

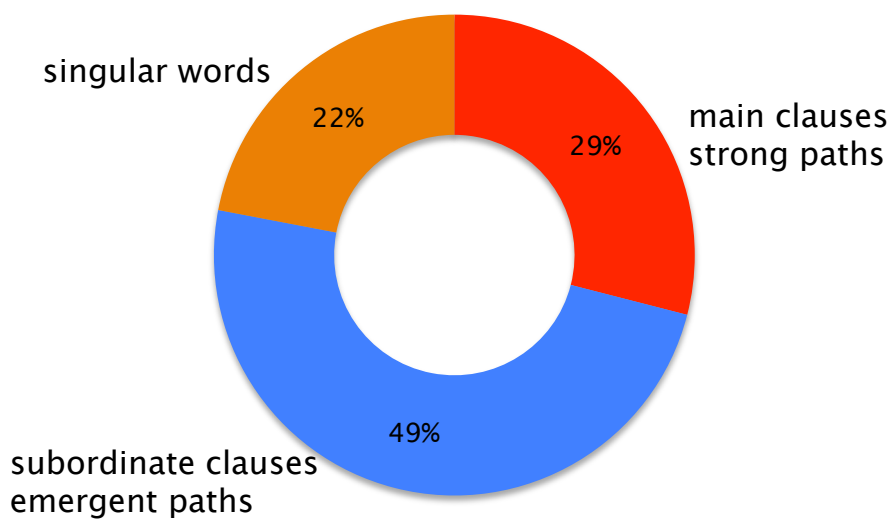
The events of May 2012 reflect the work of birds of prey who dominate the strong event paths, the global crisis, the Syrian, Afghan and African issues. They pervade the play of songbirds, the various events between crisis, rivalries and panem et circenses. The dance of butterflies demonstrates their vitality.

The faces of world society presented in Bulletin January 12 became more dramatic.

## 1. The narrative of world society – its main clauses, subordinate ones and singular patterns of events

The events of May 12 show: The main clauses, strong paths of events, cover 29% of the event stream, the subordinate clauses, revealing probable emergent paths, 49% and 22% represent singular events without building a path (Number of events analysed: 200).

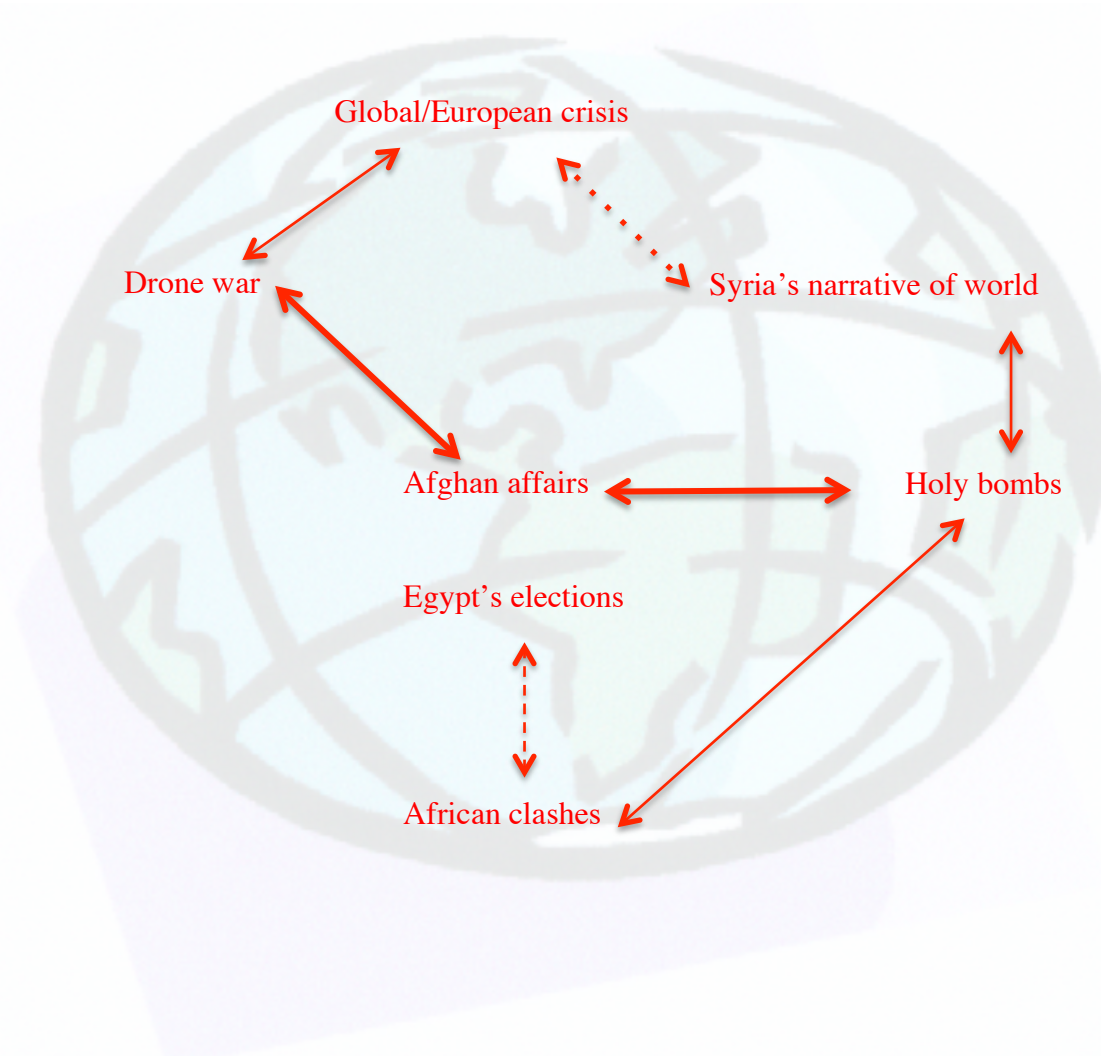
Figure 1 The distribution of event categories May 12 (list of clauses see Appendix)



## 2. The main clauses, strong paths of events and its dependency

There are two strong and pervasive paths rising in two different parts of world society: in the Atlantic-European area the **Global/European crisis** absorbs 7.5% of the total monthly events. In the Near East area the **Syria's narrative of world** generates new series of dramatic events (containing also 7.5%). These two main groups of trends are relatively independent or seem weakly connected each to other.

Figure 2 The main clauses, strong event paths and its dependency

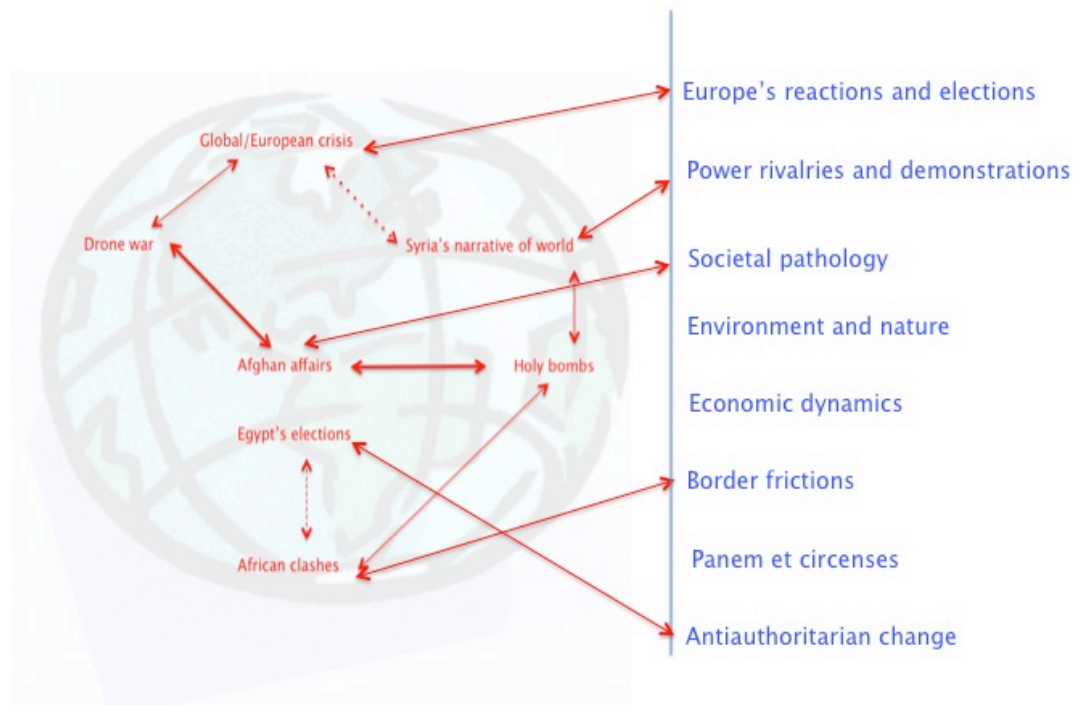


The **Afghan affairs** are continued, on the one side linked to **Holy bombs**, and to **Drone war**, on the other side. Holy bombs are evident also in the main clause **African clashes**, in Nigeria, Yemen, Mali and others. The sequence **Egypt's election** contrasts as institution building by electoral practice to the other bloody and dramatic sequences. Although often contested, the presidential elections in Egypt play the role of a hopeful continuation of the Arab evolutions.

### 3. The subordinate clauses, emergent paths of events and its dependency

The overwhelming part of events figure as emergent trends, i.e. event series which continue previous ones and/or are candidates to become main clauses, strong or leading paths in the next time. It is evident that the most of the subordinate clauses show mutual connections to the heading paths of events (figure 3). In fact, five groups of subordinate clauses show links and connections to main clauses.

Figure 3 Dependency of main- and subordinate trends (the eight groups are derived from the singular subordinate clauses – see appendix)



- The dominant path **Global/European crisis** impacts evidently the subordinate path; the most events on subordinate level embrace **Europe's reactions and elections** (16%). Evident are direct influences on the election processes in France and in US as well as in other nations (dramatically in Greece). They cause typical polarization between various political and societal groups in the Euro-Atlantic part of world society, i.e. strategic and ideological rivalries (back to high-ideologies, radicalism and rise of new parties). This dependency is due to the efforts to save "OneWorld" – the strength of the Smith-Frame and to struggle against the streams of chaos und divergence on a global as well as European level (see Bulletin April 12).

- Dramatically the subordinate cluster **Power rivalries and demonstrations** reveals the impacts of **Syria's narrative, Afghan affairs** and other strong event paths (11%). They pervade the Eastern-Western, the US-China and Iran-West rivalries. The polarities become visible and affect the frame of "DomWorld", the frame of Hobbes and the response to go back to the own road and to articulate hard lines even in negotiations.
- It follows the cluster **Societal pathology**, the pursuit of war crimes, organised criminality including the affairs of court 9/11 (5%). This pathology shows two sides, the execution of terrorist power as well as its prosecution by various strategies at the other hand. So these events depend on several main clauses, for instance also **Drone war**.
- Rather independent from the main paths **Environment and Nature**, the natural and man-made catastrophes and disasters, are present (5%). They are linked to one of the most relevant main clause Fukushima in the spring event series 2011. It seems that "Cassandra" performs her role independently from the predominant geopolitical and economic issues but continues because the aftermaths of disasters and the outlooks cannot be displaced.
- **Economic dynamics** are a significant cluster of events (4%). Besides the crisis such events focus on the new virtual economy and on the expectations and fears relating to the top economies, mainly also to the US Economy as a key path deciding on the fate of elections in US as well as the Western part of global economy. This emergent path of events supports "OneWorld" or negates its outlooks.
- **Border frictions** are very urgent, mainly in Africa linked to the **African clashes**, Sudan, Yemen, Mali, Nigeria, in regions of the former SU (2%). This subordinate clause will become more relevant in future and a main event path, if one looks on lower level, national and regional levels of global society.
- The year 2012 is a period of **Panem et circenses**, the Olympic games in London as well as the European football championship in Eastern Europe (2%). It is ambiguous whether these event series are communitarian trends, strengthening the transnational cohesion as well as national identities among people. However they emerge periodically and nearly independently from the macro scale arenas of events.
- **Anti-authoritarian change**, the changes in Burma profile an emergent path of events (2%). Like **Egypt's election** these

events tell about small steps announcing political changes in states at the margin of the big players and processes.

#### **4. The corona of singular and signal events**

A fifth of events are "butterflies" dancing around the main and subordinate clauses and event paths. What are they telling us about the state and the future of world society? Butterflies are very creative and spontaneous, known to change determinate paths into new developments. In May one observes some patterns; for instance innovations appear in different fields of science linked to future like "Robotic arms controlled by thought", i.e. events pushing the symbolic value of "Economic dynamics" or (latently) "Drone war". The face of world society gains treats of unexpected and evolving capacities, for instance, "Splashdown for Dragon spacecraft", the outlook on a future tourism market in space.

The cosmic face of earth revealed by events like a spectacle, for instance "Millions watch Pacific eclipse", "Supermoon", "Olympic fins molecule imaged", attracts people. The earth tells positive stories contrasting to the rather negative and alarming events like natural disasters building a subordinate clause and last year a main one.

Singular events transport particular, signals of change from a good state to a bad one, for instance, "Israel returns Palestinian bodies" (a sign of negotiation), "Two men self immolate in Tibet", "Niger malnutrition crisis growing", "Massive rise in Asian eye damage", "Niger worst place to be mother". The butterfly events fulfil the role of highly sensitive signals revealing what could happen looking at a particular location or story, for instance "Lady Gaga cancels Indonesia's gig" – a signal of resistance to a kind of event culture, the articulation of a border in a particular region.

#### **5. Preview**

The event analysis of May 2012 illustrates the stream "whirls and divergence" as master of trends since January 12. But looking forward to the next periods the events of May 12 describe new kinds of stratification processes and divides which are more or less dramatic and durable. On the global level the birds of prey, the big and powerful nations become players expressing growing dissent. The readiness to negotiate the relevant issues decreases – on a global, European and national level. The structural, economic, geopolitical gaps between the states, assigned to the birds of prey, are visible as plays and theatres. The world society's structural architecture – admired and statistically described by social science – looks like a series of dramatic scenes. The "Syria's narrative of world"

is the most significant illustration of this process. But a lot of this "animation of structures" can be found on nearly all levels, for instance in the election events like in US, Russia, France, Greece, Serbia et al. It is evident that the middle and small birds, the broad range of nations and societies under the level of the big players, profit through this change. Public affairs are playgrounds of opposition to overtake the routinized structures and patterns. Songbirds and butterflies, original groups, parties and even pirates look for new spaces of freedom and for articulation. Maybe the future era will be one of more vitality, living structures than of strong constraints? Facing the hard facts and problems of the planet such a development would be promising.

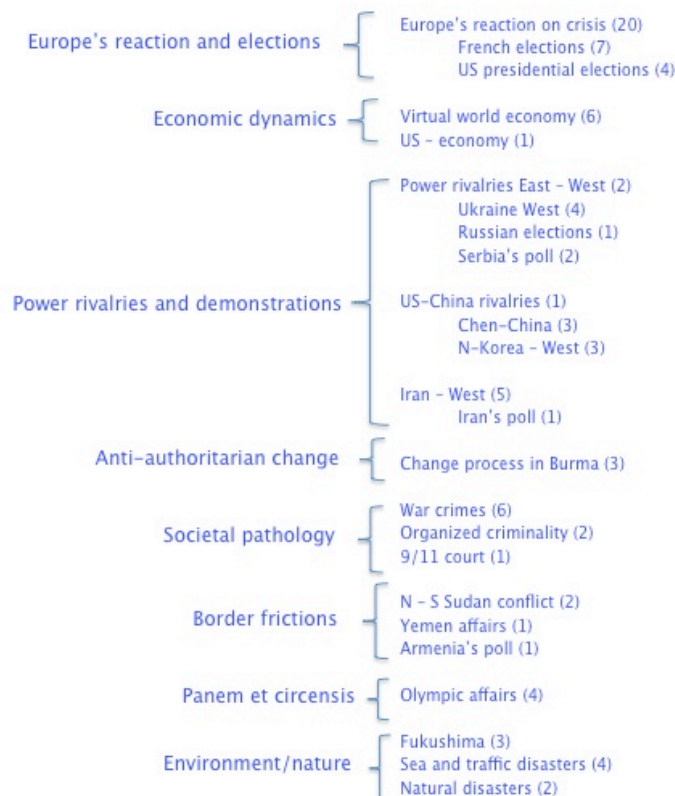
## Appendix

The three event series, main, subordinate clauses, singular events

### The narrative of world society (200 events, May 12)

	Europe's reaction on crisis (20)	Israel returns Palestinian bodies
	French elections (7)	Splashdown for Dragon spacecraft
	Iran - West (5)	German killed in Nigeria securitie bid
	Virtual world economy (6)	Arrests in Italy's football
	War crimes (6)	Two men self immolate in Tibet
Global/European crisis (15)	Ukraine - West (4)	Sri Lanka North nor just for Tamils
	US presidential elections (4)	Rio slum dwellers join peace run
Syria's narrative of world (15)	Sea and traffic disasters (4)	Olympic fins molecule imaged
	Olympic affairs (4)	Lady Gaga cancels Indonesia gig
Afghan affairs (7)	Change process in Burma (3)	Salafists clash in Tunesian town
	Chen-China (3)	Pope's butler charged over leaks
Holy bombs (6)	Fukushima (3)	Station grabs SpaceX Dragon ship
	N- Korea - West (3)	Mars has life's building blocks
African clashes (5)	Natural disasters (2)	Emergency plan to beat polio
	Serbia's poll (2)	Montreal marks 100-day protest
Egypt's elections (5)	Organized criminality (2)	Third of malaria drugs are fake
	Power rivalries East - West (2)	Chinese fakes used in US planes
Drone war (4)	Russian elections (1)	Millions watch Pacific eclipse
	9/11 court (1)	Sri Lanka general to be released
	N - S Sudan conflict (2)	School bomb kills girl in Italy
	Yemen affairs (1)	Niger malnutrition crisis growing
	Armenia's poll (1)	Japan launches S Korea satellite
	Iran's poll (1)	Robotic arm controlled by thought
	US-China rivalries (1)	Whales can adjust their hearing
	US - economy (1)	UN warns of South Sudan hunger
		Nature protection must improve
		EU forces attack Somalia pirates
		US resumes arms sales to Bahrain
		N Caroline approves gay union ban
		Big rise in Pacific plastic waste
		Niger worst place to be mother
		'Supermoon' graces the night sky
		Call for US return of native land
		Paraguay indigenous skull returned
		Massive rise in Asian eye damage
		Bin Laden frustrated at the end
		UK coalition punished at local polls
		Blind men retina implant success
		Munch's the scream sold for 120 Mio
		iceman's blood is world's oldest
		Turkey to write new constitution
		BP profits slip in first quarter

The events of subordinate clauses (emergent paths) as groups





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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 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 facilitate the analysis of the events more in detail available in the archive.

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