

What is the World Coming To: Global Crisis Analysis and Response

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I will review our analyses of the Global Financial Crisis, Global Food Crisis, European Bond Crisis, Arab Spring, and Ebola and the nature of global vulnerability in the face of increasing connectivity [1-9]. In these analyses we clarified the consequences of global socio-economic changes and government actions that created conditions and triggers for these events. Beyond the immediate policy recommendations that can be inferred, the analysis indicates a susceptibility to failure of effective decision making, whether by individuals, groups or governments. Given the nature of the vulnerabilities that these crises suggest, what are the implications for risks at the global scale and what should be done? Should we revisit globalization, and what alternatives are there? I will argue that the world will have to, and is making strides toward, adopting two radically different but complementary strategies: Much more effective distributed governance [10] and an increasing role for science.

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