

Water, Food, and Conflict

How Resource Scarcity Influences Collective Violence

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Guiding Questions

- How do global level processes translate to local action?
- How do resource-related protests and riots mobilize?
- Are media accounts of participant motives accurate?
- How can we understand variation in locations of conflict?



What do we know?

- Resources and Conflict

- Deviations in rainfall (Hendrix & Salehyan 2012; Miguel, Satyanath, & Sergenti 2004)
- Population growth & water scarcity (Raleigh & Urdal 2007)
- Food production (Wischnath & Bulhuag 2014)
- Food price/affordability (Bellemare 2014; Berazneva & Lee 2013; Lagi, Bertrand, & Bar-Yam 2011)

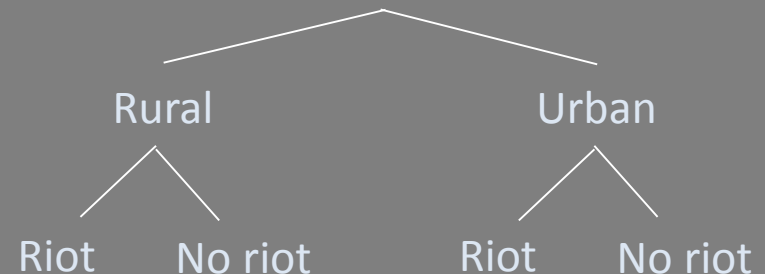
- Social Movements

- Resource Mobilization (Franzosi 1995; Hobsbawm 1964; Jenkins 1983)
- Moral Economy (Thompson 1971; Wolford and Nehring 2013)



Research Project

- Preliminary Study
 - Quantitative: Food, Water, and Subsistence-Related Conflict in Africa
- In-depth
 - Qualitative: Comparative case study of conflict in South Asia
 - Data: Newspaper accounts, in-depth interviews, key informant interviews
 - Cases: West Bengal, India 2007 & Dhaka, Bangladesh 2008
 - Goals:
 - Protest Motivation
 - Mobilization Process
 - Form, Outcome, Consequences



Selected Findings

- Preliminary quantitative findings

- Price of food
- Recent protests

- Qualitative findings

	<u>India</u>	<u>Bangladesh</u>
▪ Basis for conflict:	corruption	wages
▪ Target:	government buildings	garment factories
▪ Mobilization:	political parties	factory workers
▪ Form:	widespread	contained, short-lived

Conclusions

- Basis
 - Interaction with existing grievance
 - Absence of protest \neq absence of grievance
- Mobilization
 - Moral economy
 - Resource access as political opportunity
- Outcome
 - Conflict – Scarcity relationship

Further Research

- Successful intervention strategies from additional negative cases
- Quantitative studies stressing interaction with local
 - local price x wages
 - local price x political party strength

