

Strategic Challenges in the Asia-Pacific Region

Three Waves of Five...& Some Trends Ahead

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1. The attraction of terrorism to those disadvantaged and with little hope.

- An opportunity for identity; a means to act
- Enablers:
 - Socio-economic gaps
 - Transnational crime
 - Globalization (seamless internet effectiveness)

2. The limiting effect of corruption, particularly within governments, throughout the region and the world.

- Pervasive
- Enervating
- Tolerated, too often by many

- 3. Political polarization leading to extremist views...AND diminishing shared values.
- Interest

 Identity

 Values clashes
- Strategic alignments—major actors
 - PRC-Russian security cooperation
 - PRC-South Asian nations
 - Entire region positioning, given PRC economy
 - US presence, a security ctr-weight

4. Disrespect due to a lack of appreciation for cultural/racial/ethnic diversity.

- Rooted in intellectual, ethnic, racial, social,
 & psychological arrogance
- Fundamental to collaborative progress
- Ldr-to-ldr relationships "decide the day"

5. Extremes in educational opportunities.

- Deeds, not words
 - Availability
 - Quality
 - Access
- Why not main effort collaborative prioritization?

1. Extremes in human security due to the growing have and have-not gaps the world over.

- Demographic profiles identify possible security threats
- Socio-economic trends are key

- 2. Interruptions in information-technology networks that impact global security.
- Info-age <u>absolute</u> dependence on IT, especially in the economic and military dimensions.
- Are "degraded-mode" operations still an alternative?
 - F-22s
 - World financial systems

3. Environmental effects physically impacting large portions of the region/world due to unchecked global warming.

- <u>Fact</u>: global economic competition driving adverse environmental impacts
- Energy security gained using less environmentally threatening energy sources

4. Over-extension of multinational and multilateral forums intended to foster collaboration on security-cooperation opportunities.

- UN simultaneously in crisis & demand
- Many international orgs face calls for reform (UN, WTO,IMF)
- Shaping potential of Asia-Pacific forums...impacts?

5. Uncontrolled means of mass destruction and/or mass chaos.

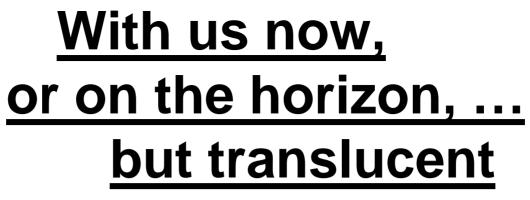
- Unraveling global nonproliferation
- Nuclear wpns: security asset or liability?
- Shock event→Chaos, in info age
 - Dirty bomb, or atk on nuclear reactor
 - Low-tech tactics also show potential



With us now, or on the horizon, ... but translucent

1. Conflict over scarce and valuable resources and/or disputed territory believed to contain such resources.

 For example, potable water in South Asia...or anywhere else



2. Balancing country X's demand for increased power and influence and the willingness of other major actors to accommodate this.

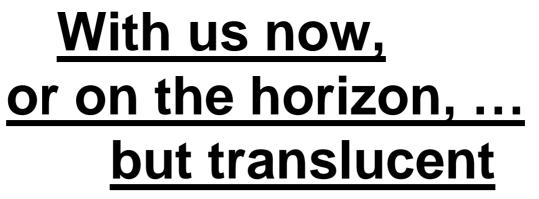
- PRC
- India
- Smaller countries on the rise (Vietnam)



With us now, or on the horizon, ... but translucent

3. Mutating pandemic disease among humans.

- "One in ten chance of human-to-human transmission in next ten yrs."
- World health orgs not as confident
 - Not "if" but "when"
- What type, where, by whom, & how much prep is enough?



4. Understanding, and managing, reactions to the perceived threat of information globalization to cultural identity.

- Pursued "inside out"
- Grounded in promise, not fear
- Transforming from power to coerce to power to aid



With us now, or on the horizon, ... but translucent

5. Leaders without a vision that serves the common good...the harder right.

How do we develop ldrs with such vision?



So What?

 If these are trends, how do we influence and shape them, to advantage? Or, mitigate those we cannot shape?

A couple final thoughts...



Final Thoughts

- Security challenges have always been complex, but perhaps the nature of the complexity today is shifting
- Ways (problem analysis), toward solutions, require "centering" highly dynamic, diverse knowledge/people relationships and their impacts on organizational potential
- Means must be adapted to applications in very different social & cultural frameworks
- Ends sought → conditions v. endstates