

Syria's narrative of the world.

In the period of January 2012 the psycho-map of world society shows a diversified state of mind visible in the events.

Main stories. The events of January express the dramatic road of conflicts in Syria, which can be read as the most significant main story of the period, "*Syria's narrative of the world*". It tells about a career typical for a trouble spot: In the Gulf states initiatives to negotiate evolve but they decay and outsource the decisions to the UN security council and to its big players where the rivalries between transatlantic and the Eastern players, China und Russia regain its significance. A second core sequence, "*Baghdad and Iraq*" demonstrate of how the mankind's most vulnerable locations are experienced by people and actors, by blood and bombs. The third key-sentence of the January period is marked by "*Clashes in Nigeria*" mainly between Muslim and Christ groups. The existential, mental and psychic state expressed by these three series of events ranks under the mean of the sample (see fig 3). Indeed the three stories reduce the optimism for negotiating and they indicate the increase of ultimate value orientations (see fig 4, Ownworld).

The fourth series of core events are the conflicts between Iran and the transatlantic alliance, "*Iran and West*". But in contrast to the former sequences the symbolic aspects of this power play are in the foreground despite the threats of war which are like eruptions within the range of probability. The fifth flow of key events remains still the "*World financial and economic crisis*", articulated by many events emphasizing the EU and its impacts on the cohesion of its members, on labor markets and world wide developments. However, compared to the three first expressions these events reveal often more symbolic declarations than real actions.

Side-stories. During January relevant side-stories are visible: The "*Installation of the successor in North-Korea*", the "*Strikes for lower oil prices*" in Nigeria, the emerging "*Conflicts between South- und North-Sudan basing on oil*", the symbolic fights between the positions facing the "*US presidential elections*", the events recording the management and rules of "*Virtual world*", "*The efforts to domesticate the Hungarian road*". But one observes also side stories, which could shape optimistic outlooks: The "*Change process in Burma*", the "*Elections and commemorations in Egypt*".

Signal-words. The streams of events contain a lot of rather individual events. But they are not singular and work like signals for probable developments in the future

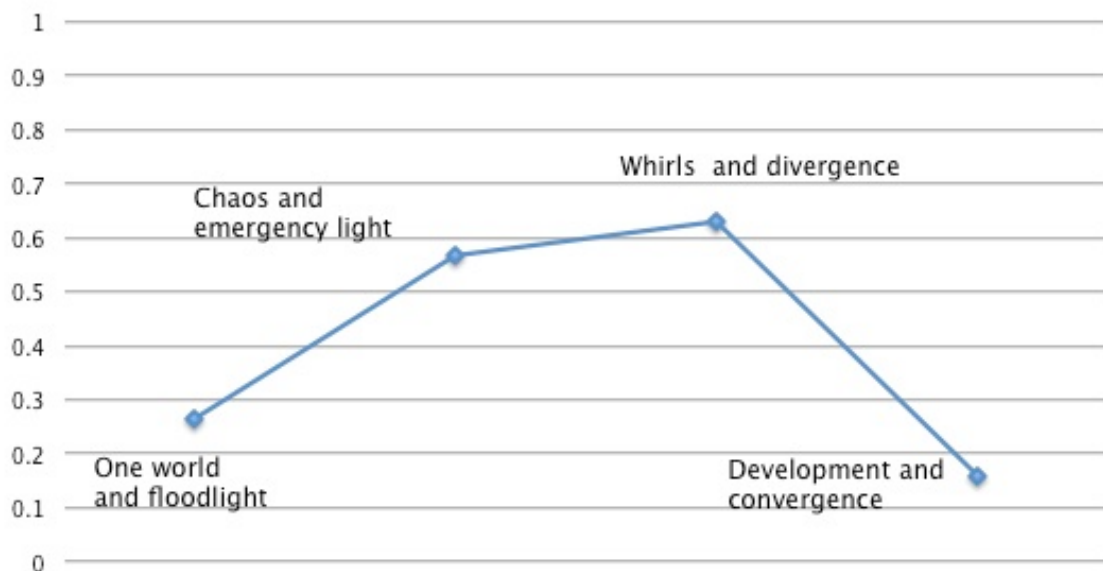
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as well as "rests" from past event series. In the third circle of individual events, for instance, the speech of the Archmandrite at Christmas in Russia announces its probable role facing the presidential election process. The opening of a Taliban office in Qatar could signalize a change in Afghanistan's deal with Taliban. The Croatian vote for the entry to the EU reflects a bifurcated decision, at the one hand, to leave the old burdens of Balkan past and to confine freedom, at the other hand. In Libya events show that the regime of Gaddafi's era, the past, remains present and the future of the new regime is not consolidated. Last but not least, world society celebrates regularly its games: A Belarus woman became the champion in Australia and a Serb gained the title.

2. Streams

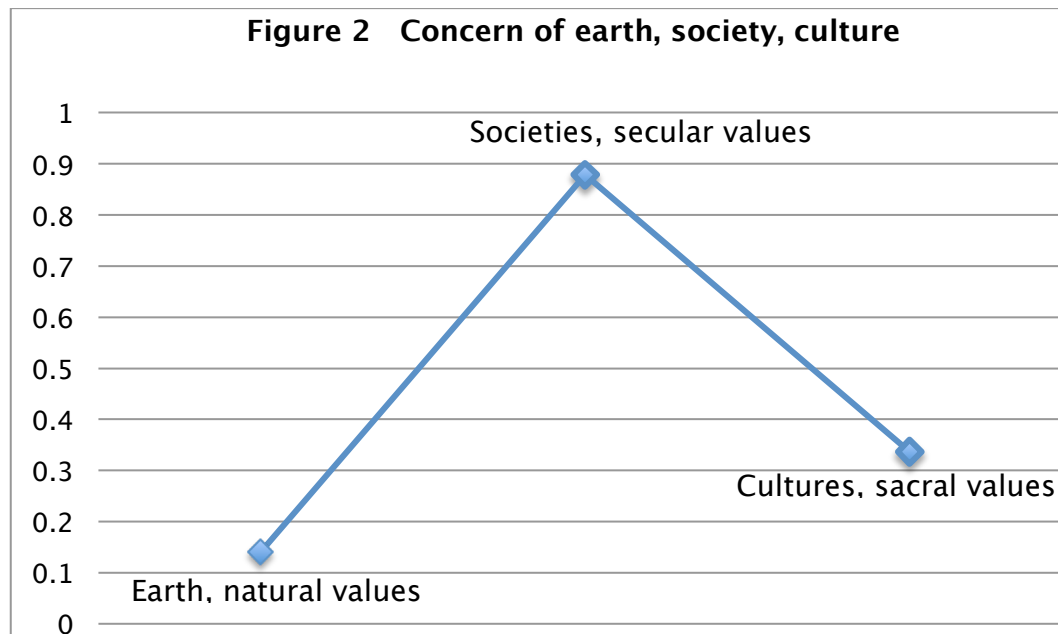
In January 2012 the stream of events leads further away from Floodlight, to Chaos and Whirls. The stream Convergence is not targeted and gets even weaker. In sum the analysis of streams reflect the difficult state of global society, i.e. the anatomy of the "crisis" readable concretely in the psycho-mental maps reflecting the flow of events.

Figure 1 Relevance of the four streams, January 2012



3. Concern

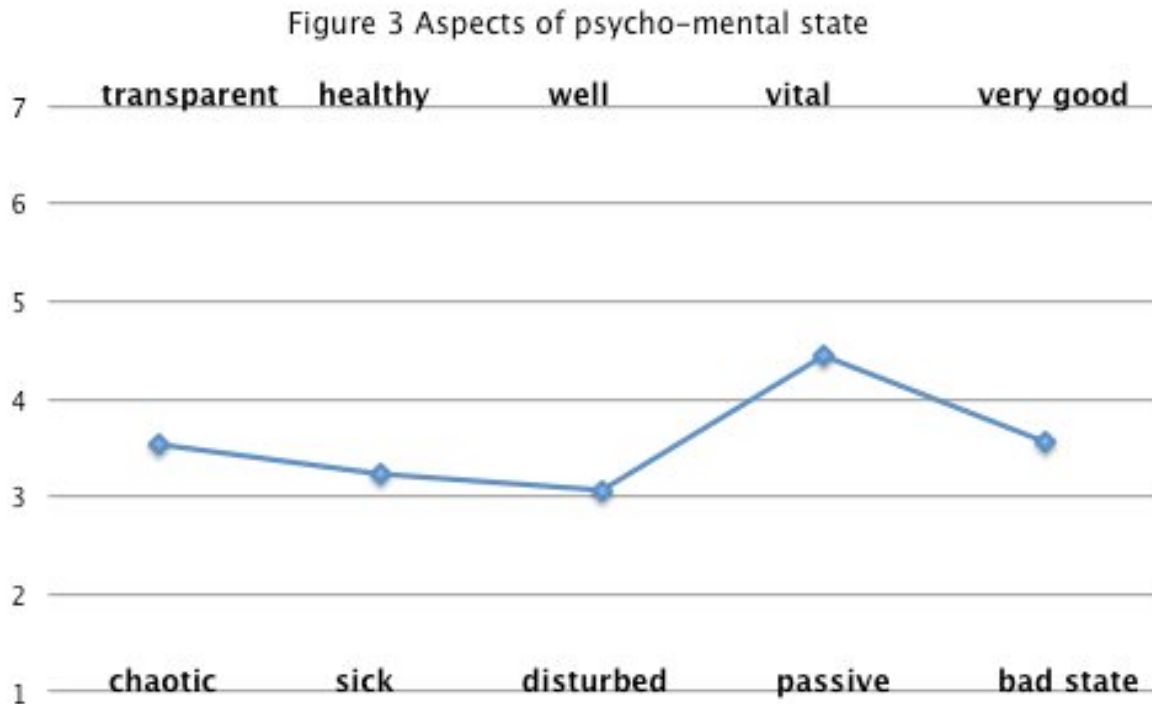
The events of January 2012 focus overwhelmingly on the societies, societal and secular values. But mainly in the Arabic space and in Africa, in the Southern and Eastern hemispheres, the event series articulate also sacral as ultimate values. The earth and natural concerns are less relevant in that period, for instance compared with the urgent relevance arising from Fukushima an year before.



4. Psycho-mental state

The events reveal first the vitality and energy of involved actors and actions, i.e. the active coping with problems – this energy passes the neutral value 4. The most negative values are disturbance followed by sickness and chaotic sentiments.

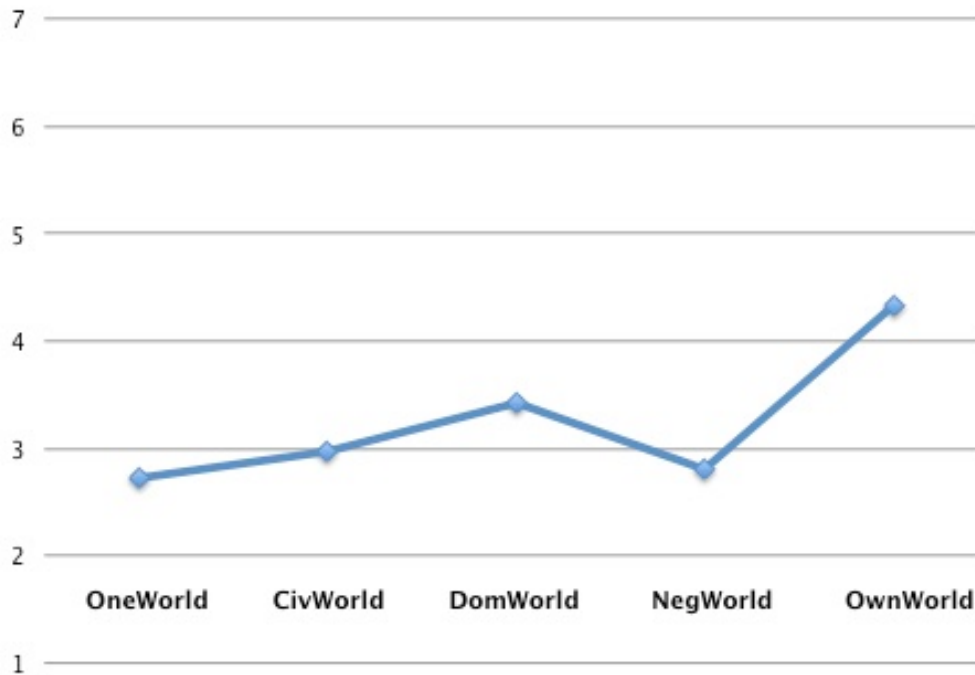
The overall value of the psycho-mental state for January 2012 reaches a mean value of 3.6. The geography of these sentiments reflect the negative emotions arising from the events in countries of the South and the Arabic space. But the vitality in these areas is not reduced. Here, the societies are especially challenged and they respond with high levels of engagement.



5. Frames

The pessimistic shadows stem from the One World frame, the Smith conception of reality and evolution. It increased since 2008 primarily in the rich world, the upper strata of global society. The events of January 2012 tell about the low negotiating capacities in global society, the essential frame in order to find joint agreements and orientations. In January 2012 the pessimism disturbed the Civil World. It is affected by difficult situations in authoritarian societies and by clashes. Additionally the new face of Domesticating World, the global sharing of power, is rather pessimistic. Own World shows the only optimist frame (over 4), an observation due to stream "whirls and divergence" (fig 1). The positive outlooks arise from recovering power and control in order to support the roads back to the own world or to manage conflicts, which endanger the status quo of the players.

Figure 4 Pessimism - Optimism in the five frames



6. Discussion and outlook

The [World_Observatory](#) concentrates on the global level of societies. Previous studies provide explanations why the world society is until now a societal body characterized by the lowest degree of integration. Therefore the psycho-mental maps and figures indicate mostly negative values if one interprets the stream of daily events on a global level. But this kind of monitoring cannot oversee that the psycho-mental maps visible in the regional, national and local streams of events are more positive. While the global level can create even an apocalyptic picture national and local events can generate even the paradise at some places. However in the case of catastrophes or in the Southern peripheries global events and disasters are experienced as like in Japan (Fukushima) or currently in "Syria's narrative of world". In these zones people are suffering the global events as local or national ones. It is consistent that here the worldwide perspective is more optimistic since it remains as the last hope. In the paradise-like areas and in the rich North and West the outlook on global events is rather dissuasive and generates pessimist perspectives (as a recent international GlobScan survey confirmed).

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The results animate some essential conclusions:

- The earth is the most substantial good of world society but it is still too less articulated through the stream of events in January 2012. The planet becomes an issue not till then a catastrophe occurs like in Japan. The mankind is still not able to give to the earth, the environment und nature a significant voice.
- There are signals that the One World is not longer the paradise perspective of the majorities in the world. In the South but also in the East as well as West the economy has to look for new roads – the topic “What is a good economy?” needs new approaches and actions. Responses to this basic question will connect the economic activities with the societal contexts of people in diverse regions where “happiness and suffering” shows different facets.
- Five years before we previewed that the stream “Janus-Worlds”, i.e. joining capitalism (one world) with strong state and identity (own world) will become stronger on a global level. Similarly in the EU the trends to go back to the stream “Diversity” are currently even dramatic, also previewed as trends five years ago. Both streams lead to the stream Whirls and Divergence; it is actually the most important development leading even in the Western hemisphere to flirt with tough government rules and models.

Appendix**Description of streams**

I – One world and floodlight: The liberal and market economy, the world as „flat arenas“, remain the strongest force and a main vector shaping their developments. It determinates the other frames and streams: Domesticating World, the sharing of power, its impact on borders and on the definition of Own World, on the role of Civil World, the implementation of civil values, and the effects on Negotiating World, the games of transnational discussions and common actions among the various players.

II – Chaos and emergency light: The emanation of One World is fading; the global economy, its flat arenas, generate crises, are confusing, global governance is collapsing. The other frames and streams of events are disturbed. What does mean „civil“ under such conditions? Own values and identities are challenged by such changes since the trust to global frames of economy or society has weakened. Negotiations are palavers, skating exhibitions of former or new players. The trust to the global governance makes place to the emergency light: orientation and acting within the limited but smaller arenas facilitating actions.

III – Whirls and divergence (divergent orientations): The common frames of world society are replaced by antidromic streams, orientations and actions, which become autonomous and particular. Own worlds claim the frame for perceiving and treating the economic, societal and cultural issues. The self-consciousness of the various regions and parts of world society increase and are explicitly articulated. Negotiations are self-reliant, the delegation of power to transnational actors and mega-projects is reduced or rejected. The concept and decision of what does mean a civil, negotiating or domesticating order is anchored in the own direction on local, national and transnational regional levels.

IV – Development and convergence (convergent roads): The critical trends of the planetary society and of its parts need the facilities of negotiating power: it overcomes the particular power of the singular players and contributes to the survival of the earth and its societal body as a community, of local economies as well as of the global one. The concept and stream of events rooted in the own worlds converge: the shape of a civil society, of sharing the power, the various spotlights are overlapping and create a plural order of the global society basing on the capacity of compromises, that means negotiations.

Description of Frames

World Observatory registers the daily stream of events and interprets them as trends and dynamics in six clusters and scenarios of evolution:

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

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

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

Negotiated World: trends shape the international society as a 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.

Cassandra: trends lead the international society towards unsolvable problems, catastrophes; it is the vision of Cassandra (threatened world).

Literature:

> [World_Observatory](#)

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Source

The world observatory is an effort for understanding global society. It is a work-in-progress enterprise fostering the forecasting of probable developments. The daily monitoring of events provides the empirical material. The monthly bulletin of trends is readable as psycho-mental map of world society. Qualitative interpretations of the monthly events create the three circles of a text, the main-, side- and signal-stories. Thereby methods of content analysis deliver quantitative descriptions. The events are documented in the diary of its daily stream provided by BBC world news, which allow to analyze the events more in detail available in the archive.

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