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UC Berkeley study says climate change increases human violence



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Global warming doesn't just heat up the earth -- it also heats up tempers and increases human violence.

According to a study from the **University of California, Berkeley**, and **Princeton University**, "even relatively minor departures from normal temperatures or rainfall can substantially increase the risk of conflict."

Many mathematical forecasts of climate change suggest global temperatures might go up two degrees Celsius over the next half century.

[Solomon Hsiang](#) is the lead author of this study -- he did postdoctoral work at Princeton before coming to Cal's public policy school, where he's a professor.

Hsiang's team collected 60 existing studies and re-analyzed their data to create a report covering all areas of the earth.

Their results, published in the journal *Science*, found links between climate change and three types of violence:

- Personal: murder, assault, rape, domestic violence
- Intergroup: civil wars, revolutions, riots, genocide, land invasions
- Institutional: government shakeups, collapse of society

Intergroup conflict was most strongly linked to climate change, although all three categories showed "systematic and large responses."

All 27 of 27 studies that covered modern societies found that higher temperatures meant more conflict.

"We found that a 1 standard deviation shift towards hotter conditions causes the likelihood of personal violence to rise 4 percent and intergroup conflict to rise 14 percent, said another author, UC Berkeley's [Marshall Burke](#), a Ph.D. candidate in agricultural and resource economics.

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