

Tsunami, personal misfortune and wars: a bilateral expression

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A personal episode before the disaster

Before the financial tsunami, I was invited to a private party with one of the most intelligent central bankers in the world, whose academic papers I studied as a student. He gave a short speech, with the central message of worries about the flood of global liquidity, including derivatives. He had the honesty of admitting that he didn't fully understand it and asked for our responses.

I wanted to but was seated next to his assistant on the far side of the table. We talked a lot. After the dinner I went down to where I parked my car, only to find that it was broken into, with pieces of glass around.

“So sorry! Only once or twice in a year.” I was provided with some comfort by apologetic staff members; then queried for three times over similar questions by different police squads. The ruin was ultimately pulled to maintenance. When I got home, it was the next day.

I am not an intellectual who mixes external developments with personal misfortune. Anyhow, that experience was rather dramatic. Later I took some clues to further protect my humble assets. Friends might understand why I have continued to talk about the downward movements in long wave theory.

反省戰爭

縱觀歷史長河，戰爭發生次數頻繁，或基於仇恨、種族／信仰衝突、以至地域及資源爭奪等等因素。雙（各）方缺乏信任，情況變作“零和遊戲”，你的得益就是我的損失，合作沒可能。

若無界外制約，角力激度上升，軍事對壘由擦槍走火（如第一次世界大戰）還是某方悍然侵略（日本犯華）引發，已屬次要。

並非冷血，小型戰爭有時避免了大型戰爭（中國和歐洲的歷史例子太多），因結果帶來冷靜期。但又未必，二次大戰比一次更慘烈。希特勒利用喘息奪權，推行瘋狂的擴張。1920年代歐洲建立的民主政體全部完蛋。世界大多地區陷於火海。

我們現時正在那種臨界點？希望只會是小型、地區性軍事衝突。最好連它們亦不出現。

平民死亡率很難算清。稍現代：南京？亞美尼亞？盧旺達？都不靠科技。更近年：美國的空襲先行，地面部隊後進所創造的，是平民死亡／科技武器使用的世界紀錄。

衝突紓解在國家層次難度頗高，力量對稱與不對稱可達致「和解」（中國的藩屬制度），或者你死我活式戰爭（前南斯拉夫崩潰後局面），例子皆有。坐擁核武的大國，軍事考慮範圍更為複雜，以副角互相試探早已開始 ...