



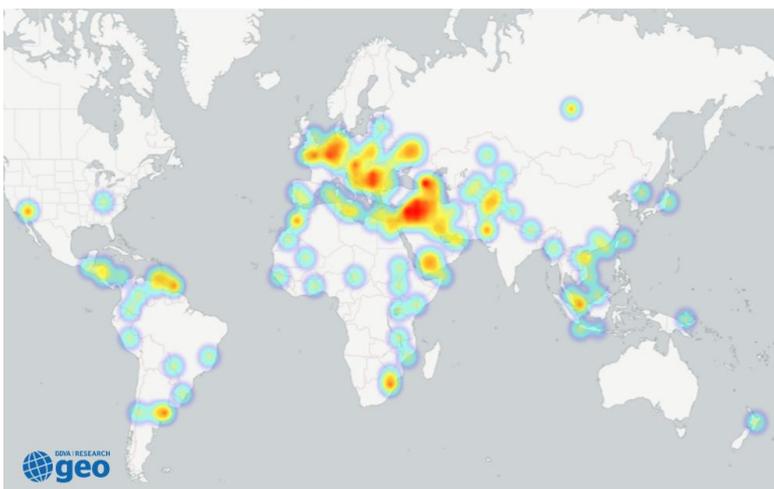
Geo-World: Conflict & Social Unrest November Update

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The key hot spot of the month was focused on the terrorist attack in Paris and the downing of Russian warplane by the Turkish air forces. As retaliation, France launched airstrikes against the main positions of ISIS in Raqqa. Russia also announced retaliatory economic measures against Turkey and took a more active role in Syria, promoting the creation of an alternative Coalition to combat terrorism, challenging US and its stance in the Middle East. Social unrest remained also high in Eastern Europe because of the refugee crisis, but could be partially offset in the coming months after the Turkey-EU signed agreement to tackle the problem. On the other hand, tensions in Latin America and Asia kept contained.

Geopolitical conflicts around the world soared during November...

BBVA Research World Conflict Heatmap (Nov, monthly changes)
(Number of conflicts / Total events)



Source: www.gdelt.org & BBVA Research

• Paris attacks rose threats and deteriorated security climate in Europe

Paris terrorist attacks worsened security and stability, forcing Europe to change its stance in Middle East and reinforcing the anti-immigration and nationalist sentiments.

• Turkish downed a Russian plane

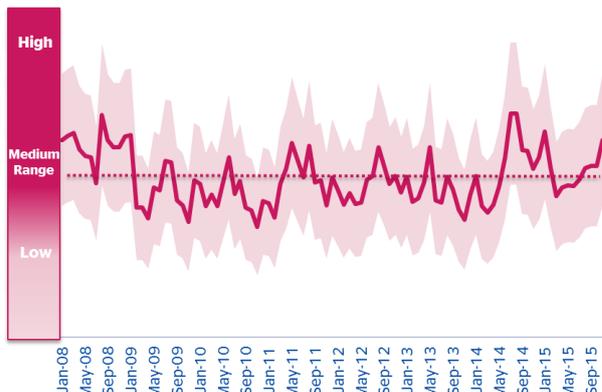
The crisis in Syria escalated as Turkey downed a Russian warplane when it was invading the Turkish airspace. Russia has announced some retaliatory economic sanctions against Turkey.

• EU and Turkey reached a deal on refugees

Ankara will receive an aid package of €3bn and closer ties in return for help in curbing the flow of new arrivals. Balkans' situation worsens.

The BBVA Research world conflict intensity index¹ rose during November given the terrorists attacks, which took place in Europe and Beirut, conducted by the Islamic State and where 130 and 43 people were killed respectively; as well as **the increasing offensives in Syria. As retaliation to the attacks, France has started to launch airstrikes** on the Syrian city of Raqqa against ISIS forces and agreed with **Russia to cooperate** to defeat the Islamic State. Moreover, **Russia escalated its military intervention** in Damascus, Latakia and Aleppo during the month, challenging US and forcing it to clarify its stance towards Syria. Russia

BBVA Research World Conflict Intensity Index 2008-15
(Number of conflicts in the world / Total events in the world)



Source: www.gdelt.org & BBVA Research

also **increased its efforts to establish an alternative Coalition against ISIS** in the region. However, **ISIS maintains its strength in the Middle East with a global support network**, launching attacks in North Africa and Europe. The Group also expanded its campaign to spread disorder in Central Asia by exploiting militant power struggles and exacerbating sectarian tensions. **The downing of a Russian warplane** by Turkey after violating the Turkish airspace deteriorates Russia-Turkey relationship and **could escalate tensions in the Syrian-Turkish border**. On the other hand, **Turkey and the European Union reached an agreement to tackle the refugees' crisis**. Turkey will receive €3 bn financial aid and the resumption of the EU-Enlargement process (among other things) in return of stemming the inflows of refugees arriving into Europe. In **Afghanistan, clashes between rival Taliban factions escalated** and ISIS is taking advantage of its deteriorating situation and fragile government.

¹Details about methodology can be found in the following link: [Methodology, tracking protests and conflicts](#).

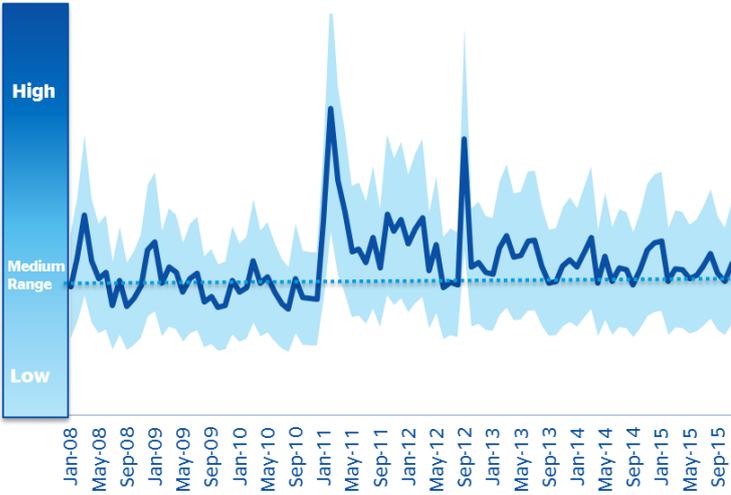


Geo-World Monthly Update

November 2015
Geostrategic Analysis

BBVA Research World Protest Intensity Index 2008-15

(Number of protests in the world / Total events in the world)



Source: www.gdelt.org & BBVA Research

... in line with social unrest

Protests around the world increased in November (as shown by our BBVA Research world protest intensity index²). According to our BBVA Research world protest intensity map, the main key takeaways were the following:

-In regional terms, social unrest sharply climbed in Western Europe. In Emerging Europe, instability related with refugees is still alive. In Eastern Asia the situation kept stable, while instability in the Middle East and North Africa is still at worrying levels. Demonstrations in Latin American countries eased during the month.

- In Western Europe, the terrorist attacks in Paris, the continuous threats in Brussels and fears of main the European cities increased unrest, together with the resurgence of nationalism against refugees.

-In Emerging Europe and CIS countries, protests intensified in the East, as well as in the Hungary-Serbia border, after ISIS attacks in Europe, reinforcing its anti-immigration sentiment and its rejection to the refugees. On the other hand, tensions eased in Turkey after the AKP vast victory in November elections and the decline of political uncertainty. Social unrest remained high in Kazakhstan given the persistent economic uncertainty as consequence of low energy prices, flat energy production and currency volatility.

-In North Africa, and especially in the Middle East, protests are, most of the cases, camouflaged by higher levels of instability. Demonstrations intensified in Tunisia and Algeria, while they eased in Libya and Egypt.

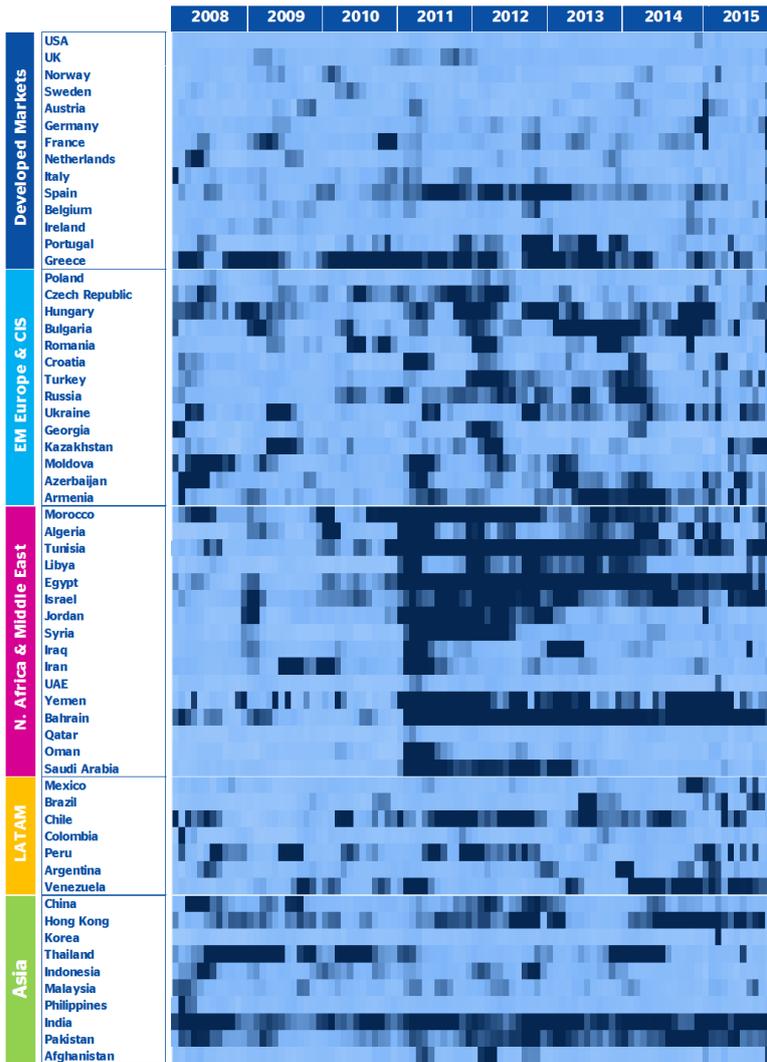
- In Latin America, tensions eased in most of the countries during November, but in Venezuela given the proximity of elections on 6 December. Tensions between the Government and the opposition are likely to rise further in the final days of the campaign.

- Pressures in Asia remained quite contained. Social unrest eased in Hong Kong, while kept at similar levels in India and Pakistan. Instability also soared in Afghanistan given the growing ethnic tensions and social demands to the Government in a mounting insecurity climate.

In sum, the growing offensive of Russia in Syria, ISIS attacks in Europe with the consecutive French retaliations against terrorists, as well as the strength of nationalist sentiment in the Continent, particularly in Eastern Europe, bolster the climate of instability and insecurity around

BBVA Research World Protest Intensity Map Jan 2011 - Nov 2015

(Number of protests / Total events. Dark Blue: High Intensity)



Source: www.gdelt.org & BBVA Research

Protest Intensity: Low High

the world. The higher involvement of Russia in Middle East also challenges US, forcing it to take a more active role in the conflict in the short term.

²Details about methodology can be found in the following link: [Methodology, tracking protests and conflicts.](#)



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