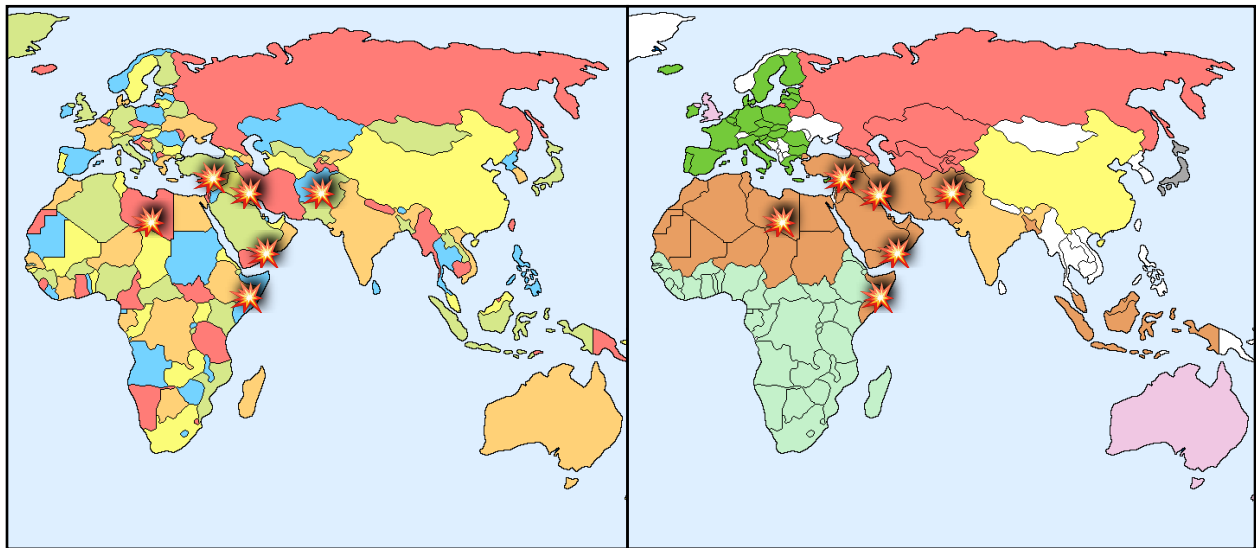
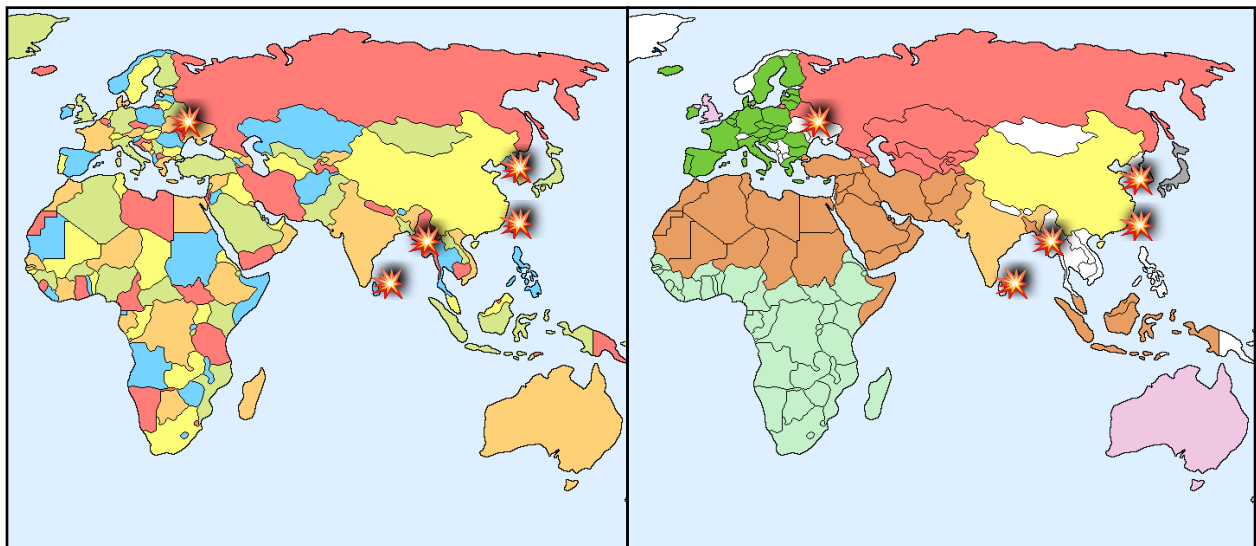


### D. Cardinal Cultures

1. To see that the world is an interconnected agglomeration of nearly two hundred countries that are organized into ten major cultural blocks helps us to understand 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) makes it clear that they are all in one block, 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, or the danger or wars, we see that there is a pattern to those as well. They are in the white areas, next to certain countries:



3. The reason for these problems is that some major cultures want to—and have the ability to—change the course of history.
4. Such cultures can be called “cardinal cultures,” where the word “cardinal,” means “of highest importance.”
5. Russia and China are the cardinal cultures who are most active in trying to change the world at this time. As most people know, Russia has invaded Ukraine. China, for its part, wants to regain control of Taiwan, and also causing trouble in 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. Although there are five cardinal cultures, it is clear to everyone that the United States is in a unique position of power and influence. For this reason, we say that America has *primacy* in the world.

#### E. Putting it All Together

When we take all the components that we have identified and put them in a single definition, we get:

*The world we live in is an interconnected agglomeration of nearly two hundred countries organized into ten major cultural blocks (and others), mainly controlled by five cardinal cultures, in which the United States has primacy.*