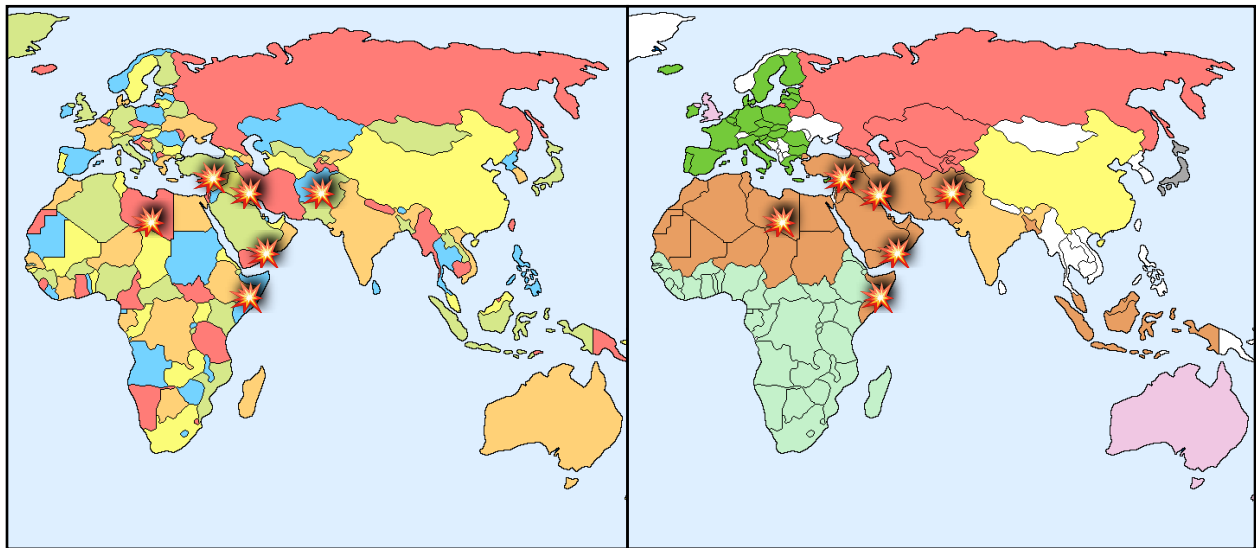
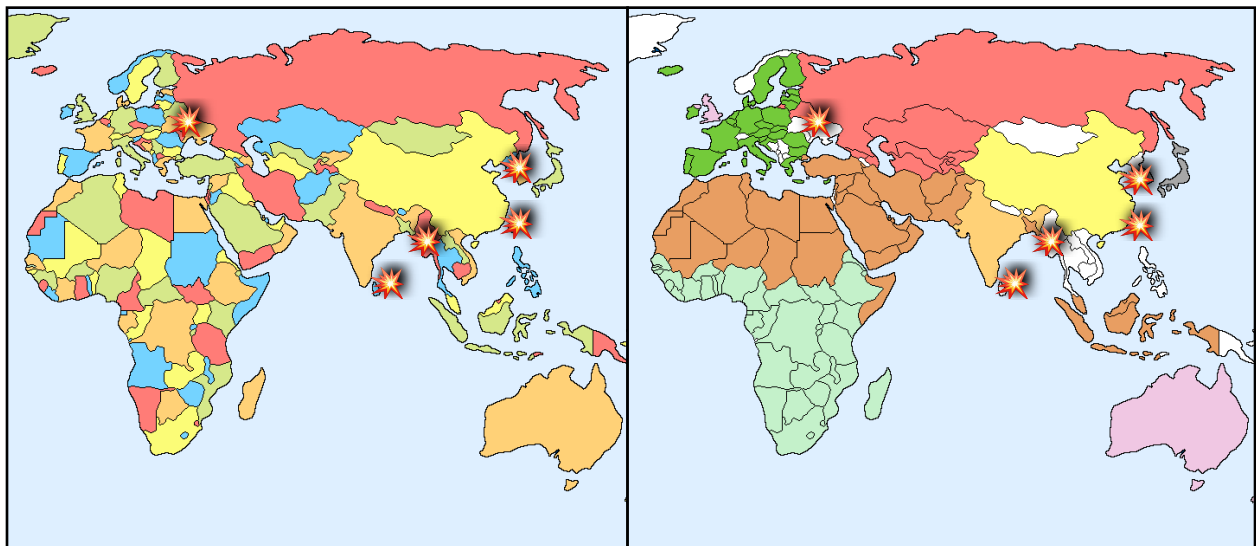


### D. Cardinal Cultures

1. To see that the world is an interconnected agglomeration of nearly two hundred countries that constitute ten major cultural blocks (and various outliers) is to have a tremendous advantage when interpreting world events. For instance, when we try to understand where the world's civil wars are on a normal map (below, left), we see that they seem to be grouped in a certain area, but a map of cultural blocks (below, right) sheds much more light on the issue. They are all in the Islamic World, where warring interpretations of Islam, and especially the political movement of *Islamism*, are key to terrible destruction.



2. Similarly, if we look at the major “flash points” of the world, where there are wars, cold wars, the imminent prospect of war, or other types of political instability, we see that there is a pattern to those as well. They are in the outliers, next to certain countries:



3. An important reason for conflicts, both current and hotly anticipated, in the world today, is the actions of certain major cultures that both want, and have the ability, to change the course of history.
4. Such cultures can be designed as “cardinal cultures,” where the word “cardinal,” means “of highest importance,” and comes from the Latin root word “cardo,” meaning “hinge.” (In other words, they are the cultures upon which history *hinges*.)
5. Russia and China are the cardinal cultures who are most active in trying to change the world at this time. Russia, for its part, has invaded Ukraine in order to try to force it to stay in the “Russosphere” where its influence dominates. China, for its part, is hyper-focused on forcing the island of Taiwan back under its rule, and also has a hand in the instability of countries like Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and North Korea (all indicated on the above map).
6. Apart from the United States, Russia, and China, the only two other cultural blocks that have played a significant enough role in changing the world over the past generation are the Islamic World (because of terrorism and civil wars caused by *Islamism*) and the European Union (which has grown to include many more countries than it started with, although it also lost one member: Britain).
7. Within the set of five cardinal cultures, it is clear to everyone that the United States is in a unique position of power and influence. For this reason, it’s important to understand that American *primacy* is also a distinctive identifier of the modern world.

#### E. Final Integration

When we take all the components that we have identified so far and incorporate them into a single formal statement, the result is the following:

*The world we live in is an interconnected agglomeration of nearly two hundred countries that constitute ten major cultural blocks (and various outliers), predominated by five cardinal cultures, in which the United States has primacy.*