

This is a section of [doi:10.7551/mitpress/14970.001.0001](https://doi.org/10.7551/mitpress/14970.001.0001)

Catastrophes, Confrontations, and Constraints

How Disasters Shape the Dynamics of Armed Conflicts

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Citation:

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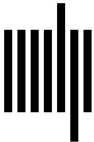
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DOI: [10.7551/mitpress/14970.001.0001](https://doi.org/10.7551/mitpress/14970.001.0001)

ISBN (electronic): 9780262374507

Publisher: The MIT Press

Published: 2023



The MIT Press

Acknowledgments

This book was written over a period of two and a half years (from October 2019 to May 2022), in two different places (Melbourne and Perth), and while a major pandemic ravaged the world. While this phrase is terribly overused, the book truly feels like the end—and also is the reward—of a long journey.

Like every journey, this one started with the first step (another overused phrase). In late 2018, the Australian Research Council (ARC) awarded me a Discovery Early Career Research Award (DECRA) to conduct a three-year research project on disasters and conflict dynamics at the University of Melbourne. The project moved with me to Murdoch University Perth when I started a new position there in early 2021. This book is a direct result of the DECRA project and would have been infeasible without the continuous support of the ARC, the University of Melbourne, and Murdoch University.

Of course, when the project was awarded to me, I was already embedded in and versed in the research landscape. Credit for this goes to my earlier academic mentors, in particular (in temporal order) to Andreas Osiander, Klaus Roscher, Jürgen Scheffran, and Anja P. Jakobi. Jon Barnett provided invaluable advice on the project from my initial thinking about conflicts and disasters all the way through writing the DECRA application and conducting the research.

I am grateful to Michael Brzoska, Halvard Buhaug, Ken Conca, Ian Kelman, and Patrick A. Mello, who provided feedback on earlier versions of different chapters. Arden Haar was an excellent research assistant collecting literature on the case studies, while Markus Meisner supported me in the processing of the quantitative conflict data. Several colleagues also gave me invaluable advice and feedback on particular case studies, most notably

Bob East, Muhammad Feyyaz, Vanessa Lamb, Lisa Palmer, Sol Santos, Stefan Vandeginste, Christian Webersik, and Katrin Wittig.

Finally, the biggest thank-you goes to my friends and family. We were often unable to see each other while I was writing this book, but being in contact with them helped me get through Melbourne's "mega lockdown," and I very much enjoyed catching up during or after a day at the beach in Perth. My wife Davina and my son Immanuel are particularly noteworthy here. They are truly the light of my life. This book is dedicated to my parents and grandparents, even though this dedication cannot nearly account for all the sympathy and support they provided to me. To paraphrase another popular saying: In the end, a journey is not about the destination but about the company that we keep.

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The MIT Press would like to thank the anonymous peer reviewers who provided comments on drafts of this book. The generous work of academic experts is essential for establishing the authority and quality of our publications. We acknowledge with gratitude the contributions of these otherwise uncredited readers.

This book was set in Stone by Westchester Publishing Services.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data is available.

ISBN: 978-0-262-54555-6