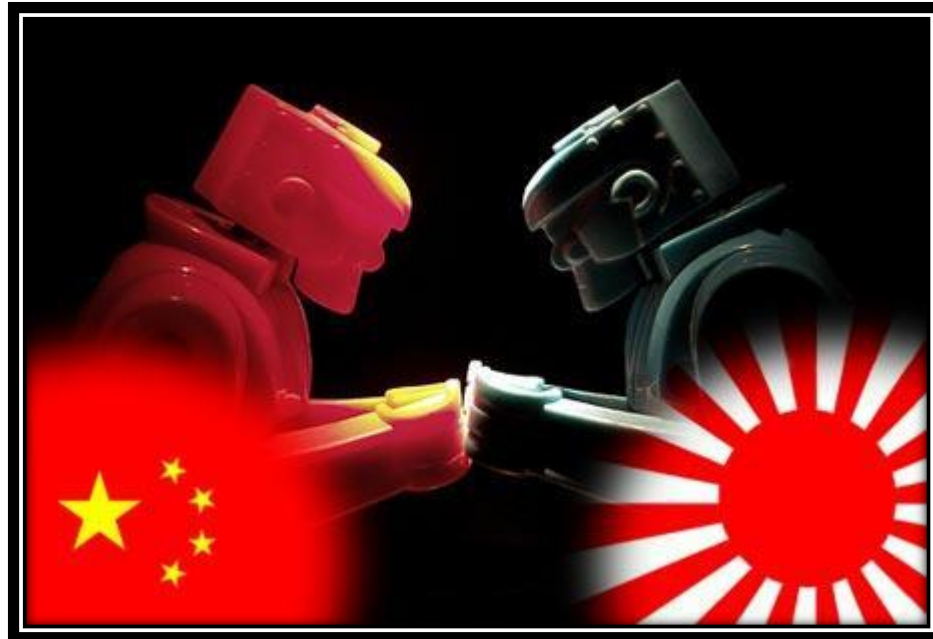


Hypothesis:

By using a combination of Data Analytics technologies and Ethnographic methods we are able to obtain accurate predictions on the development of international crises in Asia.



These predictions should be specific and time bound. For example:



Tensions with **North Korea** have a probability of **95%** of becoming even more **negative** over the next **21 days**.

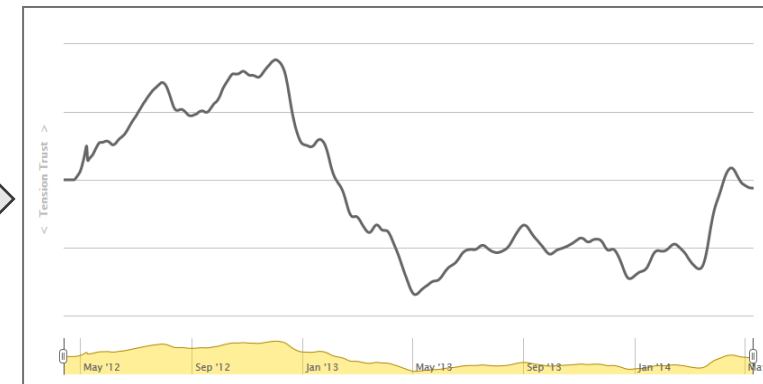
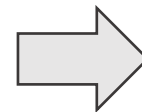
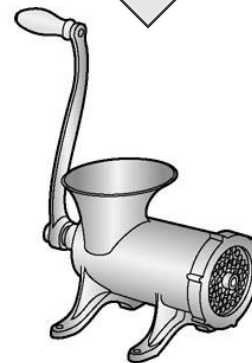
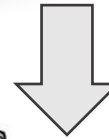
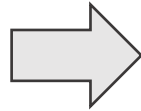
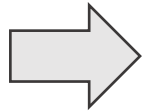


Tensions between **China and Japan** have a probability of **90%** of reversing and becoming more **positive** over the next **13 days**.

To do this we need something objective to **measure** the predictions against.
How do we measure the existence of more or less tension?



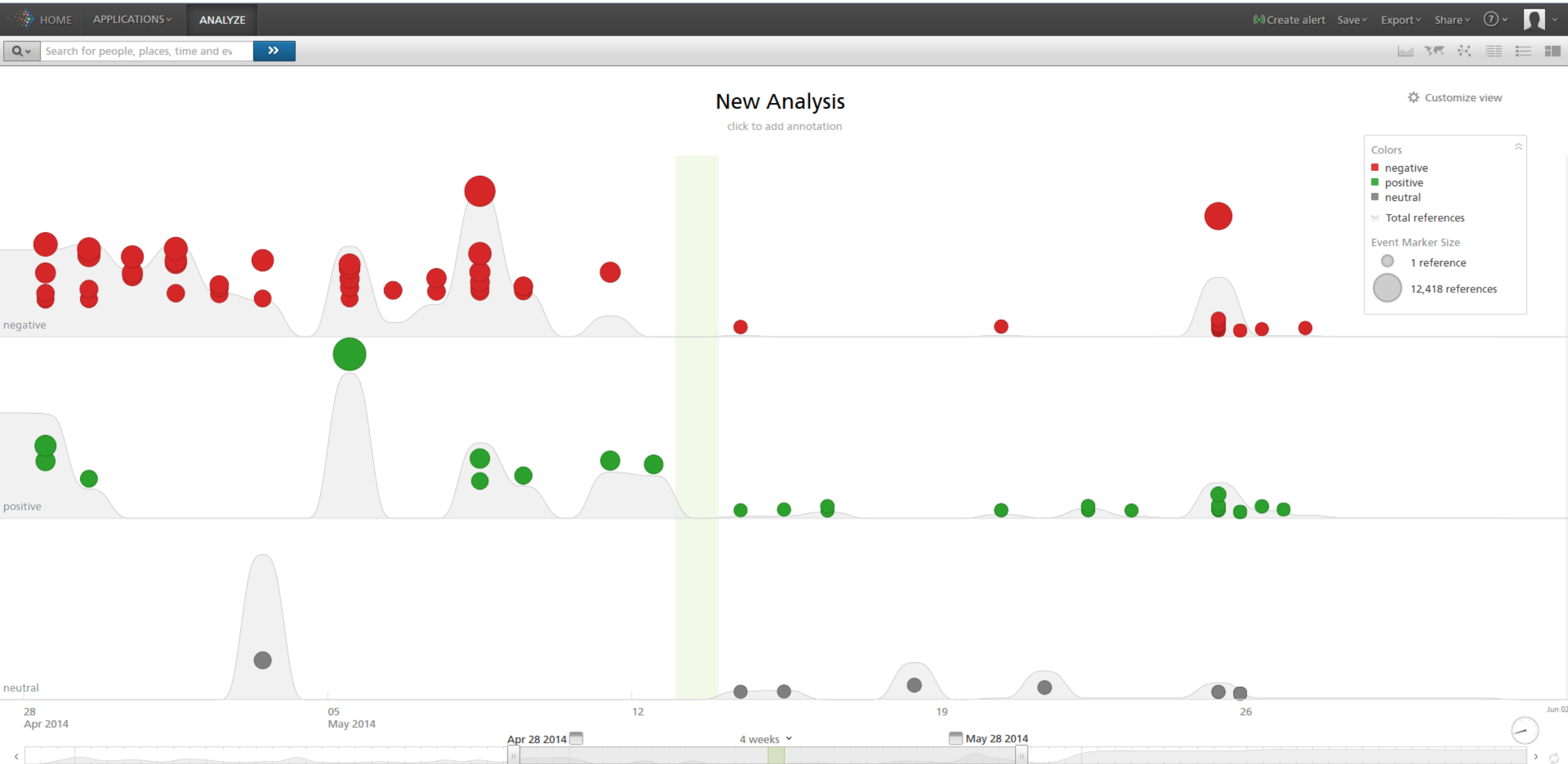
Tensions are reflected in negative sentiment in the news. Sentiment in the **online news** can be quantified over time using Data Analytics technologies.



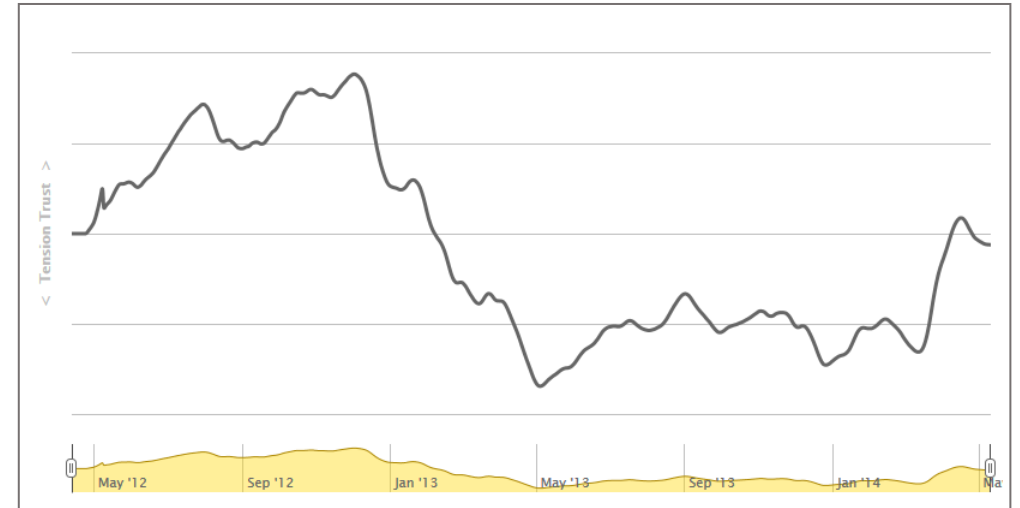
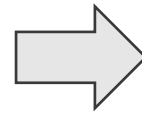
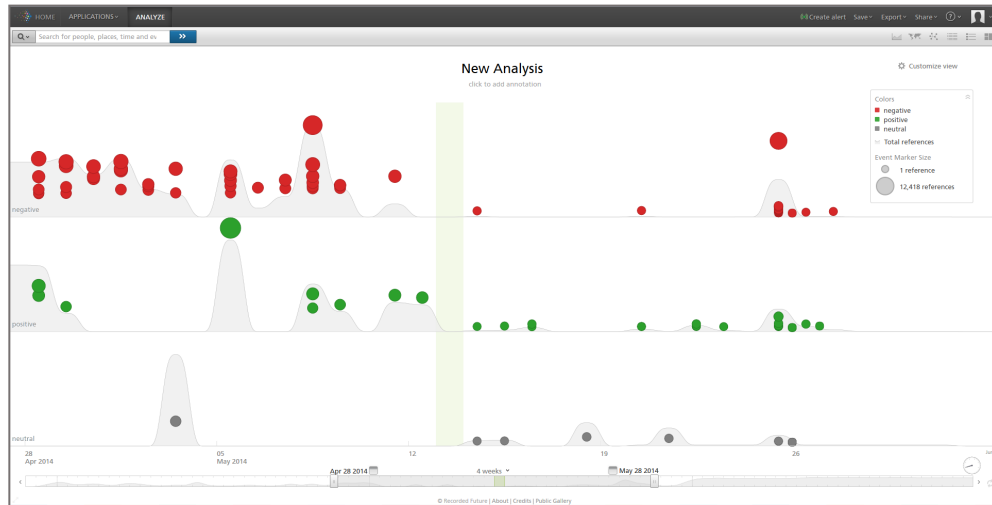
What exactly are **Data Analytics** technologies? Every two months the total amount of information on the web doubles. Data Analytics allows us to make sense of that.



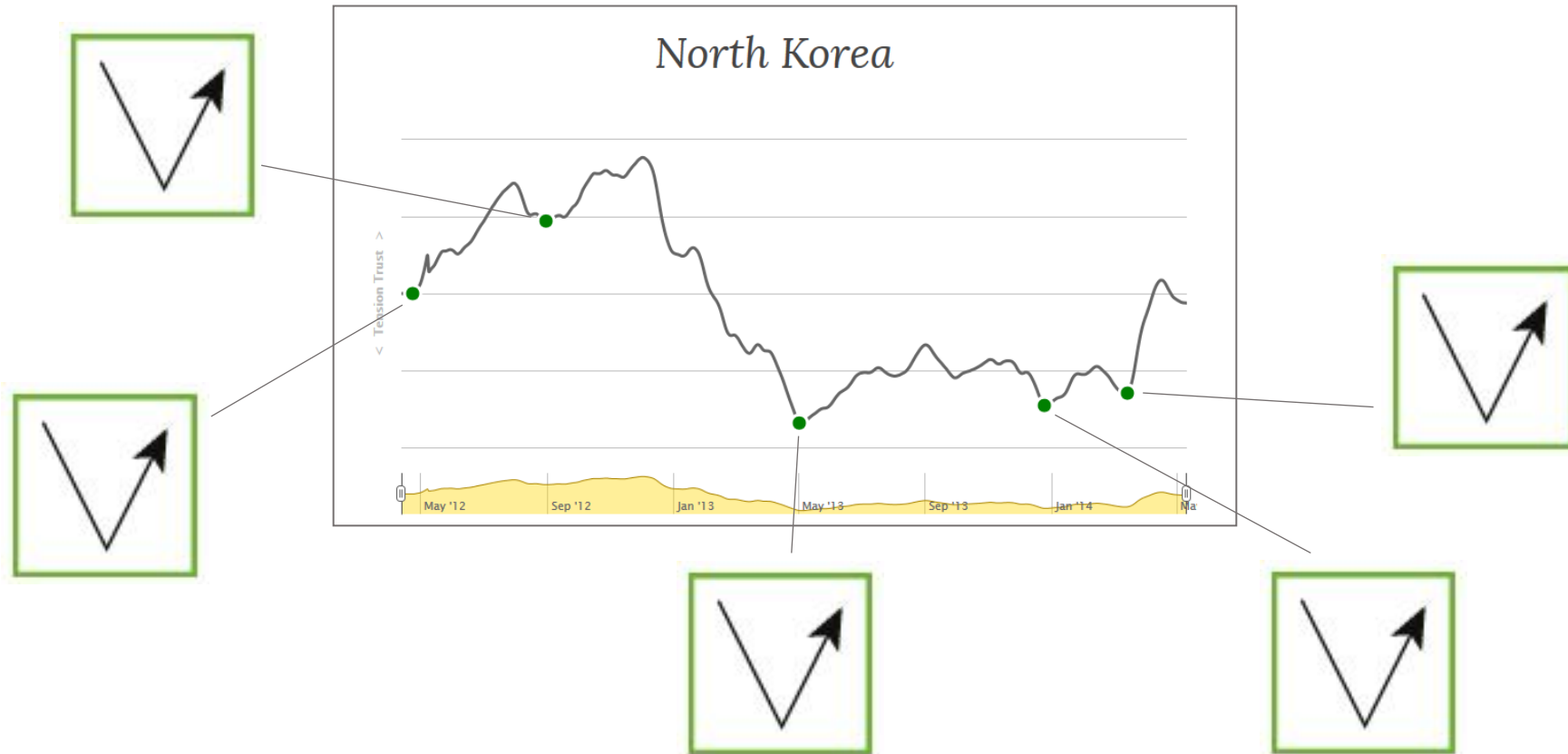
For this project we will rely on analytics provided by the firm **Recorded Future**.



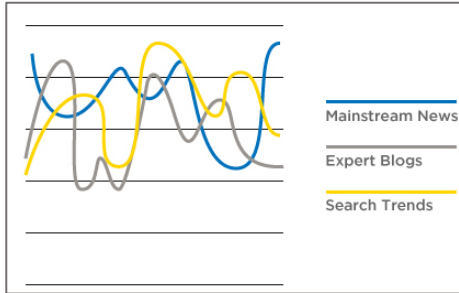
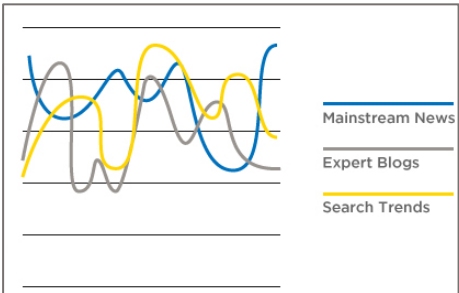
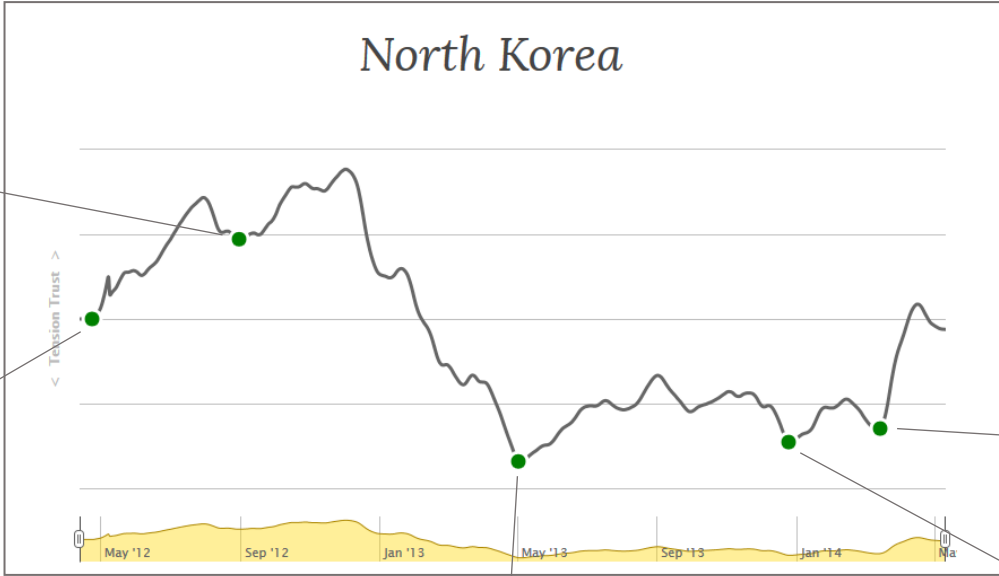
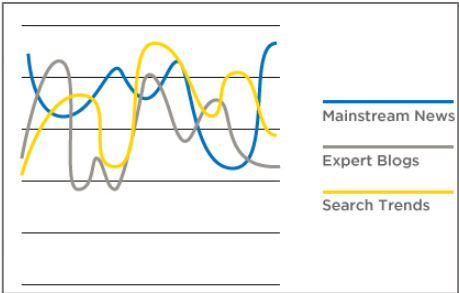
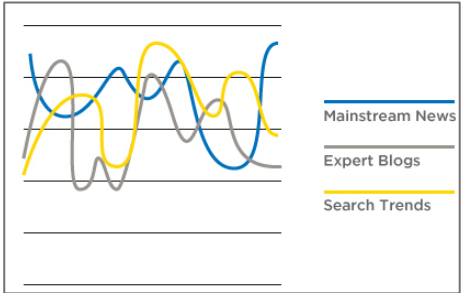
News sentiment from Recorded Future is then organized **over time** in the form of a line chart.



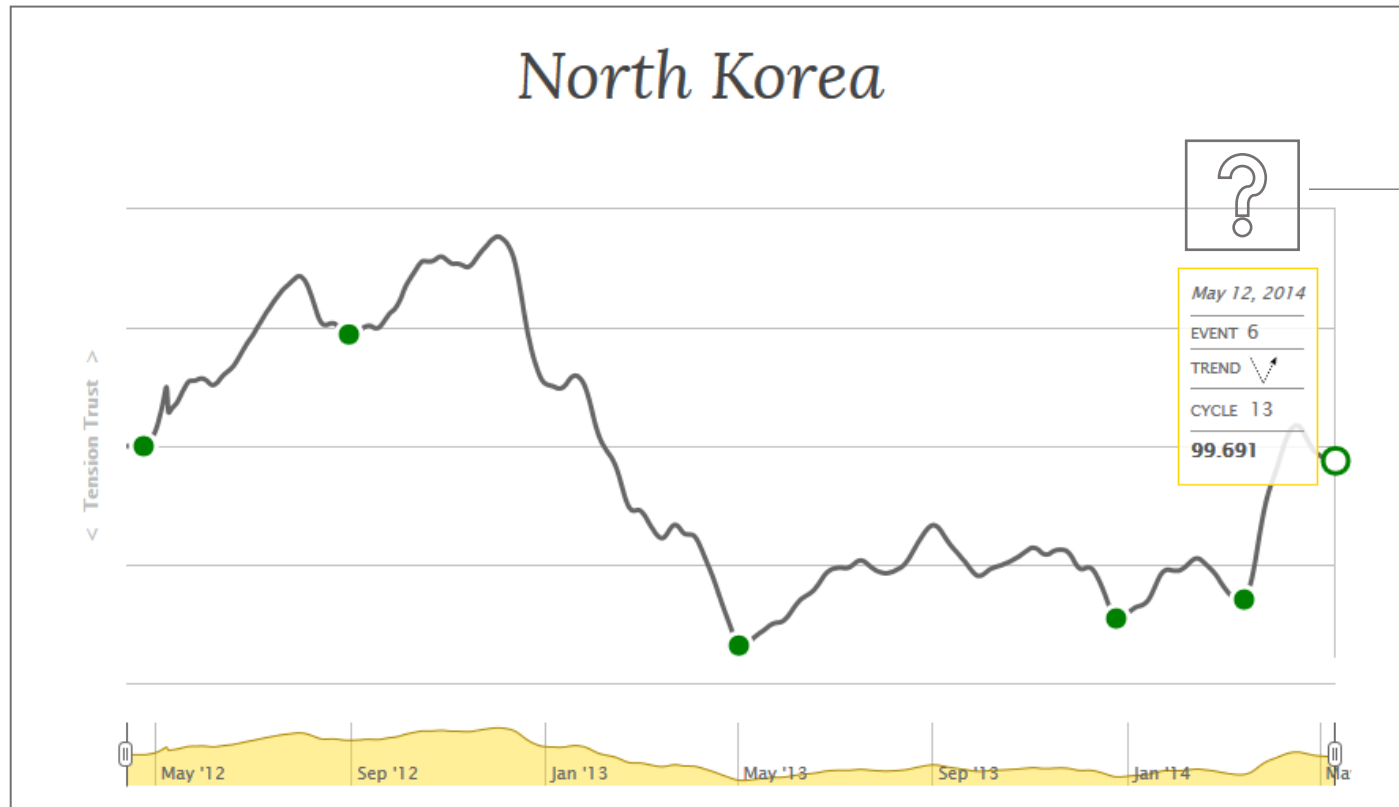
Now that we have a way to objectively measure tensions we may turn our attention to the next question: How do we make a prediction? First, we look for recurring **patterns** in the past.



Next, we identify the common **characteristics** to all of those events in the past, by looking at what was happening in different subtypes of data, such as the number of comments to mainstream news articles, the number of blog posts, and the frequency of Google search trends.

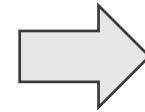
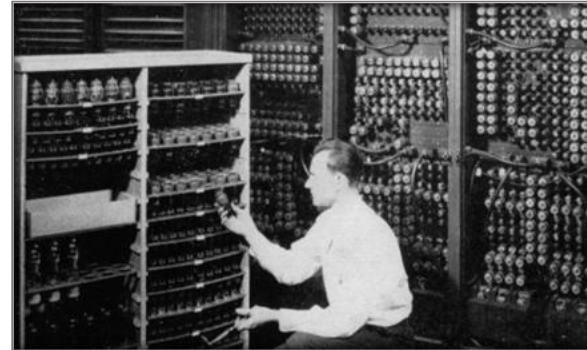
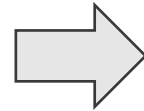


Lastly, we ask what is happening in **real time** data. If circumstances in the subtypes of data are the same as they were in the past, a signal is made.

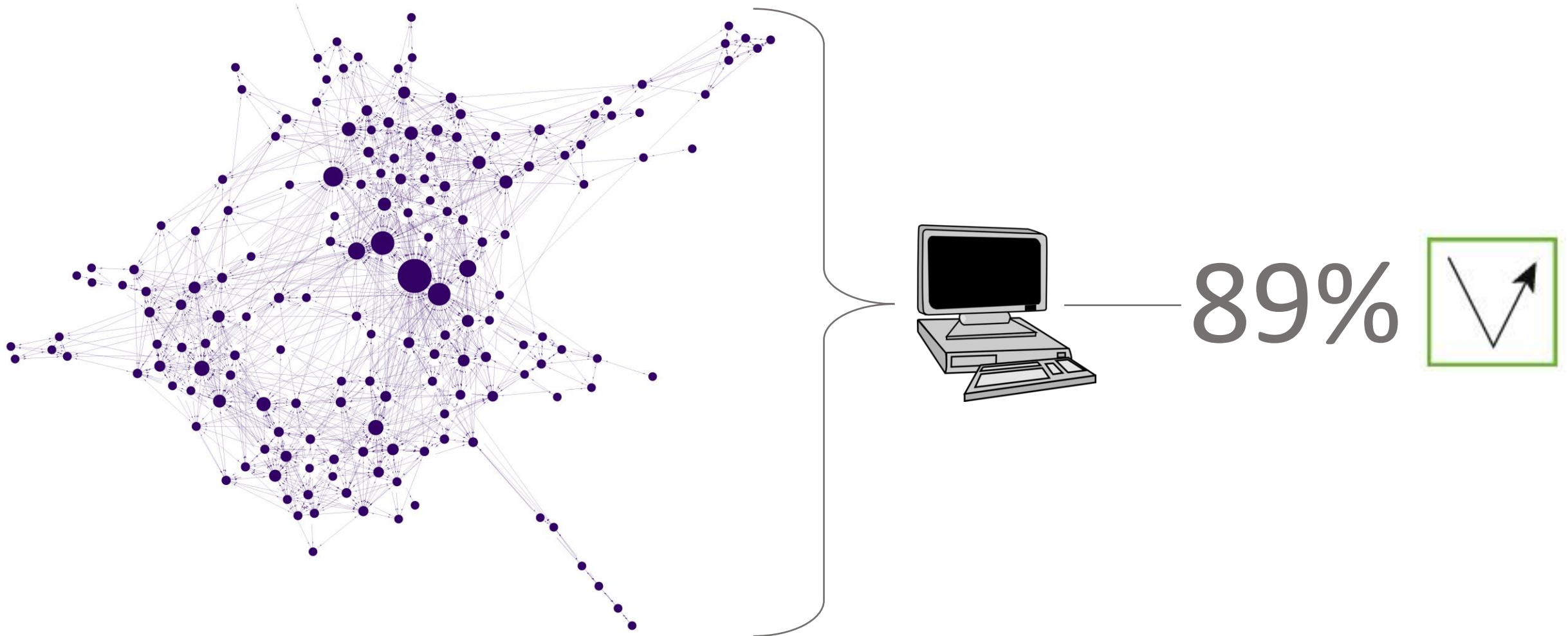


This procedure requires us to quickly sift through very **large amounts** of data, too much for humans to manage. But it can be done with algorithms.

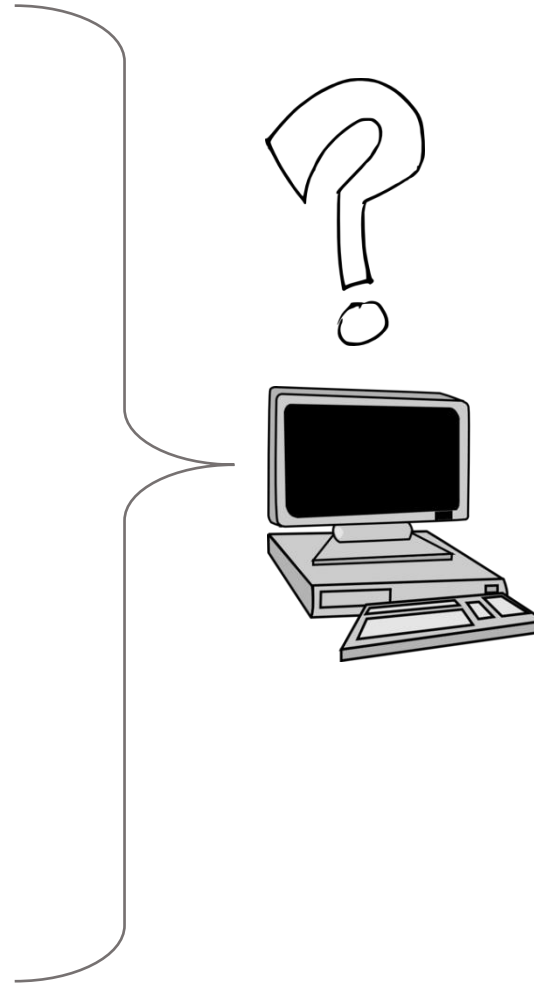
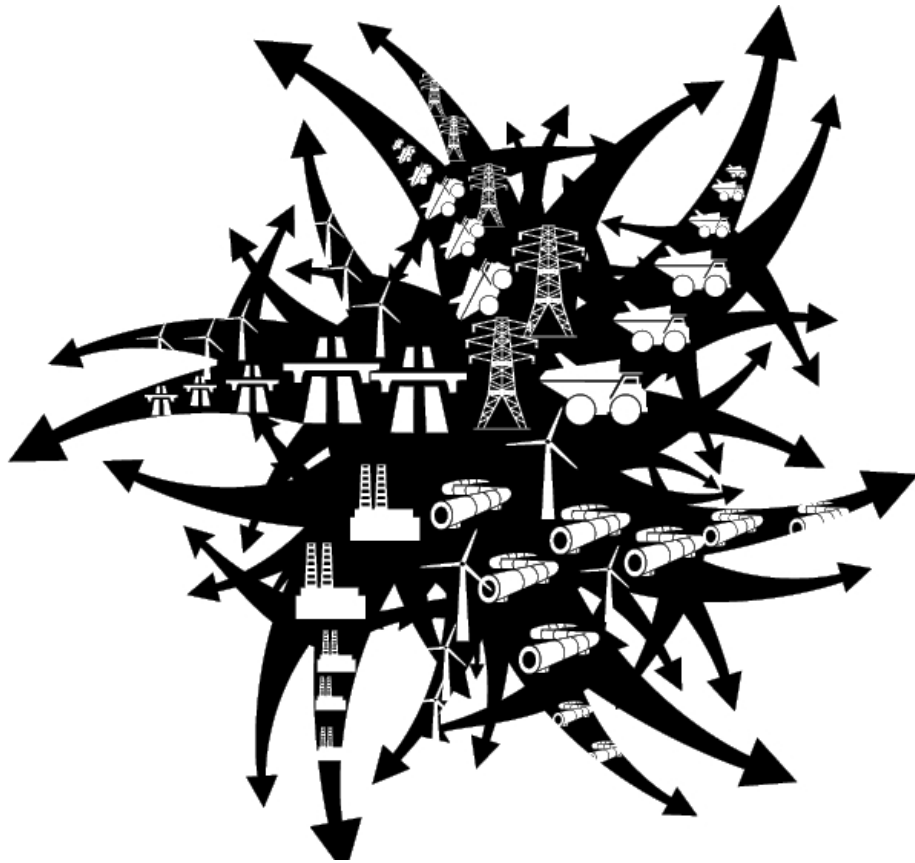
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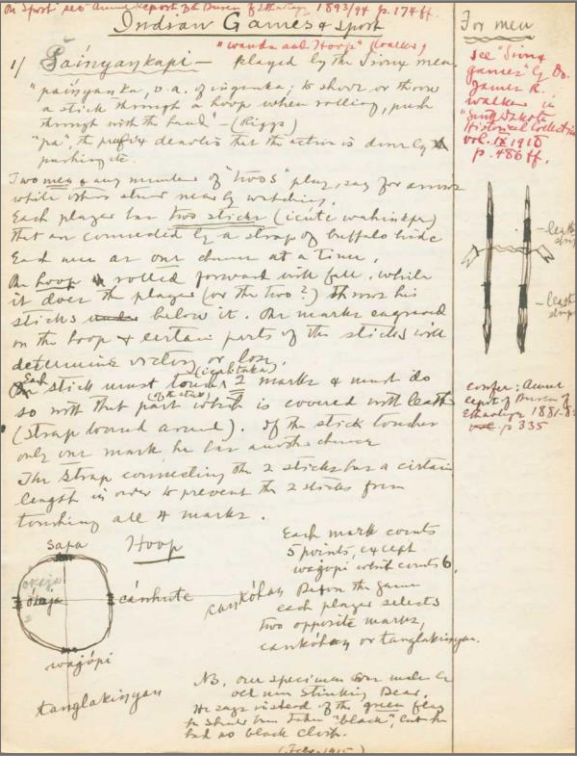
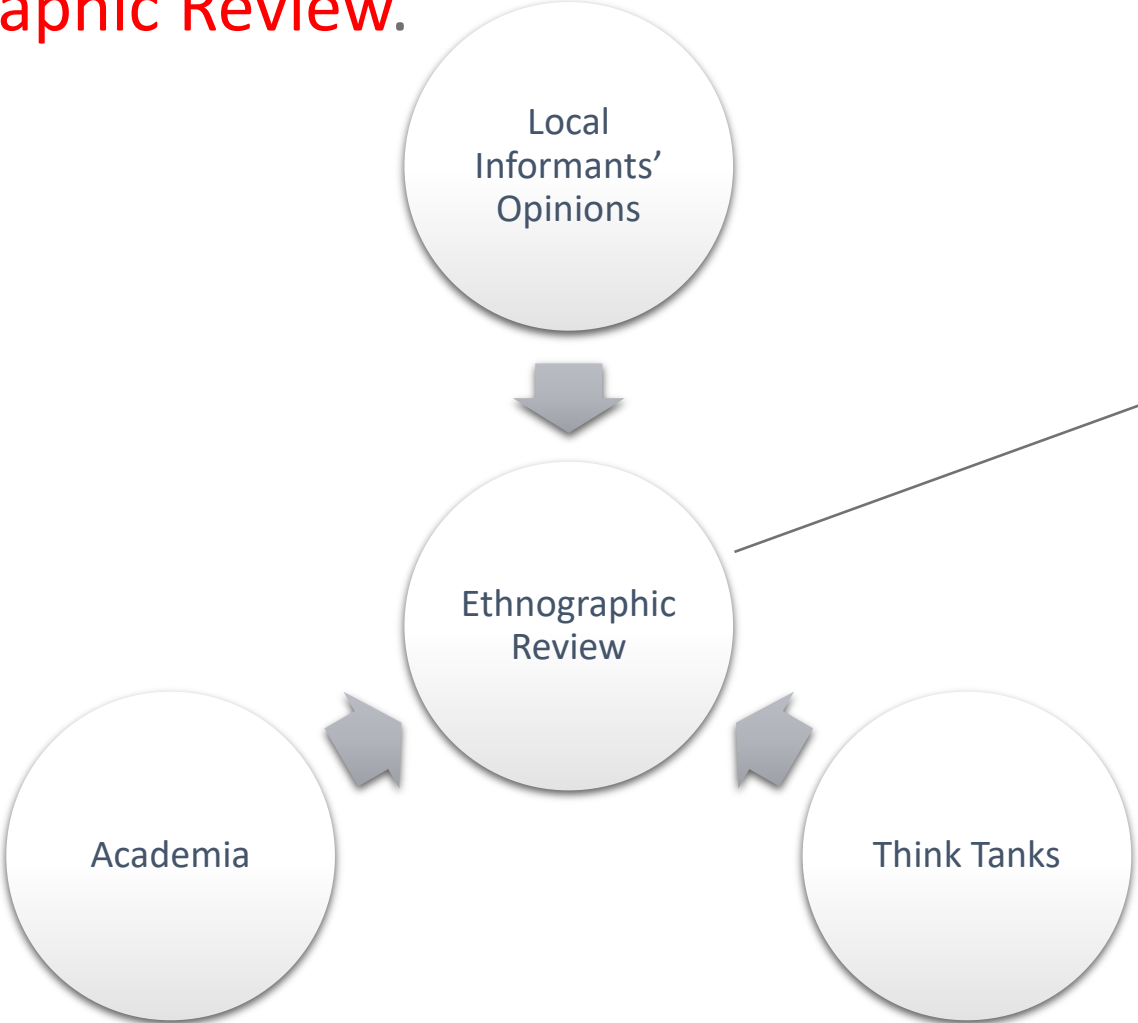
To this end I have developed an algorithm called **Social Risk Analysis** (SRA) because it looks at relations between social phenomena (behavior) and quantifies risk as a percentage of possibility.



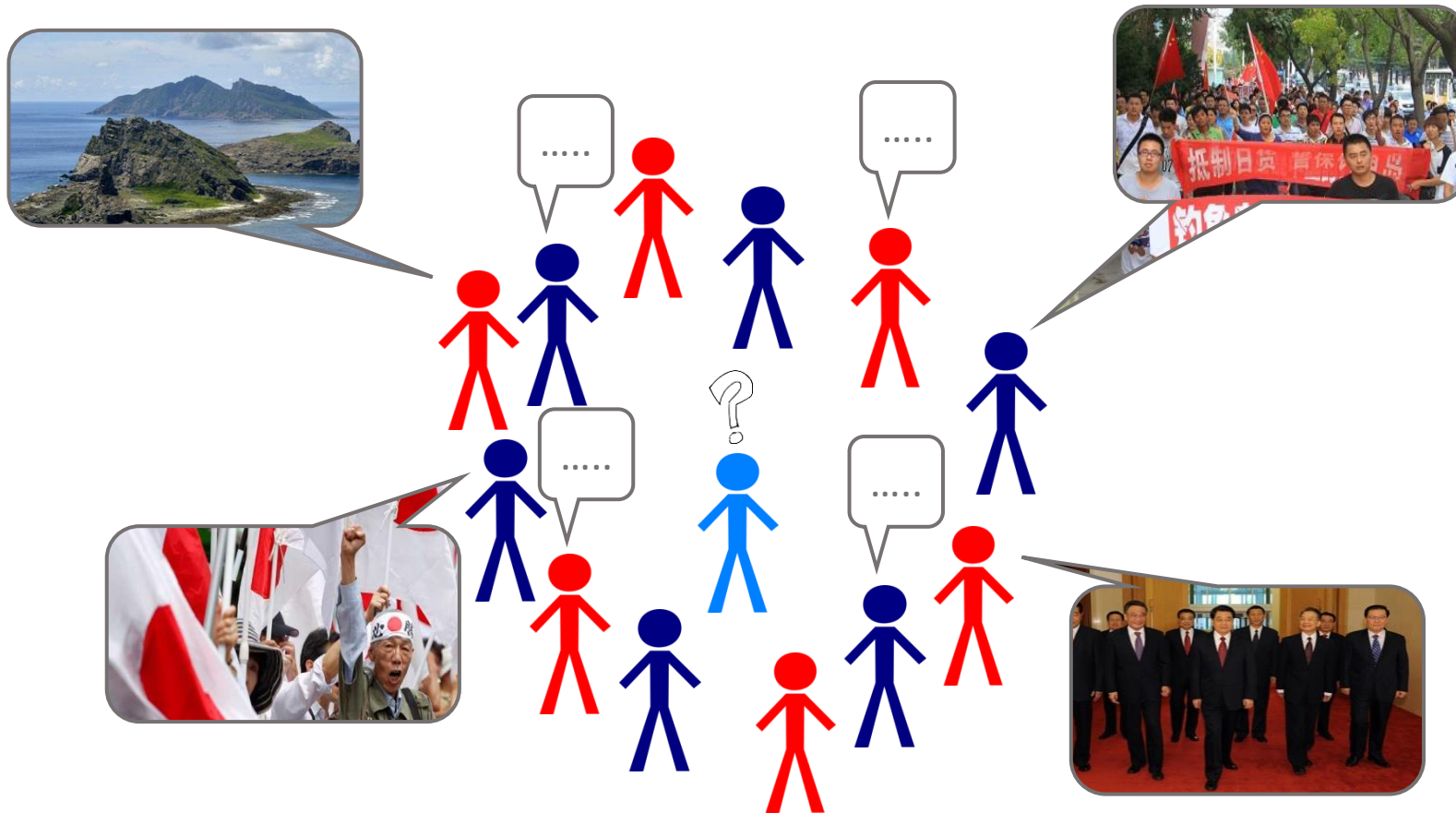
However, algorithms often fail to properly contextualize random or unexpected events. **Human perception** is necessary to make the connections that machines cannot possibly be programmed to look for in advance.



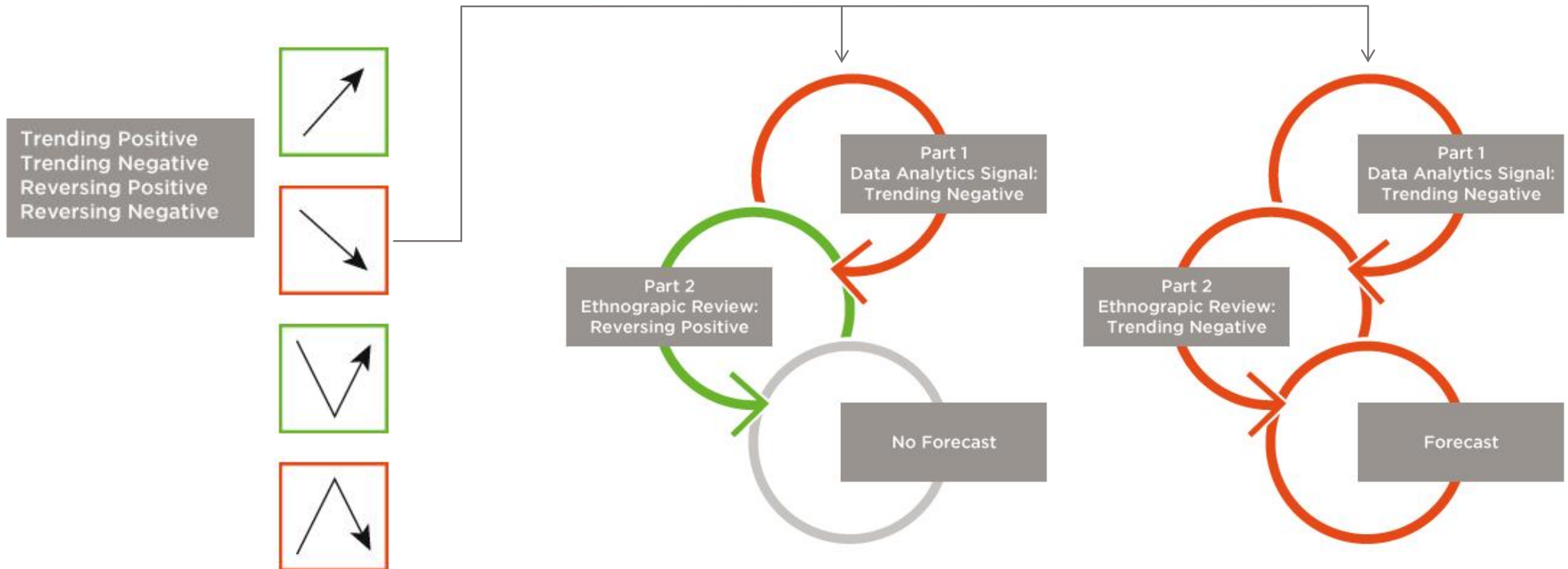
Ethnography is a methodology used to uncover hidden dynamics. By contacting a network of local informants and interlacing their opinions with information from other sources, such as academia and think tanks, we get an **Ethnographic Review**.



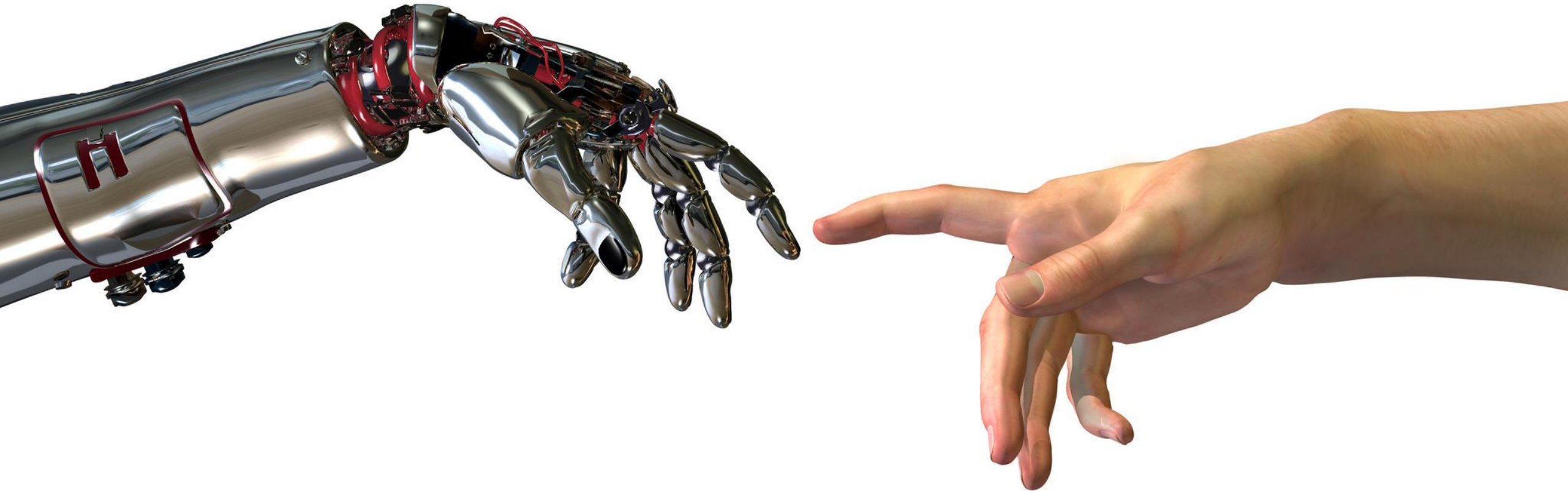
Through Ethnography, we get information that we cannot get through Data Analytics. For example, we learn that the **Senkaku/Diaoyu** Island dispute is used by both China and Japan principally for domestic political purposes – a point which is rarely highlighted in the international media.



We can then use this Ethnographic Review to **confirm** the signals created by the Social Risk Analysis. This combined approach increases the accuracy rate.

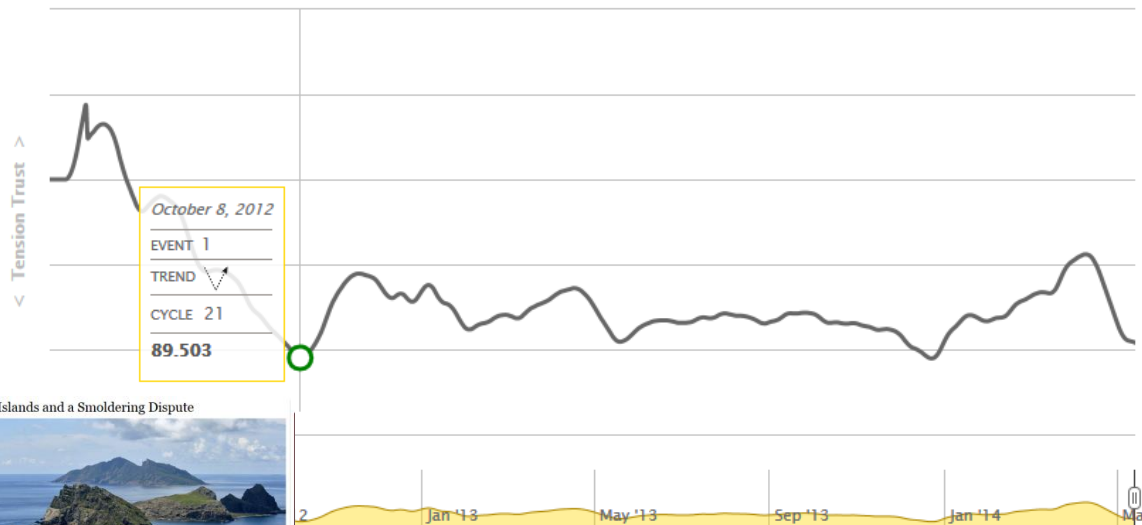


There is an increased reliance on automated intelligence by analysts. The methodology put forth here builds on that trend by applying algorithms to social phenomena and then **integrating** them with human analysis.



Does this work? Yes, it is possible to obtain accurate predictions on the development of international crises in Asia. Here are some examples. The accuracy rate in all cases exceeded 80% in the past two years.

Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands



Sleepy Islands and a Smoldering Dispute

Claims to the uninhabited islands known as Senkaku or Diaoyu are complicated by past alliances and modern interdependency between China and Japan.

By MARTIN HOOGHEIJER and ANDY JARVIS
Published: September 20, 2012

ISHIGAKI, Japan — In the fishing harbor here, Japan has increased the number of sleek, white Coast Guard cutters to fend off the Chinese patrol boats that have stepped up their challenge of Japan's control of disputed nearby islands, one sign of a smoldering conflict that has threatened relations between Asia's two giants.

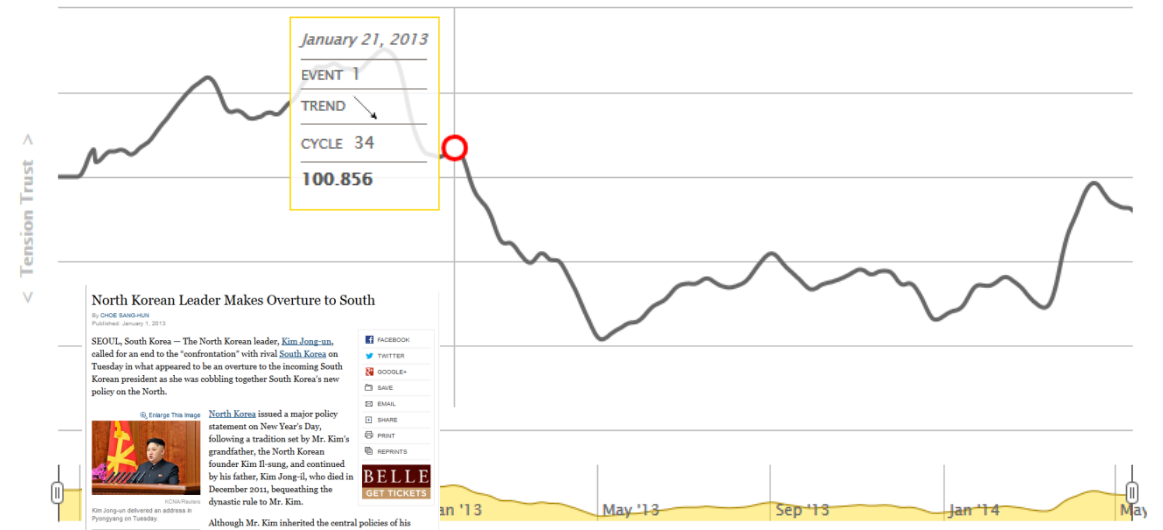
But even here in Ishigaki, at the southern edge of Japan closest to the contested territory, many fear that the heated showdown may scare off other, more welcoming Chinese visitors: tourists who sustain the town's resort-based economy.

The conflicted feelings are emblematic of the quandary both nations face as they once again clash over sovereignty of the uninhabited islands in the East

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North Korea



North Korean Leader Makes Overture to South

By CHOE SANGHUN
Published: January 5, 2013

SEOUL, South Korea — The North Korean leader, **Kim Jong-un**, called for an end to the "confrontation" with rival South Korea on Tuesday in what appeared to be an overture to the incoming South Korean president as she was cobbling together South Korea's new policy on the North.

Kim Jong-un delivered an address in Pyongyang on Tuesday.

Although Mr. Kim inherited the central policies of his father, outside analysts see him as trying to distance himself in a variety of ways from his father's ruling style. Kim Jong-il was more feared than respected among his people, and his rule was marked by a major famine.

The most significant feature of Kim Jong-un's speech was its marked departure of tone regarding South Korea.

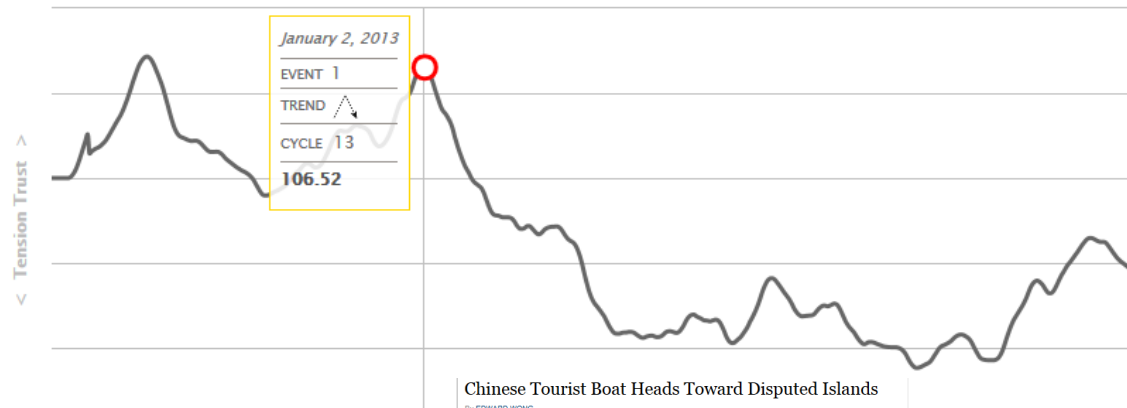
"A key to ending the divide of the nation and achieving reunification is to end the situation of confrontation between the North and the South," Mr. Kim said. "A basic precondition to improving North-South relations and advancing national reunification is to honor and implement North-South joint declarations."

He was referring to two inter-Korean agreements, signed in 2000 and 2007, when two South Korean presidents, Kim Dae-jung and Roh Moo-hyun, were pursuing a "Sunshine Policy" of reconciliation and economic cooperation with North Korea and met Mr. Kim's father in the North Korean capital, Pyongyang.

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Spratly Islands



Chinese Tourist Boat Heads Toward Disputed Islands

By EDWARD WONG
Published: April 29, 2013

A cruise ship carrying Chinese tourists has embarked on a trip to the Paracels, a group of islands in the South China Sea that are claimed by both China and Vietnam. [Vietnamese news reports](#) said the ship left the coast of mainland China on Sunday despite protests against any such trip by the Vietnamese government in early April.

Multimedia



Territorial Claims in South China Sea

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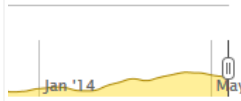
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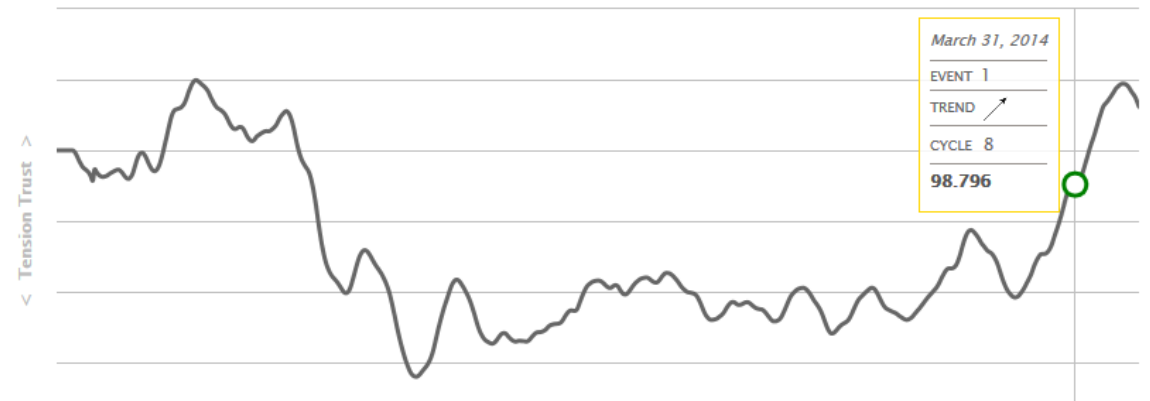


China and Vietnam have long disputed sovereignty over the Paracels. China is also competing with other Southeast Asian nations to lay claim to other parts of the South China Sea, notably the Spratly Islands.

Thanh Nien, a Vietnamese state-run news organization, said Vietnam's National Border Committee under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had filed a protest on April 5 against the plans for the cruise, arguing that Vietnam had "incontestable" sovereignty over the Paracels and Spratlys. China's territorial claims have come under closer scrutiny recently as the country exerts its military strength more prominently. This month, Chinese soldiers set up camp inside the remote Ladakh region of northern India, Indian officials said. It is unclear why the soldiers made that move.



Mindanao



The Philippines: Peace Accord Is Signed

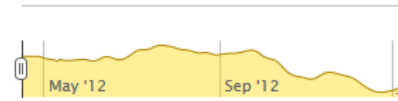
By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS MARCH 27, 2014

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The Philippine government signed a peace accord with the country's largest Muslim rebel group, the [Moro Islamic Liberation Front](#), on Thursday, the culmination of years of negotiations. The deal grants largely Muslim areas of the southern Mindanao region greater political autonomy in exchange for an end to armed rebellion, although other insurgent groups have vowed to keep fighting for full independence. The deal calls for rebel arms to be put "beyond use" by 2016, a government negotiator said. More than 120,000 people have died in separatist violence since the 1970s in Mindanao.

A version of this brief appears in print on March 28, 2014, on page A10 of the New York edition with the headline: The Philippines: Peace Accord Is Signed. Order Reprints | Today's Paper | Subscribe



Burma/Myanmar



Ethnic Rifts Strain Myanmar as It Moves Toward Democracy



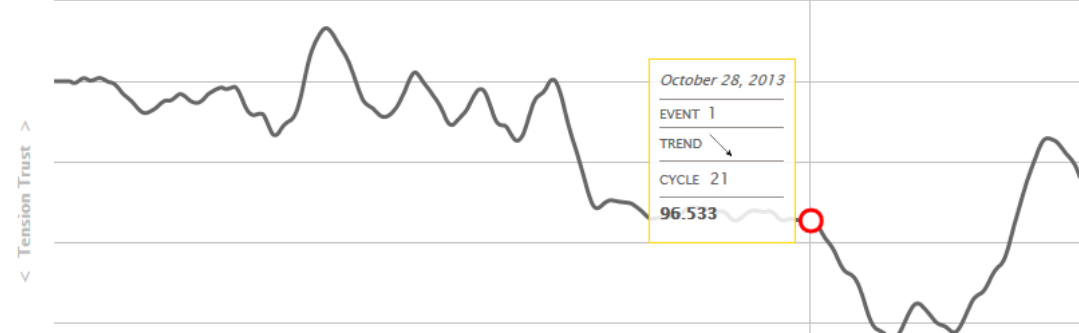
Adam Osan for The New York Times
 A Kachin villager who fled the continuing conflict between the Burmese Army and the Kachin Independence Army wept at a peace march in Myanmar. [More Photos](#)

By THOMAS FULLER
 Published: April 4, 2013

MYITKYINA, MYANMAR — When residents of this northernmost region of Myanmar talk about the tremendous changes of the past two years, they are not referring to the media freedoms or the economic liberalization transforming other parts of the country.

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Thailand



Protests Escalate in Bangkok, Rattling Government and Raising Fears of Clashes



By THOMAS FULLER
 Published: November 11, 2013

Demonstrators filled a Bangkok street during a rally against an amnesty bill on Monday. Thousands of protesters gathered in several parts of the city.

BANGKOK — With thousands of antigovernment protesters in the streets of Bangkok on Monday, Thailand's opposition announced a campaign of civil disobedience, including a three-day general strike later this week and a call for businesses to delay paying their taxes.

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Value added # 1: this type of semi-automated analysis helps avoid emotionality and vagueness (mainstream media) or informing conclusions with a political agenda (think tanks).



Value added # 2: developments concerning international crises can be correlated with the fluctuation in price of particular economic assets.

Thailand

