



Muslim Planet

News Journal: Volume 5, Issue 1

January 2022

[The Muslim Voice](#) Project offers a platform of technology services for the Muslim Community of North America. It provides the needed infrastructure to transform the community towards [unified positions](#) and integrated action plans. It seeks Muslim representation at local, state, and federal levels. So, please [help](#).

Welcome Message

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[The Muslim Voice](#)

Editorial

"Is the US headed for another civil war? In a word, yes."

In the early 1990s, when Bill Clinton was in the White House and the United States looked unshakeable, the administration appointed Jack Goldstone to study how states fail. They meant other states; not the US. Few expected that his model would later predict their country's collapse.

In an unpublished paper submitted for peer review, Professor Goldstone, who is a sociologist, and Peter Turchin, an expert on the mathematical modelling of historical societies, have concluded that the US is "headed for another civil war".

The conditions for civil violence, they say, are the worst since the 19th century — in particular the years leading up to the start of the American Civil War in 1861.

The reason for this are trends that began in the 1980s, "with regard to inequality, selfish elites, and polarisation that have crippled the ability of the US government to mount an effective response to the pandemic disease," they write.

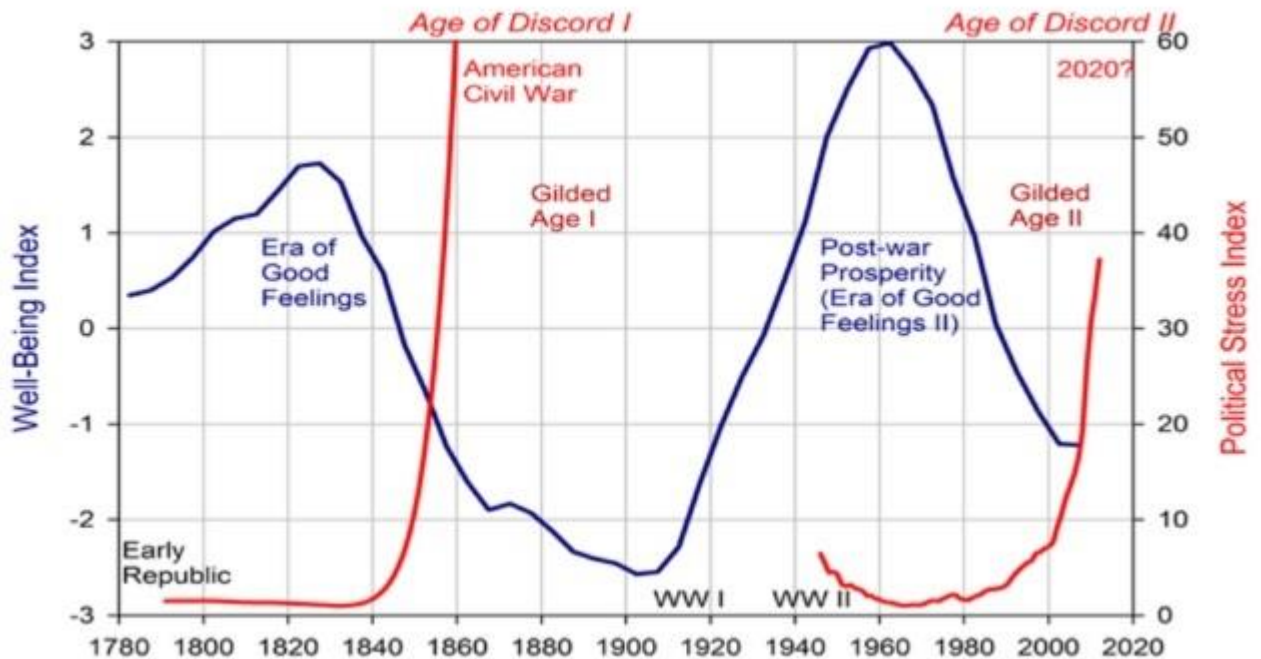
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"Is the US headed for another civil war? In a word, yes."

Professor Goldstone is a leading authority on the study of revolutions and long-term social change at George Mason University. The model developed by him and Peter Turchin tracks such data as the ratio of median workers' wages to GDP per capita, life expectancy, average heights, and the number of new millionaires. It also measures political polarisation or the degree of overlap between the parties.

Applied to US history, it 'predicts' the 1861 Civil War and the unrest of the 1930s — a time of Jim Crow segregation, Gilded Age inequality, and fascism.

Ten years ago, Professor Turchin pointed his model towards the future, and made an uncannily accurate prediction. Just like in the 1850s, crisis indicators were rising, he wrote in the journal *Nature*. They could be a reliable indicator of looming instability and "look set to peak in the years around 2020," he wrote.



The Political Stress Index combines three crisis indicators: declining living standards, increasing intra-elite competition/conflict, and the weakening of the state. Growing PSI indicates likelihood of political violence. The Well-being Index indicates greater equality, greater elite consensus, and a stronger, more legitimate state.

Image:

Supplied: Jack Goldstone and Peter Turchin

Speaking from his home in Virginia on Monday — the day before a member of an armed militia shot a protester beneath a statue of a conquistador in New Mexico — Professor Goldstone described these predictions as "scary as hell".

"The general feeling is horror," he said.

'Collapse happens slowly and then very suddenly'

In fact, the present disorder was forecast as far back as 1991. In the book *Revolution and Rebellion in the Early Modern World*, Professor Goldstone used an early version of his model to predict the rise of a leader similar to President Trump.

It came down to population changes, Professor Goldstone argued. The American population surged after World War II — the Boomer generation born in a time of relative peace and plenty. As this massive cohort aged and accrued wealth, they could make the country vulnerable to political crisis. But this would only happen, he wrote, if the elites did three things: tighten up the path to mobility to favour themselves and their

children (like increasing the cost of university); dampen wage growth and claim a greater share of economic gains for themselves; and resist taxation so that government is starved of needed revenues.

As it turned out, this is exactly what would happen over the following three decades.



President Trump near the White House on June 1, 2020.

Image:

Getty

At the non-profit Fund for Peace in Washington DC, the Fragile States Index tracks data such as the state of public services and income inequality and assigns countries a score indicating its resilience or ability to cope with shocks. It's been running the index since 2000, and in the last few years the US's position has steadily worsened. Charles Fiertz, a programs manager at the fund, told *Hack* that, although the index was not designed to make predictions, he had noticed some interesting correlations.

"In 2016, when the Trump election and the Brexit referendum happened, we looked back and found that the US, along with the UK, was actually one of the most worsened countries in the world over the preceding several years in the indicators of group grievance and factionalised elites," he said.

These trends in the indicators have continued in recent years, Mr Fiertz says. Looking at other countries that have collapsed, he sees a pattern of several indicators steadily worsening before a sudden shock "overwhelms the system".

"It could be a pandemic or a loss in a war or perceived abuse by public security forces," he said.

"And normally, prior to this worsening process, a country would be able to adapt to, to deal with that. But because of this long-term buildup of vulnerabilities, it cannot."

"It happens slowly and then very suddenly."

Whichever side loses could dispute election outcome

Professor Goldstone predicts the real problems will begin after July 31, when Americans' \$600 a week COVID-19 unemployment welfare expires.

"Social tensions likely continue to grow as we move to November," he said.

"The risks of violence in November are very high."

November is the US presidential election — now less than five months away. As the big date nears, the tone of predictions are darkening. Both Republicans and Democrats see a loss as a cataclysm — not just a setback, but the end of America. Four more years of Trump would 'destroy democracy', one side says. The other claims that Biden would destroy the economy as well as 'law and order'. The Trump campaign has launched an 'Army for Trump' website to "recruit and mobilise Americans ... committed to fighting to re-elect President Trump."

"There's a real risk that, if the election is close, whichever side loses will be strongly motivated to mobilise people to challenge the result," Professor Goldstone said.

"That could mean putting people in the streets."



A police officers pepper spray a woman on May 30, 2020 in Denver, Colorado.

There's another scenario: The protests calm down, Biden wins easily in November, Trump accepts the result, as do his supporters, and the country makes a peaceful transition to Democratic Party leadership. Unfortunately, this is "low probability", Professor Goldstone says. The chances of violence are higher.

"The fissures in our society that led to the last outpouring of protest are deep-rooted and have been around for a long time," he said.

"The concerns about racial injustice, gender discrimination, and severe economic and material inequality have been building for many decades.

"COVID-19 like the 2009 housing crisis has exacerbated these differences."

Could this mean a revolution? No, he says. The population of the United States is relatively aged and unlikely to be carried away by ideological fervour. Enough people would prefer to have leadership settled by election results rather than battles in the street. There's a chance, he says, of something like Ukraine's Orange Revolution. In 2004, after an election perceived to be marred by fraud and corruption, huge peaceful protests occupied central areas of the major cities and demanded a revote. When this took place, and the election was declared fair and free, the bloodless revolution was over.

This has never happened in the US. A presidential election has never been re-run.

"If we see an upsurge of violent protest and the election results are disputed the Democratic and Republican congressional leaders may try and get together across the party lines and maybe even justices of the Supreme Court," Professor Goldstone said.

"They'll say that, 'We feel that we need to stop a popular battle in the streets over who will lead our third branch — the Executive — and we need to have a new election to satisfy everyone that the government is legitimate.'

"Then they'd schedule an election in January."

Can it be turned around?

Some fragile states are able to turn themselves around, Charles Fiertz says.

"It requires a lot of investment over a long time and across a whole bunch of different areas, but it can be done," he said.

Professor Goldstone points to the 1930s, when President Herbert Hoover was leading the US at a time of growing fascism and democratic failure around the world. In the midst of the Great Depression, he was succeeded by Franklin D. Roosevelt, who tilted the economic balance away from the corporations and the wealthy.

"It wasn't easy and it didn't all magically go away in one term," Professor Gladstone said.

"He put the US in a position of global leadership rather than isolation — and led the defence of democracy around the world."

In the early 1990s, when Bill Clinton was in the White House and the United States looked unshakeable, the administration appointed Jack Goldstone to study how states fail. They meant other states; not the US. Few expected that his model would later predict their country's collapse.

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The reason for this are trends that began in the 1980s, "with regard to inequality, selfish elites, and polarisation that have crippled the ability of the US government to mount an effective response to the pandemic disease," they write.

This has also "hampered our ability to deliver an inclusive economic relief policy, and exacerbated the tensions over racial injustice."

A [2021 national survey](#) by pollster John Zogby found a plurality of Americans (46%) believed a future civil war was likely, 43% felt it was unlikely, and 11% were not sure. War seemed more likely for younger people (53%) than older ones (31%), and for those residing in the South (49%) and Central/Great Lakes region (48%) relative to those in the East (39%).

Meanwhile, Republican Rep. [Madison Cawthorn](#) of North Carolina made a false claim regarding election integrity and said, "If our election systems continue to be rigged, then it's going to lead to one place and that's bloodshed. ... There's nothing I would dread doing more than having to [pick up arms against a fellow American](#)." (Translation: "It would be a shame if false election claims cause a civil war.") These kinds of remarks should not be taken lightly.

The recent survey did not ask why people thought civil war was possible or how it could happen. But we believe there are several forces pushing many to imagine the unthinkable.

Hot-button issues: Racial equity, gun control, abortion, election legitimacy, climate change, vaccines, masks—the list goes on. Cultural, economic, and political issues generate outrage and hostility. We already are seeing "border wars" via federalism, with individual states passing major legislation that differs considerably from that in other places. As an illustration, a new Texas law virtually outlaws abortions after [six weeks of pregnancy](#) (a time at which many women do not even know they are pregnant), while other states continue to uphold the 1973 Roe v. Wade framework and a [clear majority of Americans](#) support legalized abortion.

High levels of inequality and polarization: These hot-button issues are driven in part by the [widespread and interrelated divisions](#) that burden the country. Separated by ideology, race, gender, living standards, and opportunities for education and economic advancement, different groups have dramatically different views about public policy and American society. There can be large variations in opinions, depending on the issues.

News in Brief

Please **click** on the hyperlinks for more details:

1. Watch [Muslim Network News](#) anchored by Sr. Samana Siddiqui.
2. [Germany's First Muslim Minister](#): Long-time Green Party member and former head of the party, Cem Özdemir, will become Germany's new government's Minister of Agriculture and the first Muslim and Turkish-background minister in Germany.
3. [Muslim Association of Canada launches an Educational Platform](#): Toronto, Ontario, December 2, 2021: The Muslim of Association of Canada (MAC) is proud to announce the launch of an educational platform to combat Islamophobia in Canada (<https://islamawareness.ca/>) as part of the Ontario Ministry of Education's effort to tackle Islamophobia in Ontario schools.
4. [Truth and lies about US attack on a car in Kabul](#): It is the story of a family of ten Afghans wiped out by the last American drone attack on Afghanistan on the last day of the US presence. They had a special visa to travel to America and were waiting for their turn to fly out.
5. [War on Terror Film Festival](#): The stories beyond the front lines: 20 years | 20 films. Also download the [REPORT](#): The Terror Trap - The Impact of the War on Terror on Muslim Communities Since 9/11.

Articles for Muslim Community

Turkish Red Crescent

The Turkish Red Crescent on Monday delivered at least 4,253 food packages donated by the Turkish government to drought-stricken families in southern Somalia.

The food was distributed by the Turkish Red Crescent and sent by Turkey's Interior Ministry and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD).

The aid was "distributed to families in need in the drought-stricken Jubaland region Monday through a commission established by the Turkish Embassy in Mogadishu," Orhan Kokcu, head of the Turkish Red Crescent Somalia Delegation, currently paying a humanitarian visit to the port city of Kismayo, Jubaland's administrative capital, told Anadolu Agency (AA) over the phone.

He added that the food aid parcels include such key staples as sugar, flour, pasta, rice, and oil.

The distribution comes as a delegation led by Ismail Emre Kosif, Turkey's charge d'affaires in Somalia, and including senior officials from the Turkish Interior Ministry, as well as Turkish Red Crescent officials, arrived in Kismayo and met with Ahmed Mohamed Islam Madoobe, the president of Jubaland state.

The meeting discussed the humanitarian situation in Jubaland and the Turkish government's role in delivering aid to the needy in the Horn of Africa country.

Madoobe thanked the government of Turkey for responding to the call to the international community over the ongoing deadly drought in Jubaland.

Facing one of its worst droughts in decades, Somalia has already declared that the country is in a state of humanitarian emergency.

[Source link](#)

Afghan Trust Fund

Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi Monday said the establishment of a Trust Fund and a resolution for the Afghan banking system's revival were great successes achieved by the 17th Extraordinary Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers held here on Sunday.

The foreign minister, in a statement issued a day after the session chaired by him here, said Allah had bestowed Pakistan great respect and success under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

He said the participation of 20 foreign ministers, 10 deputy foreign ministers, and 437 delegates was a huge success for Pakistan, and a great breakthrough made with the coordination between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

It is not a matter of the Taliban but 38 million people of Afghanistan. Afghan people are faced with hunger and famine. They urgently need medicine and food,” he remarked.

The foreign minister said the schools could also function only when the government would have the resources to pay salaries. He added that the United States must review its policy considering the public needs.

He also thanked all relevant institutions and individuals for putting in their efforts to hold the moot including the Foreign Office staffers, National Assembly Speaker, Senate, armed forces, and local and international media for their reporting on the extraordinary session.

The foreign minister also chaired a high-level meeting attended by Special Secretary Foreign Affairs Raza Bashir Tarar and senior ministry officers.

The minister congratulated the officers for making excellent arrangements for the extraordinary session on short notice. “I am proud to be leading a team of very competent civil servants and diplomats,” he commented.

He said effective diplomacy was linked with the economic self-dependence which Pakistan was trying to achieve through economic diplomacy.

The foreign minister said Pakistan was looking forward to hosting the 48th session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers by March next year. He said Pakistan had become a focal point of the world’s attention due to its vibrant foreign policy.

[Source link](#)

Sudan Protests

The allegations surfaced after demonstrations in Khartoum on Sunday, where tens of thousands had massed to mark the third anniversary of protests that led to the overthrow of long-time President Omar al-Bashir, in April 2019.

Coup anger

Demonstrators who made for the presidential palace were also protesting against October's military coup and the political agreement signed later on 21 November, [said](#) UN rights office spokesperson Liz Throssell.

Speaking in Geneva, she said that security forces are alleged to have raped or gang raped 13 women and girls.

Two protesters also died after being shot and 300 others were injured, she said. Some were hit by live ammunition or tear gas canisters or beaten by security forces, while others suffered breathing difficulties after inhaling tear gas.

“With further protests planned for this weekend and the weeks ahead, **it is crucial that security forces guarantee and protect the right to peaceful assembly and act with full respect for international laws and standards regulating the use of force**”, Ms. Throssell insisted.

At a scheduled briefing, the UN rights office spokesperson said that [OHCHR](#)'s [Joint Human Rights Office in Sudan](#) had learned of the 13 allegations of rape or gang rape.

“We have also received **allegations of sexual harassment by security forces against women who were trying to flee the area** around the presidential palace on Sunday evening,” she said.

Justice call

Highlighting the “**unnecessary or disproportionate use of force, in particular use of live ammunition**”, the OHCHR official called for the perpetrators to be identified and prosecuted.

[Source link](#)



The Great Muslim Nation

We are the only organization of its kind in North America

eMail : iCommunity@mail.MuslimPlanet.org

Website : <http://MuslimVoice.org/>

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