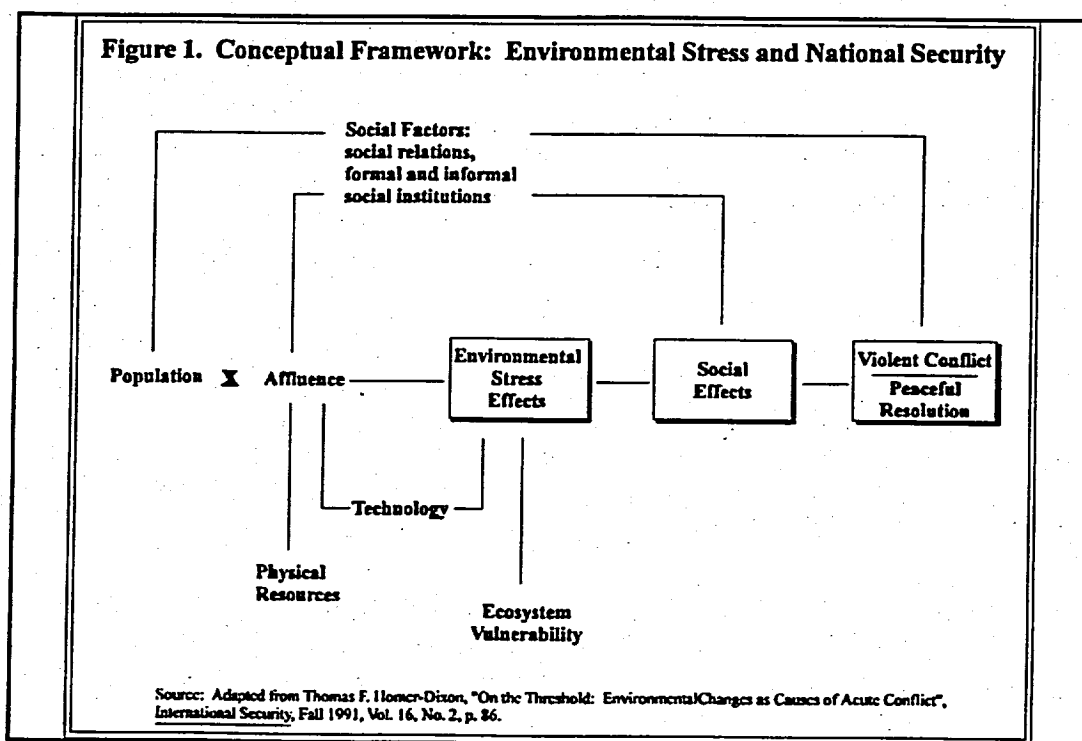


communities, or the willingness of society to accept environmental degradation will influence how environmental stress is dealt with.



- **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 Chinese 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