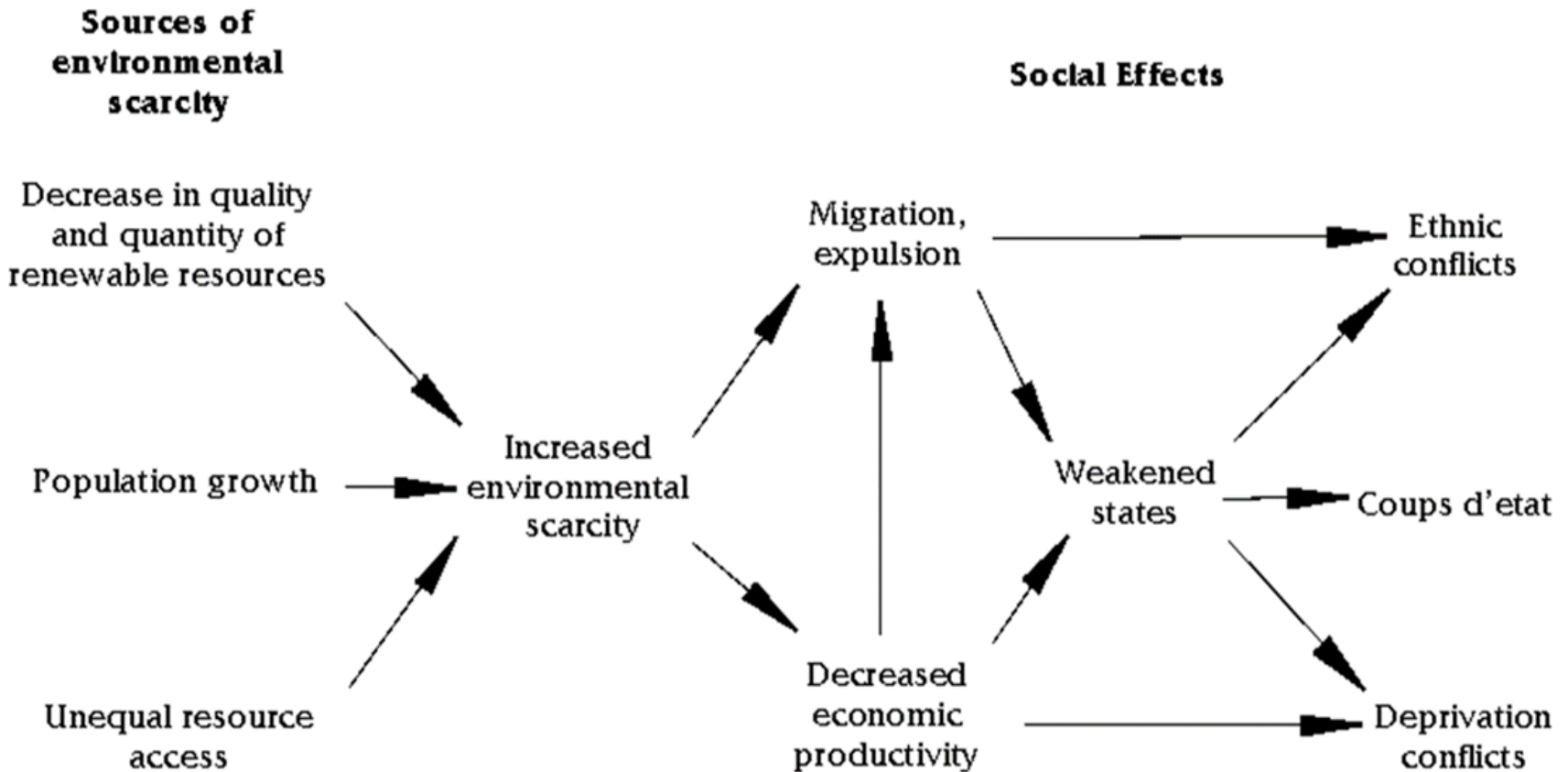
- Hardin and the lifeboat ethics
 - How does scarcity shape our moral thinking?
- Paul Ehrlich, *The Population Bomb*

Resource wars

- Oil crisis in the 70s, fears of overpopulation
- Focus on states, interstate violence
- Thomas Homer-Dixon
 - Resource capture and ecological marginalization

Resource scarcity → conflict

Figure 2: Some Sources and Consequences of Environmental Scarcity



Resource scarcity → conflict

- Homer-Dixon
 - Mauritania-Senegal border war (the 80s)
- Robert Kaplan,
“The Coming Anarchy”

Environment → war?

- Indirect empirical evidence
- Many other factors
- Resource scarcity → cooperation?
- Disasters affect conflict in different ways