The world is entering a decade of rage, unrest, and shifting geopolitical sands. Security leaders need to understand the factors behind mass protests to accurately predict them and mitigate their effects.

"We are living in an age of mass protest," the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) said in a March report looking back at 2019.

With at least 37 countries experiencing mass protests, these movements globally surged in 25 percent of countries throughout 2019, intensifying toward the year's end in Hong Kong, Chile, Nigeria, Sudan, Haiti, and Lebanon. Virtual uprisings

SEEDS OF
DISRUPTION

joined physical unrest, and Internet shutdowns were increasingly common, with India, Pakistan, Syria, and Turkey leading the world in this regard.

Historically unprecedented levels of unrest continued to increase in early 2020, then simmered in the background during the first months of the COVID-19 pandemic and related lockdowns. Mass protests in the United States surged by 186 percent from April to May, largely catalyzed by the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota. By June, the country fell into the high-risk category of Verisk Maplecroft's *Civil Unrest Index,* an assessment of the risk of disruption to businesses due to mobilized social disruptions as a reaction to economic, social, or political issues. Similar spikes occurred in the United Kingdom, Germany, Spain, Sweden, and France, while mass protests continued in Hong Kong and Lebanon.

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