

Contents

Acknowledgments

ix

1. Crime Scene Investigation	I
The Puzzle	3
The Burned Thumb	5
The Cases	10
2. Wreckonomics 101: How Failure Became the New Success	17
Listen to the Pattern	18
Political Systems Analysis: From Conspiracy and Complexity to Co-creation	23
Wreckanisms: Four “Fixes” (and One Great Unfix)	34
3. Cold War Games: When War Is a Self-Licking Ice-Cream Cone	41
War and Security Rethought	44
Orchestrating War “at the Appropriate Level”	50
Mutually Assured Construction	56
The Self-Licking Ice-Cream Cone	60
Complicity, Atrocity, Strategy	64
4. A Life of Its Own: The “War on Terror” as Frankenstein’s Monster	69
Enemy Wanted	71
Afghanistan: Expanding the Enemy	75
Shark-Infested Waters: Sri Lanka’s Conflict	84
Runaway Terror: Syria’s Long War	89
Mutation and Proliferation: Mali and the Sahel	93
Ways Out of the Franken-war	98

5. Double Games: Fear and Fraud in the Fight against Migration	103
“Fighting the Illegals”: Europe’s Outsourced Border-Builders	106
Escalating the Fights, Escalating the Demands	110
Globalized Border Security and Its Winners	114
The Cascade Grows: Migrant Tactics and Political Instability	119
Staging the Crisis	126
6. Warriors on Drugs: How States Got Hooked on Narcotics and Crime	131
Between Cloud Nine and the Killing Fields	134
Anslinger’s Gambit	135
Selective Enforcement	142
Fleece Me in St. Louis: Visiting the War on Crime	145
Mexico, Colombia, and the Mirage of a “Drug-Free World”	149
Addiction through Externalization	157
7. The Hall of Mirrors: The Distortion of Disastrous Interventions	161
Back to the Funfair	164
Three Mirrors	167
Afghanistan and “the Best Picture Possible”	175
The Road to Turf-dom	180
History, Accountability, and Policy-Based Evidence-Making	187
8. Wreckonomics Goes Viral? The Costs of Laissez-Faire and Lockdown	191
Viral Nationalism? A (W)reckless Combination	193
A People’s War? COVID in the Crosshairs	203
Fixation Squared: The Virus Goes Viral	212
Public Health and “War”	216
9. How to End the War on Everything (In Four Complex Steps)	223
Foment Dissent and Dialogue: Opening Up the Information Environment	226
Make Externalities Count: Toward a Proper Cost-Benefit Analysis	230
Coalitions against Complicity: Or How to Turn the System against Itself	235
Unfixing the Problem	239

10. Waging Peace: How (Not) to Fight the System	243
The Politics of Distraction	244
The Case of the Missing W	249
Revolution as the "Solution"?	254
Waging Peace	257
 Notes	 263
References	297
Index	325