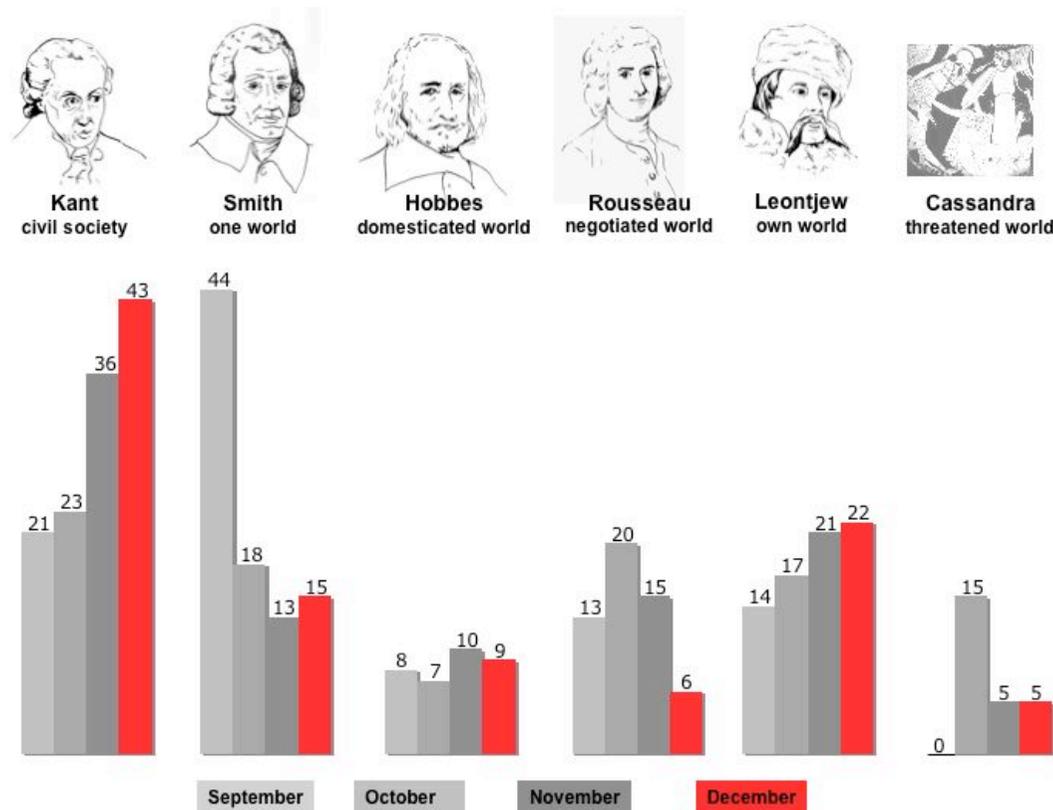


World Observatory
 Bulletin December 2008
 World_Drives association

Major trends

Figure 1: Six scenarios of daily events: December, November, October and September 08 (in %) (see comment the following page)



World observatory
 six scenarios of global developments

Civil World: trends shape the international society as civil society, the dream and vision of Immanuel Kant.

One World: trends shape the international society as one world, the dream and vision of Adam Smith.

Domesticating World: trends shape the international society as order based on power, the vision of Thomas Hobbes.

Negotiated World: trends shape the international society as society of "round tables" and successful negotiations, the vision of Jean-Jacques Rousseau.

Own World: trends shape the international society as coexistence of nations, imperia and regions based on identities and the own traditions, the vision of Konstantin Leontjew.

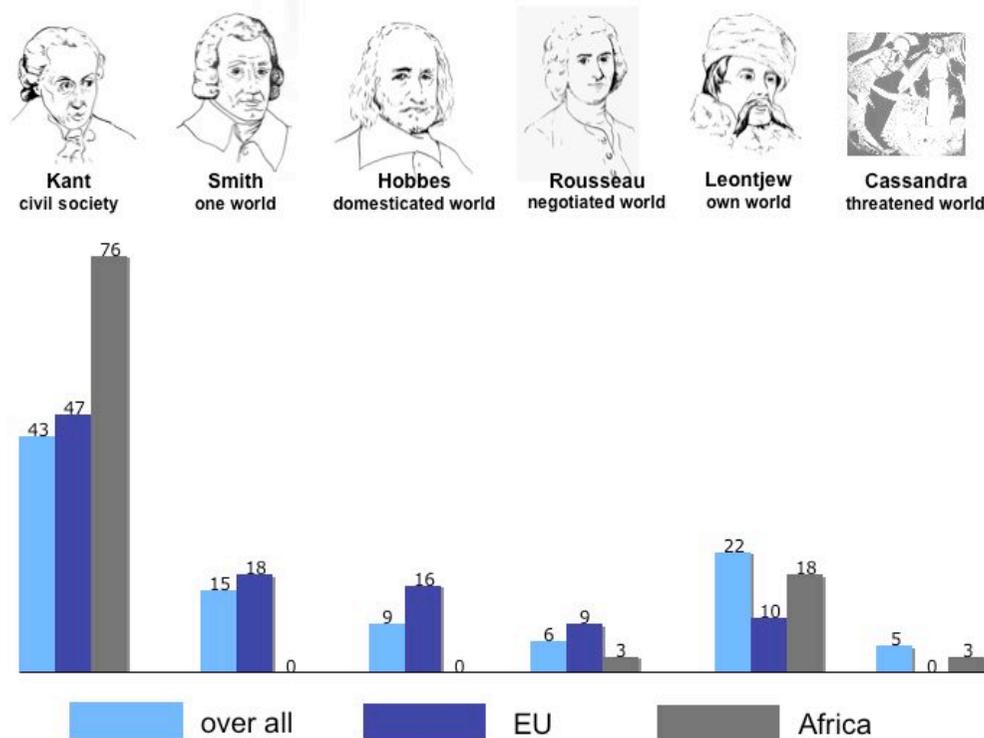
Threatened World: trends lead the international society towards unsolvable problems, catastrophes; it is the vision of Cassandra.

- In December the events (N 222) were drivers of civil society but rather under negative signs, mainly violations of rights.
- The one world scenario decreased after the financial tsunami of September and is stable now on a level of 15%. The one world scenario is biased by state support measures which dominate the events.
- The negotiating world was weak in December 08 after it has increased in October.
- The clashes between civilizations and ethnic groups confirm a regular increase; with Paul Huntington at Christmas a prominent scholar of this scenario has died.
- Cassandra might articulate a series of heavy issues in the last period of 2008: financial and economic breakdowns, natural catastrophes, poverty related accidents and reports announcing accelerated negative trends in regard to the planet's natural state.

How relevant are the scenarios in world regions in December 2008?

While Europe conforms to the overall priorities of the six scenarios, Africa is characterized by negative events of civil world and also by such of own world (Fig 2). Africa does not “participate” by events falling into the world of Smith (one world), of Hobbes (domesticating world) or Rousseau (negotiating world). The ownership of these crucial “tanks” for developing global society is restricted to the North and emerging economies. This is a strong sign for the exclusion of African parts from world society. An outlook to Cassandra's events highlights the bias. (See following pages)

Figure 1: Participation (ownership) of scenarios by overall (world wide range), European Union and Africa (% events)



Cassandra's ratings for the last 3 months seem to be biased (see right). Looking at the regional range of people concerned by Cassandra's priorities it is evident that she assigned highest priority to those events, which endanger the first and rich world including partially Asian areas, so called emerging markets. The other events touching people of the Southern parts far from one world are less registered.

Was Cassandra just in monitoring at the end of 2008? From September until the end of 2008 48 events have been registered as signs of threatened world.

Priority 1) The breakdown of one world, of financial systems and its impacts on economy, embraces the half of Cassandra's assessments, illustrated for instance by the event: "Recession fears hit stock markets: European and Asian markets fall sharply amid growing concerns that the world economy will enter a protracted slump" (20/11/08).

Priority 2) The endangers of civil society, of security for people in face of natural or human made catastrophes and accidents embraces 11 assessments, visible for instance in event: "Zimbabwe cholera toll 'hits 978': The United Nations says 978 people have now been killed by the cholera outbreak in Zimbabwe, an increase of 25% from the last figure given three days ago" (20/11/08).

Priority 3) The fear of threatening the planet's future are assessed by 8 events, evident for instance in the event: "'Huge year for natural disasters': The past year has been one of the most devastating ever in terms of natural disasters, one of the world's biggest re-insurance companies has said." (29/11/08).

Priority 4) Cassandra registred 5 events of war-like clashes of civilisations, the risks of own world scenario, illustrated by the event: "Battle rages for Mumbai hostages: Fresh explosions and gunfire have been heard at Mumbai's Taj Mahal Palace hotel, one of several sites targeted in attacks that have killed at least 130". (28/11/08)

Trends November 2008

In November the 172 events increased on the track “civil society” – positively shaped by the election campaigns in the US, negatively by violation of rights. The one world scenario decreased after the financial tsunami of September and October; it changed the focus on support measures by the state. November was not a period of strong competition between hegemonic players (Hobbes) but the NIC report Global Trends 2025 published foresees a decline of the US as hegemonic player. The clashes between civilizations and ethnic groups (Leontjew) embrace a fifth of the events and reached the level of Cassandra.

Two events are relevant. On the one hand, the election of *Obama* as President evoked euphoric reaction. Many expect that negotiating will strengthen in the next years (scenario of Rousseau). The global games will become more driven by negotiations than by executive and military power.

On the other hand, the *NIC Report „Global 2025 – A transformed World“* affected around the globe; it foresees an end of predominance by USA with its liberal vision of one world, exactly after the financial crisis exploded and Obama was elected. The forecast is the emergence of a multipolar world involving the BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India and China). These new global players bring with their own identities – additionally to their increasing weight in worldwide games. The Western triad, “civil society, liberal economy, atlantic hegemony”, loses its significance. The financial crisis contributed to this shift; the (national) states regained its relevance. The report delivers information about new trends and scenarios, which could be expected between the *old* international world order (since the 2nd war) and a probable *new* order. Chaotic episodes and events (see for instance pirates) and paradoxical phenomena, (Gadhafi’s camp in Paris or Moscow), could surprise many times in future.

The NIC Report “Global 2025” highlights four scenarios:

A World Without the West: the new powers supplant the West as the leaders on the world stage.

October Surprise: illustrates the impact of inattention to global climate change; unexpected major impacts narrow the world’s range of options.

BRIC’s Bust-Up: disputes over vital resources emerge as a source of conflict between major powers, for inszance India and China.

Politics is Not Always Local: non-state networks emerge to set the international agenda on the environment, eclipsing governments.

Trends October 2008

Compared to September one world trends decreased (from 29% to 18% of the 194 events selected in October 08). At the one hand, global society moves towards a more pessimistic outlook. A “tsunami” of bad news reached the mood-level of “Cassandra”. On the other hand, October is also a period increasing the scenario “Rousseau” (from 12% to 20%). Insights into the events reveal learning by negotiation of how to cope with the crisis by new deals.

Events of civil society (Kant) remain at the top increasing debates about the civil quality of events and facts of one world. The clashes of civilizations and ethnic groups (Leontjew) embrace nearly a fifth of the 194 events.

October 08 was not a period of strong competition between hegemonic forces (Hobbes). The global financial focus superimposed the play for hegemonic power and produced a kind of enforced solidarity.

***Tacit hegemonic ambitions?** “US host global finance summit; the US, France and the EU unveil plans for a series of summits..” The events “one world” as well as “negotiations” are not free from hegemonic ambitions. The latter perforate economic universalism and liberalism as guideline of “one world”. Like Bush as speaker of the US hegemony Sarkozy experiments a style evoking remembrances of a stronger global leadership of Europe (and France). The crisis of one world is driving trends in other scenarios, new orders (Hobbes). Evidently the round tables and meetings of the big players make visible tacit ambitions for power and influence even in scenario of negotiating world (Rousseau).*

World_Drives association: world observatory, Bulletin 31/12/ 2009

Work in progress

The world observatory analyzes the events, data and time trends more in detail. The following bulletins will be enriched by more detailed results of content analysis, offered and announced on the website.

The results of world observatory (source BBC World News) are very similar those of Weltobservatorium (source Neue Zürcher Zeitung).

Zurich 31/12(09)

The event and trend analysis refer to interdisciplinary literature on world society and globalization.

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• Eric Hobsbawm (1994), *Age of Extremes. The short Twentieth Century 1914 – 1991*, London: Michael Johnson.

• Volker Bornschier (2008), *Weltgesellschaft. Grundlegende Wandlungen*, Zürich: Loreto (Neuausgabe); umfangreiches Literaturverzeichnis.

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• Mark Herkenrath (Ed.), *Civil Society: Local and Regional Responses to Global Challenges*, *World Society Studies*, Bd. 1, 2007, Münster-Hamburg-Berlin-Wien-London-Zürich: Lit Verlag.

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• Hans-Peter Meier-Dallach (2007), *Weltgesellschaft. Augenschein, Figuren, Spiele. Reihe: WORLD_DRIVES association*, Bd. 1, 2007, Münster-Hamburg-Berlin-Wien-London-Zürich: Lit Verlag.