

Date: Wed, 19 May 2010 14:17:36 -0400

To: "Dr. Baruch Fischhoff - Chair, National Academy Committee on Improving Intelligence"
<baruch@cmu.edu>

From: Lloyd Etheredge lloyd.etheredge@policyscience.net

**Subject: Update: British Government Falls. Growing Political Instability as an
Effect of Global Economic Hardship**

Dear Dr. Fischhoff and Colleagues:

Just to mention, in the context of the recent fall of the British government, my earlier suggestion of recapitalization, restarting content analysis, and new data systems and methods for political forecasting.<1> <2>

There has been a steep decline in national social science capability during the Republican era and it will take a lot of work to build research programs, and rebuild cultures and institutions. At this point, I am not aware of any leading research university that has restarted content analysis. Nor of any major research programs monitoring and predicting the growing, cumulative effects of economic hardship on world politics using the full set of tools that we could use. It's unsettling.

We ought to be sure that we have the best estimates, and the best early policy options, for what is coming in advanced countries and UDCs.

In reality, the argument that "We know! We're doing the best that we can. We don't need more academic research" can be misleading. The world's democratic polities - not just a few decision makers at the top - need to think with abstraction and foresight and one of the persistent themes of US memoirs is the frustration of how much top decision makers wanted to do but could not get the support of Congress and the public [or the media attention] to do. [Global warming and the environmental movement are examples of how academically-based research plays a vital role in building more intelligent democratic political systems in the US and abroad.]

Lloyd Etheredge

<1> # 15, 24 December 2009 and the attached 2/9/2009 paper, "World Politics and Economic Hardship: Forecasts and Lessons from the Depression." Online at www.policyscience.net at II. D.

<2> Greece is another recent example. Japan is another example. And the Republican (Bush)

Administration also lost its election. Martin Wolf, the Financial Times analyst, thinks that there will be growing demonstrations in the UK as new measures are imposed and current macro-economic models give the new government no better options to restore economic prosperity. Wolf thinks that rioting in the streets (in the UK) is unlikely.

We also shall see what the growing effects are in the US on the further replacement of incumbents in the November elections.

<3> Some DNI analysts already know that high-youth-unemployment UDCs are growing zones of political instability, violence and al-Qaeda recruitment but the US government is in its second return engagement in Yemen

Dr. Lloyd S. Etheredge - Director, Government Learning Project
Policy Sciences Center Inc.
c/o 7106 Bells Mill Rd.
Bethesda, MD 20817-1204
URL: www.policyscience.net
301-365-5241 (v); lloyd.etheredge@policyscience.net (email)

[The Policy Sciences Center, Inc. is a public foundation that develops and integrates knowledge and practice to advance human dignity. Its headquarters are 127 Wall St., Room 322 PO Box 208215 in New Haven, CT 06520-8215. It may be contacted at the office of its Chair, Michael Reisman (michael.reisman@yale.edu), 203-432-1993. Further information about the Policy Sciences Center and its projects, Society, and journal is available at www.policysciences.org.]