



**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

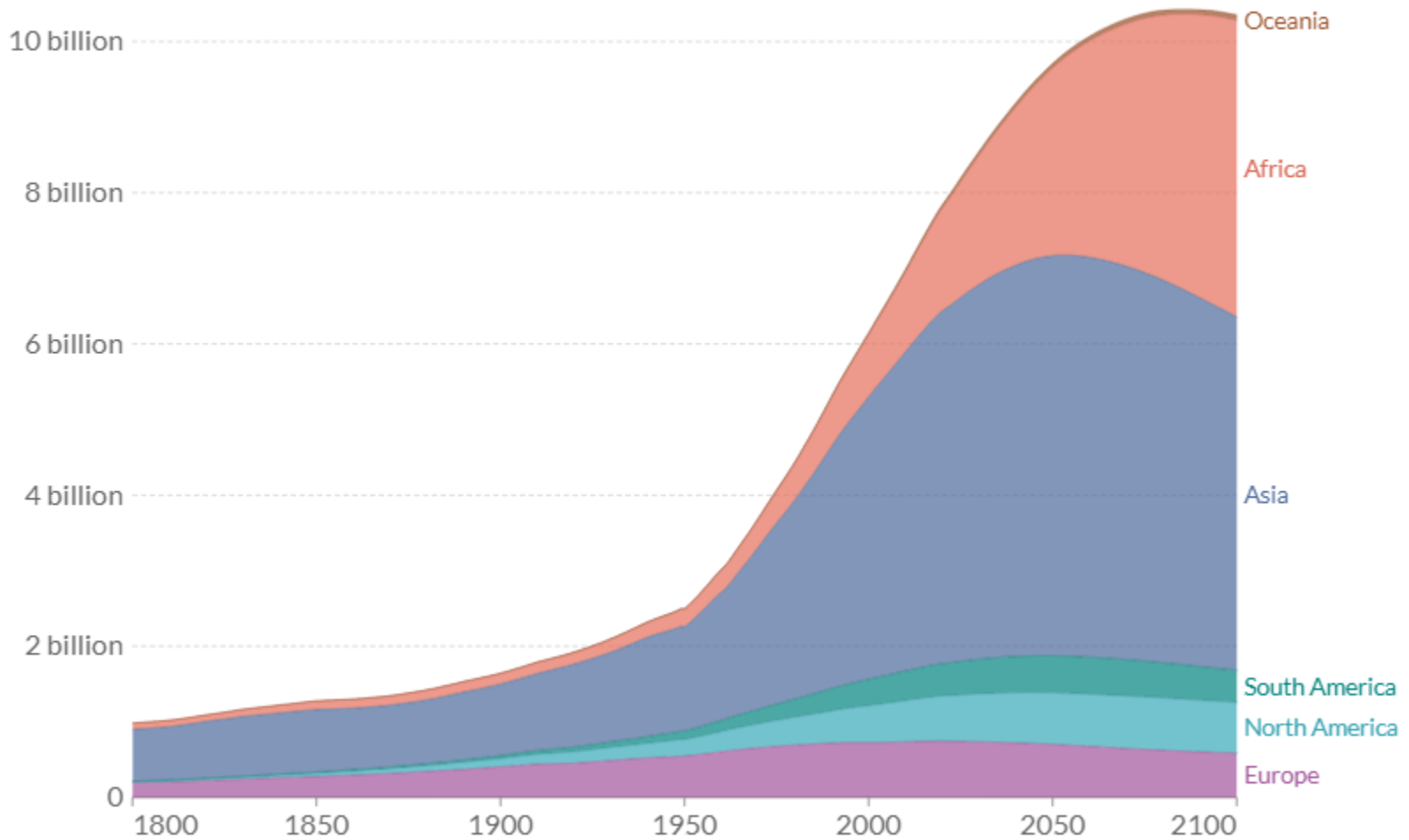
**Environment → conflict**

Argument: Poor environmental conditions cause conflict.

# Population growth becomes a problem

## World population by region, including UN projections

Future projections are based on the UN's medium-fertility scenario.



# Securitization of overpopulation

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

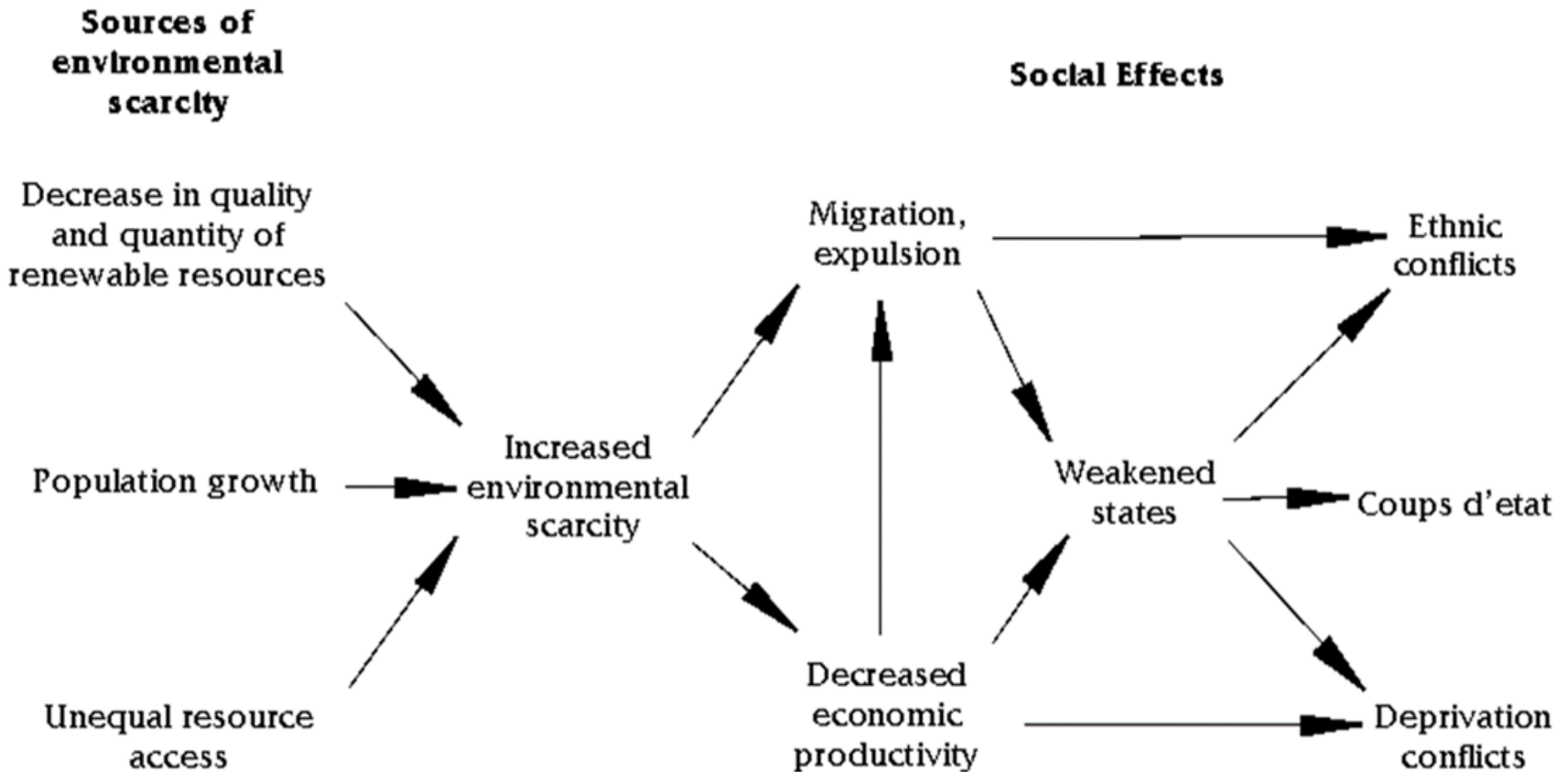
# Resource wars

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- 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