

- **Environmental Stress Effects**

The first component is environmental stress effects. These effects are physical in nature and the categories or types of environmental degradation (global, national, and local) are manifestations of the effects. Environmental effects could include scarcity of resources more generally, but in this Paper the focus is on the environmental stress aspect. Two variables influencing the environmental effect are total population and per capita environmental stress. Per capita environmental stress in turn is dependent upon affluence, a per capita variable that implicitly takes into account the use of physical resources, and the technology used in the production process. "Affluence" identifies the fact that the average North American and the average African do not have the same level of resource consumption, and thus do not inflict the same level of environmental stress. A third variable influencing the environmental effect is the vulnerability of the ecosystem to human activity (stress absorption capacity varies greatly). Social factors, such as preferences for types of food - meat versus cereals - also influence the affluence variable.

- **Social Effects**

The second component is the social effects that arise in part from or are exacerbated by the environmental stress. The two key potential social effects of environmental stress are population displacement - both internal migrants and emigrants to other countries - and economic decline. For example, land degradation caused by inappropriate irrigation (the environmental stress) could contribute to population migration (the social effect). All of the environmental categories identified earlier have the potential to influence adversely economic activity. Economic decline in turn may be accompanied by several social ills such as unemployment and increased income differences between social groups. This is not to say that all social effects or conflicts necessarily result in violence. On the contrary, social conflict is most often resolved peacefully, being addressed by such means as legislative, regulatory or institutional reform. The willingness of governments to undertake public transit, for example, may be influenced by environmental factors. Conceptually, the point is that environmentally induced social effects have the potential to result in violence.

- **Violent Conflict**

The third component is violent conflict that is induced or contributed to by the social effects. Such conflict could arise as either intrastate or interstate violence, and would vary in intensity and scope. The nature of the conflicts is set out below.