

Many organizations contain expressions of the “Crime Syndicate” design pattern. These are homeostatic networks; the source of their stability is each participant’s expectation of a life-disrupting surprise if one departs from The Group’s stated expectation.

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This source of stability can be thought of as a network of springs exerting “restoring forces”; they can be modeled as signals between participants, popularly described as threats, that cause the participants to avoid departure from equilibrium.

- [https://twitter.com/conways\\_law/status/1318633930908684294](https://twitter.com/conways_law/status/1318633930908684294)

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The threat pathways for threat signals can have multiple relay/fanout stages. This is what’s going on in what commentators call “call and response”: The Boss sends a coded signal, which is then put into action by (possibly multiple) anonymous agents.

- [https://twitter.com/conways\\_law/status/1748399492552917432](https://twitter.com/conways_law/status/1748399492552917432)

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This pattern seems to be fundamental to human organization.

Examples are everywhere:

US politics:

- <https://apnews.com/article/whitmer-benson-democrats-michigan-threats-detroit-toepler-b962e618ddc845e945804172db3d0ef3>

- <https://www.cnn.com/2024/01/14/us/swatting-incidents-trend-explained/index.html>

- (Video after 9:00)

- <https://www.msnbc.com/deadline-white-house/watch/wash-post-s-leonig-says-she-s-spoken-with-republicans-who-are-afraid-to-say-what-they-think-in-their-own-districts-109693509618>

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### Middle East politics:

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assassination\\_of\\_Yitzhak\\_Rabin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assassination_of_Yitzhak_Rabin)
- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/opinions/2001/05/29/arafa-t-on-his-own/e5525ab2-8993-4f4c-abb9-ccfaf76bd911/>
- <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/what-anwar-sadats-murder-40-years-ago-meant-for-the-middle-east/>

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### Oppositional-Defiant cults:

- <https://religionnews.com/2021/08/27/nrb-spokesman-dan-darling-fired-after-pro-vaccine-statements-on-morning-joe-evangelical-covid-hesitancy/>
- <https://www.globalwitness.org/en/press-releases/poll-almost-500-global-climate-scientists-reveals-many-are-having-their-work-hindered-online-abuse/>
- <https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/usa-education-threats/>

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