OPEN EUROPEAN DIALOGUE

RESEARCH PACKAGE

THE AGE OF TURMOIL

Navigating Conflict in a Changing World

IX ANNUAL POLICYMAKERS DIALOGUE

27-29 September, 2024

Zagreb, Croatia

This Research Package complements the conversations had in Zagreb among members of parliament from across Europe during the 9th Open European Dialogue, from 27-29 September 2024.

The Research Package was curated as a further contribution and conversation prompt and are not intended to be an exhaustive review of all the literature and perspectives available on the topic at hand.

We thank the Open European Dialogue's partners and the experts who enriched the 9th Annual Policymakers Dialogue with their expertise for the contributions to the materials shared.

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I. WHY ARE WE HERE?

Politics in an era of heightened tension

ORIENTATION

In recent years, heightened societal tensions and conflict have increasingly become a recurring feature of current affairs.

From the protracted war against Ukraine to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, along with farmer protests across Europe and inflamed national debates on abortion rights in France, Poland, and Italy, there are numerous instances where conflict keeps dominating the political agenda.

Driven by geopolitical tensions and amplified societal cleavages, the rise of domestic and global unrest is profoundly shaping the political landscape, polarising public opinion and influencing policy decisions, often leading to definitive and deeply entrenched stances.

Some political thinkers argue that the traditional left-right divide may be increasingly giving way to a more moral framing of issues, where differences are viewed as conflicts of right versus wrong rather than debates between differing viewpoints. This shift, often referred to as the ‘moralisation of politics’, can turn political opponents into moral adversaries, making constructive dialogue more difficult.[1]

When political disagreements are framed in moral terms, they can become more challenging to resolve through compromise, fueling further polarisation and complicating the search for solutions to society's complex problems. [2]

In this political climate, politicians' role in navigating societal tensions is crucial. Understanding, managing, and addressing these disputes while striving to address constituents' concerns effectively has become a critical challenge of contemporary policymaking.

Exercising leadership in an age of turmoil challenges politicians to explore a new understanding of their role in society and may require the honing of new political skills and strategies.

The Open European Dialogue's **IX Annual Policymakers Dialogue "The Age of Turmoil: Navigating Conflict in a Changing World"**, offered a platform for a selected cohort of political decision-makers and thinkers from across Europe to engage in an in-depth exploration of the nature and socio-political implications of conflict in a democratic society; to come together to share insights, develop new thinking and strategies for addressing some of the most fundamental political challenges of our time.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

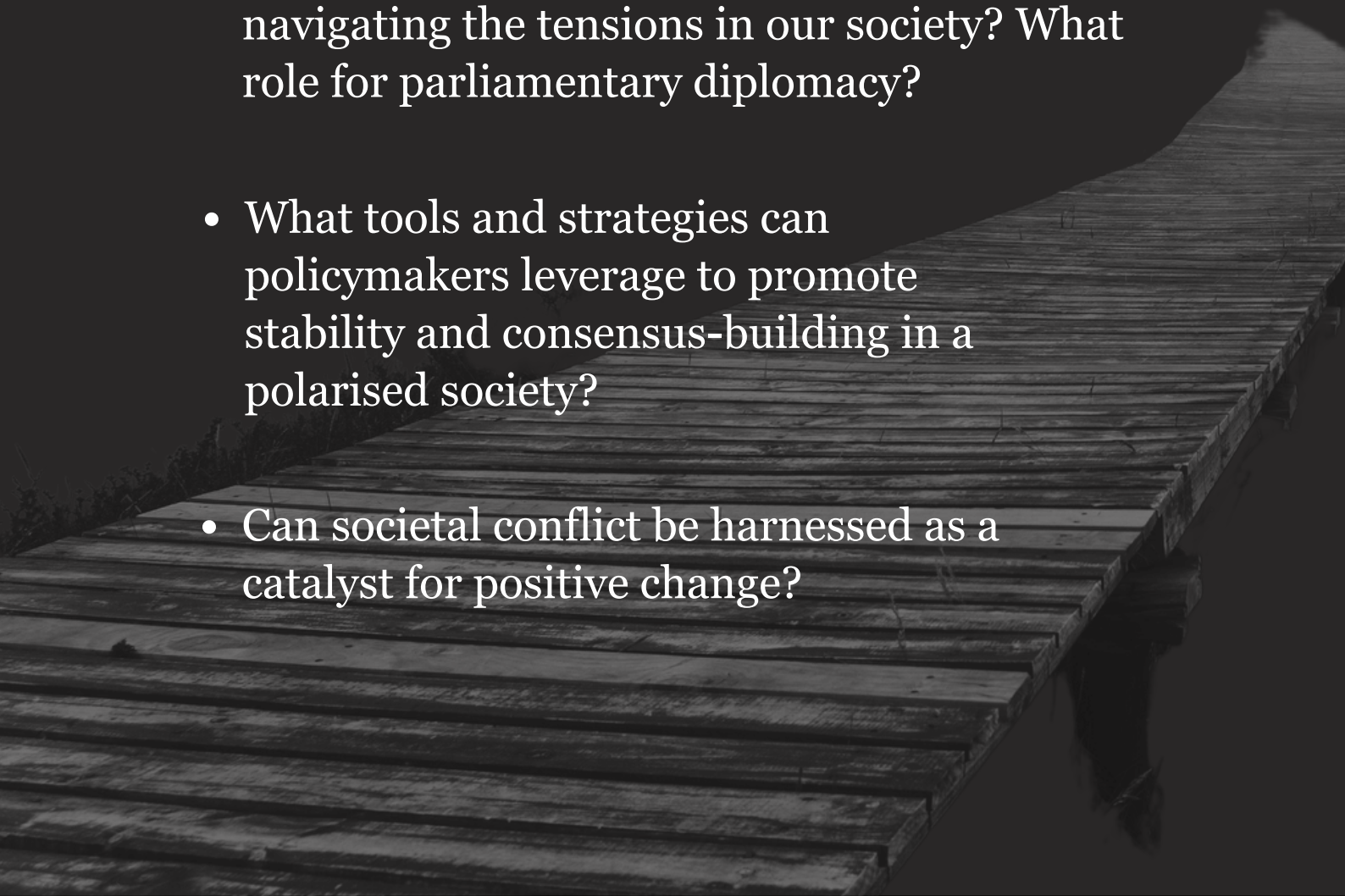
- What are the societal, economic and political implications of current conflicts for citizens and nations?

- What do we know about the underlying root causes and exacerbating factors that fuel political unrest?

- What role do political institutions, and particularly parliamentarians, have in navigating the tensions in our society? What role for parliamentary diplomacy?

- What tools and strategies can policymakers leverage to promote stability and consensus-building in a polarised society?

- Can societal conflict be harnessed as a catalyst for positive change?



OPEN EUROPEAN DIALOGUE HOUSE RULES

The Open European Dialogue (OED) invites parliamentarians and elected politicians, since 2015, to join a different kind of political conversation:

FOSTER A SAFE & BRAVE SPACE

The OED is a safe space – feel free to **speak your mind**, you will not be quoted directly. The OED is a brave space – we encourage you to **take risks** and take the opportunity to challenge your own comfort zone.

ADOPT A SPIRIT OF ENQUIRY

The OED invites you to adopt a spirit of enquiry and engage in more explorative thinking, **spending more time on the diagnosis of a problem** – asking yourself and others "why and how"– rather than jumping to solutions.

EMBRACE & RESPECT DIVERSITY

The OED embraces diversity and will ensure that all political perspectives are treated with respect, we ask you to do the same. We invite you to proactively **engage with political points of view that are different from your own** and **approach controversy with civility.**

PRACTICE ACTIVE LISTENING

The OED is as much about talking as it is about listening. We ask you to make an effort to **truly listen to your colleagues rather than trying to convince them** of your point of view. Try to listen to understand rather than to counter-react or contradict.

The OED House Rules are an essential tool for fostering an environment that encourages explorative policymaking and constructive political dialogue. By designing processes that promote active listening, a spirit of inquiry, understanding, and honest conversations, we aim to create meaningful exchanges among political actors with different viewpoints, enhancing the potential for both explorative and effective policymaking.

We deeply appreciate the dedication of the members of the Open European Dialogue to our OED House Rules and their commitment to participating in constructive political dialogue spaces.

II. MANIFESTATIONS OF CONFLICT

Where, how, and why does conflict manifest itself?

MANIFESTATIONS OF CONFLICT

Conflict, whether violent or non-violent, is manifesting in varied and complex ways across the globe, often driven by interwoven political, economic, and social factors. Understanding these dynamics and how 'turmoil' is unfolding in society, can help policymakers understand societal trends, anticipate potential crises and identify avenues for mitigating tensions.

Rising Global Violence

Violent conflict is escalating worldwide, with **28 countries reporting increased violence** over the past three years. Notably, **2022** marked the **deadliest year for conflict-related fatalities** since 1986, signaling a potential end to the post-Cold War 'peace dividend' . Global tensions, like the escalation of an US-Iran clash near the Strait of Hormuz, could severely impact the global economy. Disruption in this key route, for example, would disrupt **30%** of **seaborne oil**, potentially triggering a **global energy crisis**, with Europe particularly vulnerable to shortages and price spikes. Key drivers of this instability include geo-economic fragmentation and political turbulence, suggesting that elevated levels of conflict are likely to persist, affecting global security and European foreign policy.[3]

What strategies can be employed to mitigate the impacts of escalating global conflicts on regional stability?

Food Insecurity and Climate Effects

Food insecurity is increasing globally due to fluctuating commodity prices, economic volatility, and extreme climate events. Since late 2022,**135 countries have experienced heightened food insecurity**, with only 48 showing improvement. While Africa, Asia, and the Americas face the highest risks, Europe has also seen a significant increase. Climate disruptions are exacerbating this issue, with **11** countries currently at **very high risk for extreme temperatures**, a number expected to rise to **40 by 2050**. This threatens agricultural outputs in countries responsible for **25%** of global food exports.[4]

Food insecurity is not only a policy challenge per se, but represents a critical risk multiplier, threatening supply chains, altering consumption patterns, fuelling social unrest and political instability.

Political Polarisation and Social Unrest

Societal and political polarisation is intensifying in many countries, including European nations.

For example, **56%** of French people feel that **making progress together as a society is no longer possible**, and **70%** of **Germans believe the country is heading in the wrong direction**. Economic inequality, demographic shifts, and technological advancements are contributing to these divides, further exacerbated by divisive rhetoric, disinformation, and a weakening of institutions and traditional communities that conventionally played a role in mediating societal divisions.The result is the continued **plumetting of societal trust indicators**. This growing polarisation raises critical questions for democratic governance and social cohesion. [5,6,7,8,9]

How can governments foster stability and consensus-building around key policy issues in an increasingly polarised society?

Farmer Protests

Farmer-led protests have surged across Europe, with over **4,000** of the **5,728 recorded protests** occurring in the region this year alone. Factors driving these protests include tightening environmental regulations, cheap food imports, and inflation. **6 of the top 10** highest-risk countries for farmer protests are in Europe with **Germany** ranked 2nd and **France** 3rd.[10]

Charged Rhetoric and Political Violence

Meanwhile, research shows the rise of more negative and emotionally charged rhetoric in political debates. **76%** of Americans feel **political discourse is less fact-based**, with **heated rhetoric**, especially from politicians, is viewed by **73%** as **increasing the risk of violence**. The trened affects particularly topics like migration and civil liberties, increasingly leading to commentaries from political theorists which point to a crisis of pluralism and liberal democracy.[11,12,13]

Instances of political violence, from the **Capitol storming in 2021**, to the **Robert Fico** and **Trump assassination attempts**, and the **UK anti-immigration riots of 2024**, highlight how underlying societal divisions appear to be increasingly erupting into instances of political violence. Understanding these dynamics is essential for developing effective strategies to reduce escalating tensions and prevent further societal conflict.[14]

What do these growing divisions and instances of violence reveal about the political challenges ahead?

How can policymakers realistically address and help reduce escalating tensions before they lead to further conflict?

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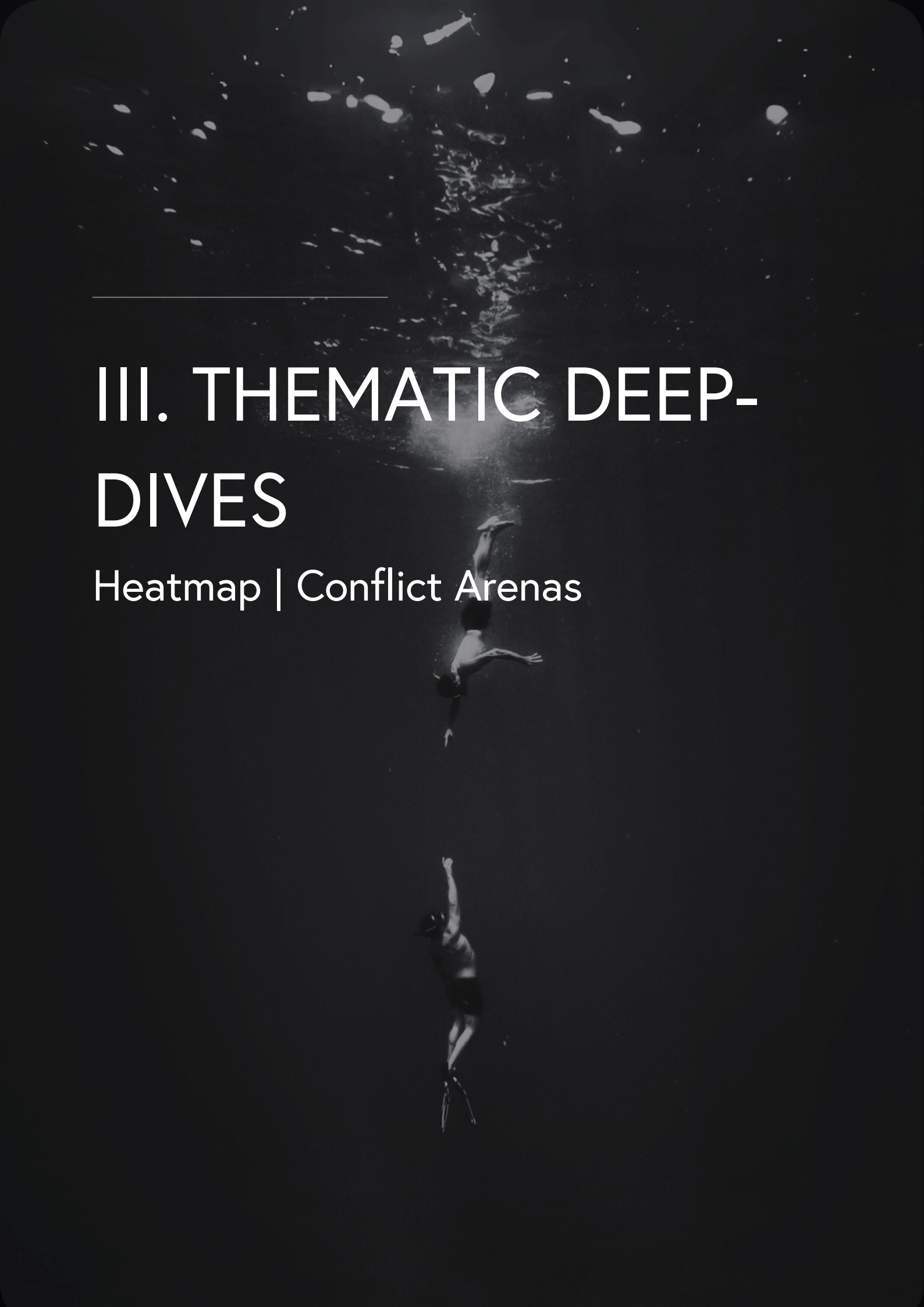

III. THEMATIC DEEP-DIVES

Heatmap | Conflict Arenas

RESENTMENT CULTURE

Division and communicative risks in an 'Angry Society'

WAR ON DRUGS

Inflammatory and divisive policy areas with profound societal and international repercussions

EU POLICYMAKING IN CONFLICT AREAS

The case of Iran

WAR IN UKRAINE

Implications for European security and the international global order

PUBLIC OPINION & SOCIETAL TENSIONS

Citizens' attitudes and voting behaviour on critical issues

WAR AND PEACE IN THE EU'S PERIPHERY

Different Perspective on EU Enlargement

MEMORY & POLITICAL COMMEMORATION

Political commemoration and the role of memory in de-escalating conflict

IV. SPOTLIGHT

Exploring the role of information in conflict

TRUTH CONTESTED?

In an era defined by an abundance of communications means and a constant flow of information, the **relationship between truth and information has become increasingly complex and contested**, playing a critical role in shaping both society and politics.

The digitalisation of society has provided almost limitless access to data and transformed social structures through instantaneous communication, offering unprecedented opportunities to discover and share information. However, it also presents formidable challenges, particularly in the context of **contested political issues**, where the risk of nuanced information being misinterpreted, misrepresented, or outright distorted, has raised concern among politicians and citizens alike.

Globally, **85%** of people are **concerned about online disinformation**, with **87%** of individuals **believing disinformation has already significantly harmed national politics** and will play a role in future elections. [15]

This issue is considered to be largely driven by the rise of **social media** and **digital platforms**, which have become **the primary source of information in almost every country**, despite trust in them being significantly lower

than in traditional media (**50%** against **66%** for television, **63%** for radio, and **57%** for media websites and apps).[16]

With the use of social media, trust in institutions also seems to decline.[17]

The rise of AI, with its capacity to personalise and precisely target messages, is furthermore accelerating the already astonishing pace of change in the information landscape, with very real implications for political campaigns and public discourse.

A recent Stanford study found that **AI-generated messages were significantly more persuasive**, showing greater shifts in opinion, than non-personalised human-crafted arguments on a selection of contested topics such as **gun control**, **smoking bans**, **carbon tax**, an increased **child tax credit**, and **parental leave**.[18]

The proliferation of disinformation is not just a technical problem but a profoundly ethical dilemma.

Some political scholars have raised the concept of a **'right to truth'**, advocating for standards and regulations to ensure that information available to the public is accurate, verifiable, and free from manipulation. In essence, a right not to be lied to by what should be trusted authorities.[19]

However, others caution that such measures could infringe on freedom of expression and open debate, raising concerns about who decides what constitutes the 'truth'.

Many governments in Europe and elsewhere have **strong consumer-protection laws prohibiting misleading and false advertising and marketing claims**. Some argue the same approach could be extended to political communications, an idea currently being considered in **Australia**. The concept would hold those who deliberately spread misinformation accountable, possibly through fines or even barring individuals from public office or media roles. [20]

Cognitive biases further complicate the information landscape, particularly when it comes to processing information on highly contested and conflictual topics. Extensive research suggests that humans naturally gravitate toward information that confirms their beliefs, often rejecting information that challenges their worldview. [21]

These biases can also be exploited, intentionally exacerbating division and fuelling conflict.

Some argue though that the real information threat to democracies, is not disinformation per se, but the **weaponisation of information** by state and non-state actors. [22]

This form of information manipulation is distinct from other forms of disinformation, manifesting itself as **orchestrated, covert influence campaigns**, largely driven by geopolitical rivals.

These campaigns aim to weaken democratic institutions through a variety of tactics, with disinformation being only one of these. In many realms, information warfare has emerged as **a powerful tool capable of undermining public trust and destabilising societies**.

Recent examples of covert influence campaigns include a fake **Kamala Harris hit-and-run story**, spun and spread by Kremlin-aligned troll farm "Storm-1516" to damage her election prospects, and the discovery of the actions of the Russian **"Social Design Agency"**, which has targeted Western European countries like Germany with information manipulation to increase public anxiety, and challenge support for Ukraine.[23,24]

To mark this distinction, the **European External Action Service** has coined and adopted the acronym **'FIMI'** (Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference) to increase its focus on identifying and **countering patterns of illicit behaviour** that point to manipulation and interference, rather than policing indiscriminately all untruthful content. [25]

Rather than a broad response to misinformation online, some argue for the prioritisation of a **more focused strategy that targets the financial and technical infrastructures** that enable these influence operations to succeed. [26]

In today's complex and fast-evolving information landscape, policymakers face the challenge of navigating an environment where the role of information is more and more critical to both destabilisation and reconciliation.

How can politicians effectively navigate an increasingly complex and contested information landscape?

What steps can decision-makers take to promote an informed citizenry, which is essential to the functioning of democratic processes?

How can policymakers manage the role information plays in bridging or dividing society?

V. SEEDS OF HOPE

Conflict transformation and best practices

LESSONS FOR POLICYMAKERS FROM PEACEBUILDING EFFORTS

Whether in long-standing geopolitical conflicts, or in dealing with profound societal tensions, the process of building peace can offer critical lessons about dialogue, mediation, and the handling of deep-rooted grievances. At its core, the work of peacebuilding is said to require more than just formal agreements; it demands addressing structural inequalities, acknowledging historical injustices, and engaging in inclusive and often difficult conversations.

The **Israel-Palestine conflict** serves as a profound case study of these dynamics. The conflict remains a deeply divisive and emotionally charged issue, challenging political actors to engage in thoughtful and respectful dialogue that recognises the complexity of the situation, while seeking constructive pathways forward.

The ongoing conflict, along with other global conflicts, underscores the importance of addressing the deeper tensions that drive division. At the core of successful peace efforts often lies the ambition to understand, dissect and diffuse the more profound root causes of a given conflict and cultivate the conditions for conflict transformation.

For policymakers, reflecting on the roles of power, history, and dialogue in long-standing disputes can provide an opportunity to consider that, while progress is often elusive, it frequently emerges from the most challenging conversations.

How can dialogue be sustained in situations where resolution seems, at times, impossible?

What strategies can be employed to bring opposing sides to the negotiation table? And is this always desirable?

What are the potential risks and rewards for policymakers of engaging in peacebuilding efforts in regions with deep-seated historical animosities?

What role can politicians and parliamentary diplomacy play?

MANAGING DIVISION AND CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION

There are no easy answers to questions of political and societal conflict, but various approaches tested in Europe and beyond have shown some success. These approaches have, in some cases, become recognised practices for addressing polarisation and conflict. These experiences may offer useful lessons for policymakers and political institutions on how to manage and steer societal divisions into opportunities for constructive change.

Deliberative Dialogues on Contentious Issues

Deliberative dialogues are widely recognised for resolving societal tensions by fostering inclusive discussions. Policymakers can convene these dialogues to address contentious issues. Successful examples include Ireland's Citizens' Assembly and Denmark's Consensus Conferences, which have reduced polarisation and built consensus on divisive topics like abortion and healthcare. Dig deeper here.

Power-Sharing Agreements: Northern Ireland's Good Friday Agreement

The 1998 Good Friday Agreement ended nearly 30 years of conflict, known as "The Troubles", which claimed over 3,500 lives. It established a ceasefire, disarmament, and a power-sharing government, along with reforms in policing, human rights, and socio-economic policies. The agreement promoted cross-border cooperation and addressed long-standing inequalities tied to discrimination and human rights abuses. Dig deeper here.

Berghof Handbook for Conflict Transformation

The handbook draws on global conflict transformation experiences, focusing on tools like structured dialogue and mediation to foster relationship change. It covers areas such as security-sector reform, media narratives, and transitional justice, offering both theoretical insights and practical approaches. By addressing immediate and structural conflict causes, the handbook provides valuable guidance for policymakers working to build lasting peace. Dig deeper here.

Constructive Parliamentary Committee Meetings: Rapporteurs and External Experts

In her interview with Open European Dialogue, Lolita Čigāne, Chairwoman of the European Affairs Committee in the Latvian Parliament, emphasised the effectiveness of appointing opposition members as rapporteurs in parliamentary committees and inviting external experts to question. This practice shifted discussions from personal conflicts to content-focused debates, fostering a more constructive atmosphere, contributing to the depolarisation of a political institution and enhancing cross-party cooperation. Dig deeper here.

Restorative Justice: The Truth and Reconciliation Commission

After apartheid, South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) sought to heal past injustices through truth-telling and restorative justice. Perpetrators could confess and ask for forgiveness, victims received reparations, and dialogue fostered reconciliation. The TRC's focus on restoration over retribution provides policymakers a model for addressing historical grievances and facilitating healing in post-conflict societies. Dig deeper here.

Dialogue Through Film: Activating the Power of Culture

'Search for Common Ground' uses media to reduce societal tensions. In the Balkans, it bridges divides through film and storytelling, while in Nigeria, soap operas address inter-ethnic conflicts. The approach leverages media as a tool for building understanding across polarised groups, offering policymakers innovative ways to promote social cohesion. Dig deeper here.

The Transformative Scenario Process (TSP) and the Colombian Peace Process

The Transformative Scenario Process (TSP), developed by Reos Partners, was crucial in the Colombian peace process by bringing together stakeholders from diverse political, social, and military backgrounds to explore future paths for the country. Through facilitated dialogue, participants, including guerrilla leaders and politicians, discussed potential solutions for peace. For policymakers, TSP offers a valuable approach to conflict resolution, helping diverse groups to envision shared futures and actionable steps forward. Dig deeper here.

Disagreeing Well: Leading Difficult Conversations

Led by mediator Mia Forbes Pirie, this UCL Skills Video Series teaches skills for constructive disagreement. It emphasises empathy, active listening, and civil dialogue, making it particularly useful for policymakers navigating polarised environments. These tools offer practical approaches for reducing societal tensions and fostering collaboration. Dig deeper here.

Braver Angels : Cross-partisan, Volunteer-led Movement to Bridge Partisan Divides

Braver Angels is an American nonprofit initiative focused on reducing political polarisation by promoting respectful dialogue across political divides. Through proven debate methods, programs, and workshops, it teaches participants—especially students—to engage with empathy and civility. For policymakers, Braver Angels offers a model for fostering bipartisan collaboration and addressing societal tensions through constructive discourse. Dig deeper here.

VI. OED LIBRARY

Suggested readings for digging deeper

OED LIBRARY

BOOK / **Nervous States: How Feeling Took Over the World** offers a unique exploration of how emotions influence the era we are experiencing. (Davies, 2019).

TOOL / **A Simple Technique for Productive Political Dialogue** introduces the "*Yes, and…*" principle, a conversational technique adapted from improv comedy, to foster productive political discussions by finding common ground before introducing new perspectives. (Hadeed, 2022).

BLOGPOST / **The Butterfly Effect of Geopolitical Conflicts** explores the impact of geopolitical tensions on maritime trade routes, emphasising how disruptions in key passages can lead to potential economic instability. (Capolongo & Kühl, 2024).

TED TALK / **Mathieu Lefevre's TED talk** addresses *affective polarisation*, where hostility between groups outweighs the issues being debated. (TED, 2024).

REPORT / **A Pivotal Moment for EU Foreign Policy** offers recommendations on how the EU can collaborate with various external actors to enhance its crisis management and conflict prevention efforts. (Ero, 2024).

BOOK / **Age of Anger: A History of the Present** uncovers the hidden history behind today's global crisis, drawing striking connections and offering a unique, urgent, and profound analysis of our current predicament. (Mishra, 2017).

DATASET / **Global Risk Data's** geospatial datasets and predictive models help identify, prioritise, and respond to over 190 global risk issues, enabling informed decision-making on human rights, political risk, and environmental factors. (Verisk Maplecroft, 2024)

DATASET / The **Reported Social Unrest Index**, part of the IMF Working Papers series, introduces a new index of social unrest based on media report counts. The index covers 130 countries with minimal lag and easy replication. (Barrett, Bae, 2023)

BOOK / **High Conflict - Why We Get Trapped and How We Get Out**, through the stories of half a dozen conflict survivors in three countries, journalist Amanda Ripley reveals how humans can help one another break out of destructive feuds–and generate healthy, useful conflict instead. (Ripley, 2022)

METHODOLOGY / **The Good Conflict Methodology** applies conflict research to real life interactions. It is Communications 2.0, adapted for our current age, based on everything researchers now know about what humans need to thrive in a diverse, information-saturated, fast-changing world. (Good Conflict, 2024)

BOOK / **Moral Tribes - Emotion, Reason, and the Gap between Us and Them**, is a major achievement to refashion our deepest beliefs about how moral thinking works and how it can work better (Greene, 2014)

PLAY / **Timeout** is a dialogue tool for people from different backgrounds: It provides a deeper understanding of the topic in question and of different perspectives. The goal is not unanimity! (Timeout, 2024)

METHOD / **Conflict Transformation by Peaceful Means (The Transcend Method)** is based on the central thesis that to prevent violence and develop the creative potential of a conflict, there has to be transformation. This is achieved through dialogue based on empathy, non-violence and joint creativity. (Galtung, 2000)

BOOK / **The Anatomy of Peace: Resolving the Heart of Conflict** explains how to understand conflict transformation through a change in mindset—from a heart at war to a heart at peace. (The Arbinger Institute, 2006)

DOCUMENTARY / **Beyond Right and Wrong: Stories of Justice and Forgiveness** follows individuals from Rwanda, Northern Ireland, and Israel-Palestine who have experienced deep conflicts, examining their personal journeys toward reconciliation and forgiveness. (2012)

BOOK / **Savage Continent: Europe in the Aftermath of World War II**, is a breathtaking, numbing account of the physical and moral desolation that plagued Europe in the late 1940s. (Lowe, 2013)

BOOK / **The Unwomanly Face of War: An Oral History of Women in World War II** is a groundbreaking oral history of women in World War II across Europe and Russia—from the winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature. (Alexievich, 2017)

POLICY PROPOSAL / **Directing Responses Against Illicit Influence Operations (D-RAIL)** offers a comprehensive framework to counteract influence operations that exploit disinformation and manipulation tactics. (EU DisinfoLab, 2023)

PODCAST / **Why Europe's Iran Policy Warrants a Rethink** explores the evolving dynamics of Europe's approach to Iran amidst geopolitical challenges. (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2023)

COLLECTION / **National Dialogues at Crossroads** is a series that analyses how to best integrate cross-cutting topics in the design of National Dialogues and how to meaningfully include specific societal groups. Three reports have been published so far on the topics of digitalisation, climate and protest movements. (Berghof Foundation, 2023)

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JOINING FORCES IN OUR EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM

The APROPOS Group is a non-profit, politically neutral think tank. It operates in the field of democratic innovation and specialises in the development and implementation of process design methods for the political sphere. We believe in the impact that process design can have on improving political communication and cooperation because we have seen the results first-hand. To this end, we design and carry out meetings with policymakers, facilitate conversations, train practitioners, and publish research on political process design to advance the dialogue and collaborative capacities that will be vital for the decades of comprehensive societal changes ahead of us.

The Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH is one of Europe's largest foundations associated with a private company. In its charitable work, it addresses social issues at an early stage and develops exemplary solutions. For this purpose, it plans and implements its own projects. Additionally, it supports third-party initiatives that have similar goals. The Robert Bosch Stiftung is active in the areas of health, education as well as global issues. Since it was established in 1964, the Robert Bosch Stiftung has invested more than 2.3 billion euros in charitable work.

The King Baudouin Foundation's mission is to contribute to a better society. The Foundation is an actor for change and innovation, serving the public interest and increasing social cohesion in Belgium and Europe. We seek to maximize our impact by strengthening the capacity of organizations and individuals. We also stimulate effective philanthropy by individuals and corporations. The Foundation's key values are integrity, transparency, pluralism, independence, respect for diversity, and promoting solidarity. The Foundation's current areas of activity are poverty and social justice, philanthropy, health, civic engagement, developing talents, democracy, European integration, heritage and development cooperation. The King Baudouin Foundation is a public benefit foundation. The Foundation was set up in 1976 on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of King Baudouin's reign.

The Bertelsmann Stiftung is an independent, private operating German foundation which engages in evidence-based nonprofit activities. Each day, some 360 employees aim to strengthen society, help people achieve their full potential, and develop the systems needed to achieve those goals. The foundation's fields of activity are Democracy & Social Cohesion, Digitalization & the Common Good, Education & The Next Generation, Europe's Future, Health and Sustainable Social Market Economies. In its work on EU-affairs, the Bertelsmann Stiftung advocates for a more sovereign and united Europe that helps shape the world of tomorrow based on its values. To this effect, it provides background, analysis and insights on its website globaleurope.eu.

The Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) is a private, independent non-profit think tank, founded in 1965 on the initiative of Altiero Spinelli. IAI seeks to promote awareness of international politics and contribute to the advancement of European integration and multilateral cooperation. IAI is part of a vast international network, and interacts and cooperates with the Italian government and its ministries, European and international institutions, universities, major national economic actors, the media and the most authoritative international think tanks.

The Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB) is an independent and plural think tank based in Barcelona, dedicated to the study, research and analysis of international affairs. Created in 1973 as an International Documentation Centre of Barcelona, it is a private foundation since 1979. CIDOB promotes global governance and good practices – based on local, national and European democratic government – to ensure that people possess the basic elements to live their lives free from fear and in liberty, by facilitating a dialogue that includes all diversities and which actively defends human rights and gender equality. CIDOB is a dynamic community of analytics that works to produce and offer to all political actors – from individual citizens to international organizations – information and ideas to formulate and promote policies for a more secure, free and fair world for everyone.

ELIAMEP is an independent, non-profit and policy-oriented research and training institute. It neither expresses, nor represents, any specific political party view. It is only devoted to the right of free and well-documented discourse. ELIAMEP's mission is to provide a forum for public debate on issues of European integration and international relations to conduct scientific research that contributes to a better informed and documented knowledge of the European and international environment.