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The Security of Women and Nations

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Background

- Co-PI of The WomanStats Project
 - Began in 2000
 - Over 360 variables for 176 countries
 - Good coverage 1995-present
 - Over 196,000 data points from over 23,000 sources; free online access
 - Practice, Law, Prevalence
 - Univariate and Multivariate Scales
 - Full color maps of these scales
 - <http://womanstats.org>



Why Look at Women?

- Important Links to National Security/Stability
 - Food insecurity and malnutrition
 - Demographic problems
 - Poor governance
 - Type of governance
 - Effectiveness of governance
 - Increased conflict (intra- and inter-state)
 - Worse morbidity/mortality
 - Poorer economic performance



A Note on Conflict/Instability

- The first political order is the sexual political order; the character of that first order molds the society, its governance, and its behavior.
- Thus, for example, studies have shown that women's situation is significantly linked to propensity to be involved in intra- and inter-state conflict; propensity to use violence first in such a conflict; propensity to break treaty obligations and flout international norms.

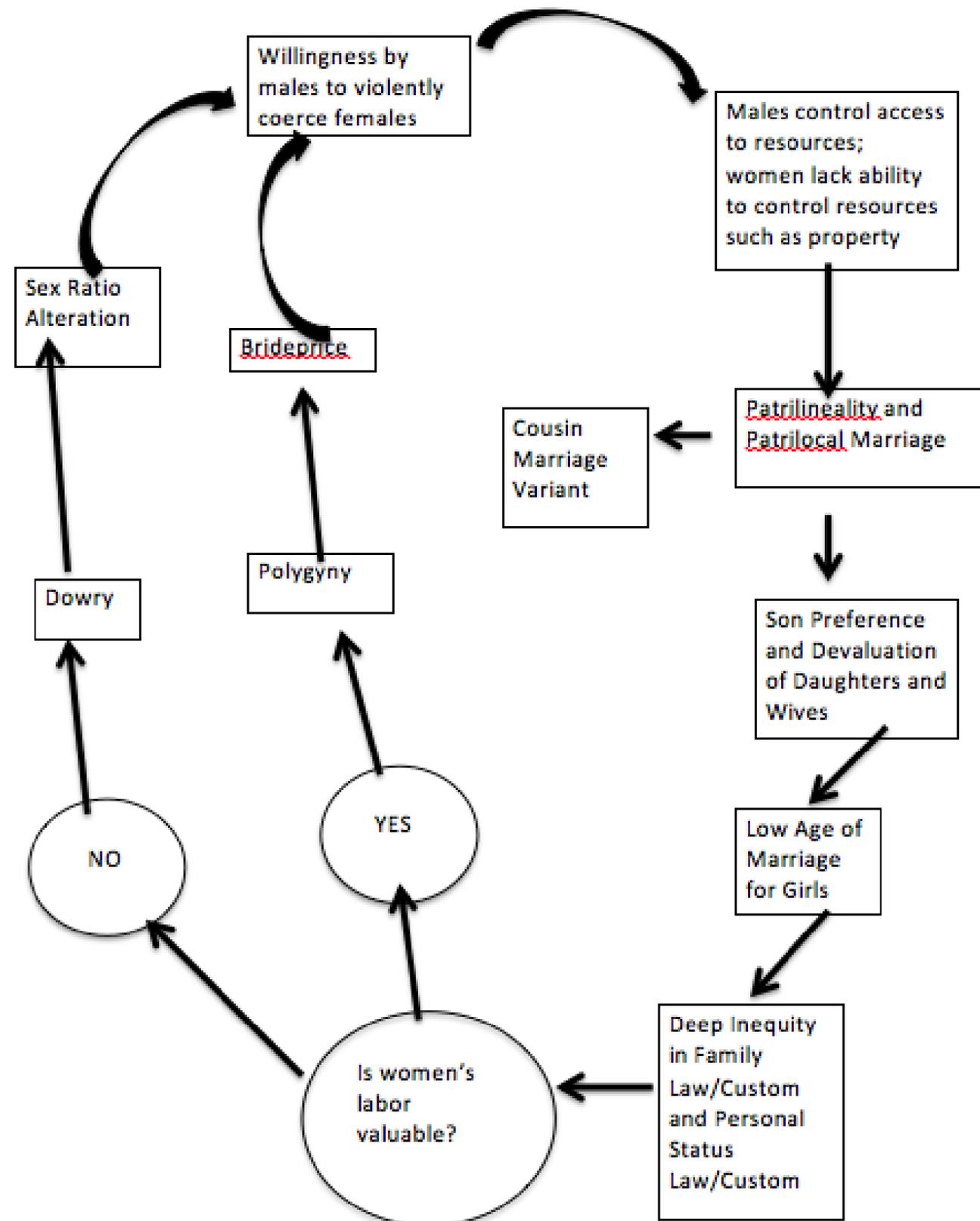
Why would this be so?



Patrilineality and Insecurity

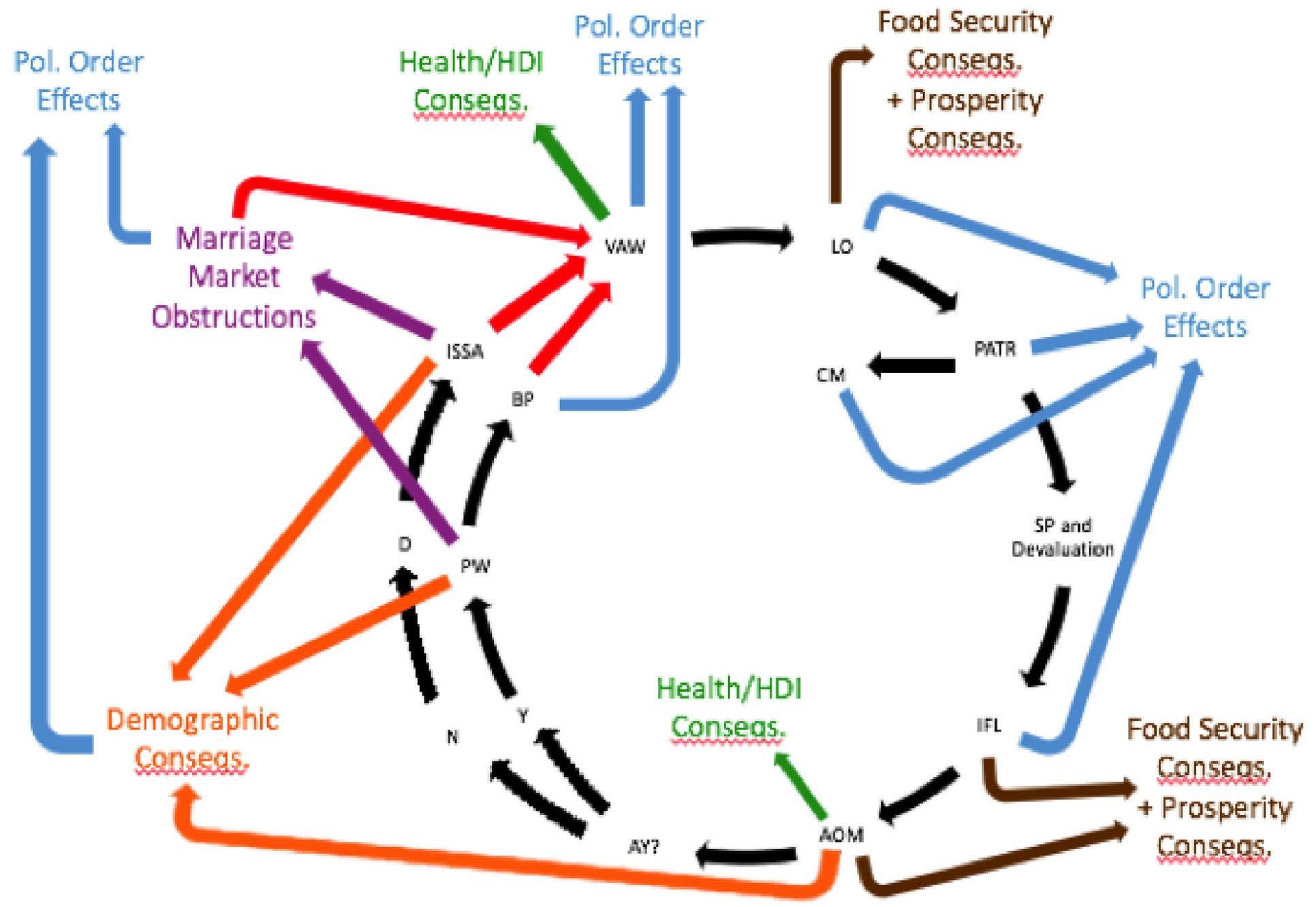
- There are two primary ways of ensuring group security in the 21st century: states and patrilineal extended kin networks
- Where states are weak or weakening, patrilineality will resurge as a security mechanism.
- But patrilineality aggravates insecurity and instability, producing high levels of corruption, government ineffectiveness, asset stripping, extremism, and the constant threat of annihilative clan violence.

Patrilineality and Women





Patrilineality, Women, and State Stability/Security



- Addl Factors
- Urbanization
 - Social Sec.

- Pol. Order Effects can include
- Conflict/Aggression Feuds
 - Corruption due to need for rents
 - Conflict Resolution template is dominance
 - Crime/Raiding
 - Rule of law
 - Regime Type
 - Level of Grievance



Patrilineality Lurks in the Wings--Always

- Important Note on Dynamics:
 - Positive gender trends are *easily* reversible
 - The patrilineal alternative is always at hand when the state can no longer provide security
 - When positive gender trends reverse, they reverse *swiftly*
 - On the other hand, significant progress for women usually takes 10+ years



For Example . . .

- Increasing Masculinization of the World's Population
 - M:F global ratio now over 101.4
 - In 1990, 5 nations had abnormal birth sex ratios: now there are 19, including
 - Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, China, Egypt, Fiji, Georgia, India, Kosovo, Kuwait, Lebanon, Montenegro, Philippines, South Sudan, Sudan, Taiwan, Macedonia, Vanuatu, Vietnam
- Masculine Migrant Flows are also causing Sex Ratio Alterations
 - For example, Sweden now has a worse sex ratio among its 16-17 year olds than China does (123 versus 117).



Ramifications

- Sex ratio alterations have implications for
 - Crime rates and political protest rates
 - Marriage market obstruction
 - For example, surging brideprices
 - Leads to easier rebel recruitment
 - Crimes against women, including trafficking and forced prostitution
 - mobility restriction for women results
 - HIV and STD spread
 - Perhaps even an altered calculus of deterrence due to altered perception of the costs of attrition warfare



Is a Trend Becoming Visible?

- Is patrilineality resurging?
 - Certainly seems to be in some areas of the world
 - Post-Arab Uprising nations
 - Central Asia and Caucasus
 - *Re-legalization* of formerly illegal practices, such as polygyny; also renewed religious sanction of crimes such as rape or child marriage



What Seems Not to be Changing

- High levels of violence against women worldwide
 - In times of both war and peace
- Inequitable family and personal status law favoring males
 - Property rights
 - Rights in marriage
 - Women as legal minors



Questions to Ask as We Look Ahead

- Where is patrilineality resurging and why? Does this relate to why women's progress is the *first* thing to be swept away when dramatic political change occurs?
- What are the mechanisms that allow progress and regress for women to proceed simultaneously? How can positive trends (such as reductions in maternal mortality and parity in primary school enrollment) be occurring at the same time as the negative trends (such as more widespread sex ratio abnormality)?



If Women are Less Secure

- Given the many dimensions along which women's insecurity ties in with state insecurity, women's insecurity undermines state security
- "The subjugation of women is a threat to the common security of our world and to the national security of our country." (Hillary Clinton, 2012)
- Women aren't the canary in the coal mine; male-female relations within the society are the coal mine. The canaries are poverty, malnutrition, ill health, explosive violence, extremism, etc.



This discussion today is therefore not only timely, but vitally important for those trying to bring about a more peaceful world.

Let's get started!

The WomanStats Project

<http://womanstats.org>