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CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN BEHAVIOR

*Impacts of a Rapidly Changing
Climate on Human Aggression
and Violence*

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Climate Change and Human Behavior

Impacts of a Rapidly Changing Climate on Human Aggression and Violence

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Abstract: Much of the current rhetoric surrounding climate change focuses on the physical changes to the environment and the resulting material damage to infrastructure and resources. Although there has been some dialogue about secondary effects (namely, mass migration), little effort has been given to understanding how rapid climate change is affecting people on group and individual levels. In this Element, we examine the psychological impacts of climate change, focusing especially on how it will lead to increases in aggressive behaviors and violent conflict, and how it will influence other aspects of human behavior. We also look at previously established psychological effects and use them to help explain changes in human behavior resulting from rapid climate change, as well as to propose actions that can be taken to reduce climate change itself and mitigate harmful effects on humans.

Keywords: climate change, psychology, violence, aggression, conflict

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Contents

1 Introduction	1
2 The Climate Change–Violence Model	4
3 The Direct Effects of Heat On Cognition and Behavior: Route 1	8
4 Indirect Effects of Climate Change On Aggression and Violence	19
5 What Solutions Are There?	38
6 Conclusions	45
References	47