

Human Aspects in Homeland Security Education

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Comments in this presentation are adapted from the forthcoming article “Human Aspects in Intelligence Education” to be published in the *Journal of Strategic Studies*

“...groups of people develop different characteristics when they have evolved for thousands of years separately. Now if you gloss over those kinds of issues because it is politically incorrect to study them, then you have laid a land mine for yourself.”

- Lee Kwan Yew, Former Prime Minister of Singapore



Essential component of democracy is an informed citizenry – many Americans between 18-24 believe the following:

- ① The Amazon River is in *Africa*
- ② The U.S. fought the *Soviet Union* in WWII
- ③ Darfur is in *Asia*
- ④ The population of the United States is between 1 and 2 *billion* people

About a third of young Americans vote, less than that read newspapers, even fewer speak a foreign language or travel abroad

“Successful citizen engagement requires a deep understanding of history, understanding international relations, and effective means of communicating perspectives derived from facts. The kinds of issues that are pertinent to the future of America’s role in the world also require citizens to challenge assumptions, challenge politically driven narratives, and insist that their leaders use facts to inform policy.”

Are we doing enough in HS Education to assure that the next generation will be truly engaged citizens?



- Sean Kay, *America’s Search for Security*, (2014), pp. 292-293

Decision making, especially in U.S. foreign policy, reflects this

- Decisions have often been made based upon assumptions rather than knowledge
- Especially so in regard to areas of the world with which Americans have little knowledge or familiarity

How have these decisions impacted the nation's security? How can we improve?

George F. Kennan, the author of the “containment” policy, noted the tendency toward allowing assumptions to drive American foreign policy decisions:

- ❖ Example: Assumption North Vietnamese were puppets of Moscow led to escalation of the Vietnam War



George F. Kennan, *American Diplomacy: Sixtieth Expanded Edition*. (2012),
p. 162

- ❖ Suppose Woodrow Wilson had consulted with the Allies before announcing his “14 Points” rather than assume they would see their efficacy and support them?
- ❖ What if American strategic thinkers had not assumed the Japanese were unlikely to risk war with the United States – leaving Pearl Harbor vulnerable?
- ❖ How much did the assumption that Iraq had WMD affect the decision for the invasion of that nation in 2003?

Kennan also noted what he described as the “curious American tendency to search, at all times, for a single external center of evil, to which all of our troubles can be attributed, rather than to recognize that there might be multiple sources of resistance to our purposes and undertakings.”

This propensity is dangerous and has led to foreign policy decisions that have been costly in terms of blood and treasure



- *Ibid.*, pp. 162-163

When educating our students for careers in Homeland Security— focus on “human aspects,” (i.e. international relations, especially non-Western cultures, and foreign languages) is especially important!



Homeland Security studies should emphasize education in non-Western cultures as well as other aspects related to national security

- **Reflects expectation of an emerging security environment that will create new challenges in the 21st century**
- **Several drivers could potentially shape global trends and are relevant to the importance of understanding the human environment, especially in the non-Western world**

(see Multiple Futures Project {2009}, NATO Strategic Concept {2010} and Strategic Foresight Analysis {2013})

Human Aspects of the Operational Environment

- NATO strategic study project conducted through the HUMINT Center of Excellence (HCOE) in Oradea, Romania
- Outgrowth of NATO/ISAF experience in Afghanistan
- Led to recognition of the importance of understanding human activities, especially in unfamiliar cultures in any potential operational environment as well as in intelligence analysis

Human Aspects of the Operational Environment

- Study reflects increasing expectation that future NATO missions will increasingly take place outside of its territory
- Majority of these may be non-Article 5 crisis response situations (Article 5 – an armed attack on one NATO member is an attack on all of them)
 - Possible operations in MENA

Human Aspects of the Operational Environment

POTENTIAL TREND SHAPERS:

1. Competing ideologies and worldviews

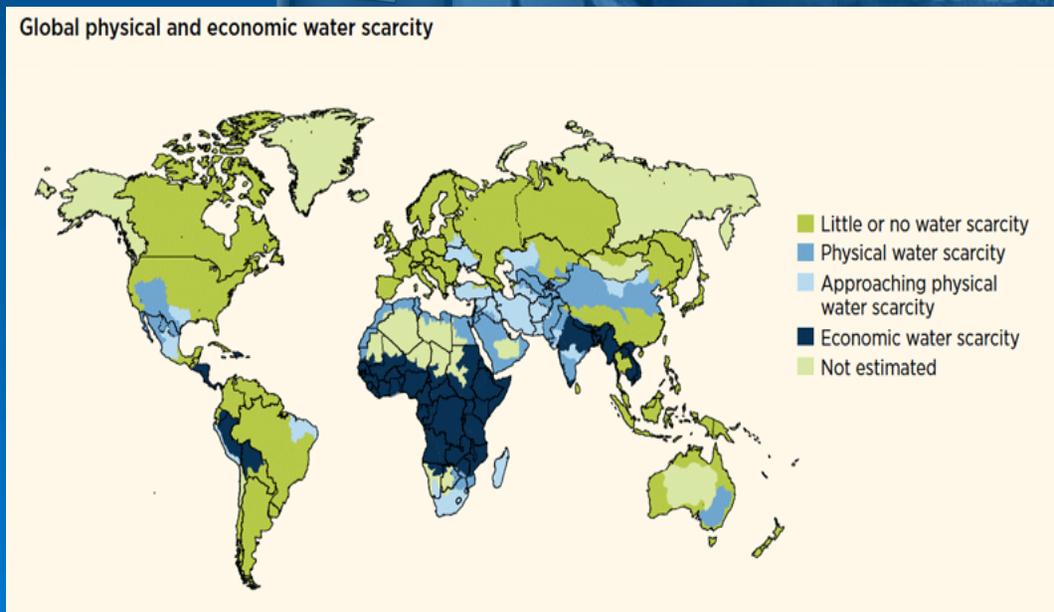
- Terrorism, geopolitical issues, WMD proliferation, ideological clashes
- Movement away from likelihood of superpower clash to more complex interactions of state and non-state actors
- Ideological clashes can trigger potential friction in international decision-making

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POTENTIAL TREND SHAPERS:

2. *Resource allocation* (competition for natural resources, food, water, critical minerals can spark conflict)

Global physical and economic water scarcity



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POTENTIAL TREND SHAPERS:

4. Complexity, Uncertainty and Unpredictability

Above factors likely to produce a security environment that is complex, unpredictable and filled with uncertainty

May pose a serious challenge to the solidarity of an alliance, especially one bound by a shared unity of ideas and values – the security environment could be subject to unforeseeable developments (political, social, technological, military)

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POTENTIAL TREND SHAPERS:

5. Demographics – impact of world population growth (8.3 billion by 2030?)

Social effects: population expansion, aging & decline (developed countries), younger populations in developing countries can lead social fracturing

Increased urbanization, greater gap between rich and poor, greater levels of poverty, unemployment and migration – all triggers for conflict

Human Aspects of the Operational Environment

POTENTIAL TREND SHAPERS:

6. Technology & Innovation

- **Constant exponential pace of technological innovation**
 - **Increasing diffusion and access to modern technology empowers individuals and non-state actors**
- **WMD, lasers, nano-technologies among others will increasingly impact the security environment**
- **Increased dependency on computer networking combined with access to the latest technology increases the threat of computer hacking**

Human Aspects of the Operational Environment

POTENTIAL TREND SHAPERS:

7. Environmental constraints:

- Impact of climate change
- Effects of increasing water shortages and growing energy needs
- Greatest impact is on developing countries – enhancing potential for increasing tensions and instability



While these are potential global trends, the non-Western world in particular will be greatly impacted by them

Each represents a current or future source of conflict which can involve the U.S. and/or its NATO allies in terms of national or regional security

Understanding these trends and their potential implications as well as those non-Western cultures that may be impacted will be essential for effective policy development

The Homeland Security studies curriculum for the 21st century should account for these trends as well as include coursework about non-Western history, political, religious and social movements, culture and languages

The curriculum should also be flexible and adaptable to a complex and changing world environment – subject to resources and faculty expertise

Findings and Recommendations

Current strategic environment highly complex, dynamic and adaptive – involves state and non-state actors

Recent NATO and U.S. operations have demonstrated that the lack of detailed knowledge about human aspects – cultural influences, prejudices and stereotypes remains an impediment to accomplishing tasks

Findings and Recommendations

Interacting with areas that have significant cultural differences can lead to a tendency to oversimplify conceptions, opinions or images and apply them as generalizations to the population as a whole

Failing to identify and exploit common values of different cultures may cause certain stereotypes to become simplistic, false and negative connotations – this can affect policy making back home

The more that is known about other cultures, non-Western in particular, the better the quality of decision-making

Awareness of all aspects of the human environment cannot guarantee success in policy making but a lack of it will likely increase assumptive decision making that can lead to unintended consequences which may result in a self-defeating or failed policy

- ✧ Ultimately, what is being considered is a more comprehensive approach to Homeland Security education
- ✧ Utilizing the recommendations and findings given, the hope and expectation is that, by improving our understanding of the world, especially that of the next generation and operating on the basis of *knowledge* rather than *assumptions*, policy making regarding national security will improve and produce better results

Human Aspects in NATO Military Operations

If you know others and know yourself, you will not be imperiled in a hundred battles; if you do not know others but know yourself, you win one and lose one; if you do not know others and do not know yourself, you will be imperiled in every single battle.



Sunzi

“Americans need to be open to the world; we need to be able to see the world through the eyes of others if we are going to understand how to resolve the complex problems we face.”

- Daniel Akaka, Former Senator from Hawai'i

“Because the boundaries between international and domestic problems have become increasingly porous, the very demands of government and citizenship now require knowledge of international topics and the ability to communicate with and understand people from other cultures.”

- O'Connell and Norwood, eds. *International Education and Foreign Languages: Keys to Securing*

America's Future. (2007) p.40.

SUGGESTED READINGS:

Dolin, Eric Jay. *When America Met China.*

Goldstein, Lyle J. *Meeting China Halfway: How to Defuse the Emerging U.S.-China Rivalry.*

Kay, Sean. *America's Search for Security.*

Kiernan, Victor. *The Lords of Human Kind.*

Kissinger, Henry. *On China*

Kissinger, Henry. *World Order.*

Lovell, Julia. *The Opium War.*

Moore, Gregory. *Defining and Defending the Open Door Policy: Theodore Roosevelt and China, 1901-1909.*

Mungello, D.E. *The Great Encounter of China and the West, 1500-1800.*

Scott, David. *China and the International System.*

Spellman, Douglas G. (ed.) *The United States and China: Mutual Public Misperceptions.*

Westad, Odd Arne. *Restless Empire: China and the World Since 1750.*

The publication of NATO findings: *Human Aspects in NATO Military Operations* can be found here:

<http://www.natohcoe.org/e-library/>

Human Aspects in NATO Military Operations – Findings and Recommendations

THANK YOU!



QUESTIONS?