The length of a color bar representing a given intensity indicates severity. Intensity descriptions are illustrative only; not all crises of a given type are of a given intensity.

Crisis intensity is disaggregated into three levels: low, moderate, and severe. The probabilities of occurrence are given for each type of crisis. The probabilities are provisional estimates as of March 8, 2017, and do not incorporate any changes that may have occurred after that date.

AUTHORITARIANISM 6-year probability of “severe” intensity: 30%

WAR 6-year probability of “severe” intensity: 20%

FINANCIAL CRISIS 5-year probability of “severe” intensity: 25%

CIVIL VIOLENCE 5-year probability of “severe” intensity: 25%

Crisis outcomes and probabilities identified in the previous year’s analysis do not change over time, as there are no exogenous shocks.

The pathway labeled Decision-Making Incompetence would be the most direct and efficient pathway for the Trump Administration to create “severe” intensity in civil violence. This pathway is associated with the probability of 40%.

The pathway labeled Populist Defense is the least direct and efficient pathway. It is associated with the probability of 40%.

Causal Pathways

The right-hand side of the diagram shows hypothesized causal mechanisms of crisis elaborated in Homer-Dixon, 2016, and other analysts. Four main types of crisis are identified, and the general assessments of risks associated with each type are presented. The probabilities are based on the author’s knowledge of the relevant scholarship and professional experience. The probabilities are provisional estimates as of March 8, 2017, and do not incorporate any changes that may have occurred after that date.