

## Conflict link to climate change

Friday 2 August 2013

**CLIMATE change has fanned the flames of global conflict throughout human history, according to new research.**

The study shows a similar pattern all over the world, with even small shifts in temperature and rainfall leading to surges of violence.

Examples include murders in the US and Tanzania, ethnic conflict in Europe and southern Asia, and civil strife throughout the tropics.

Changes in weather patterns were also linked to the collapse of Mayan and Chinese empires.

A future temperature rise of 2°C due to global warming could increase the rate of intergroup conflict by more than 50%, it is claimed.

The scientists used new methods to re-analyse data collected from 60 existing studies looking at the effect of climate on human conflict and violence.

Lead researcher Dr Solomon Hsiang, from the University of California, said: "We need to understand why climate changes cause conflict so we can help societies adapt to these events and avoid the violence."

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