



**Supreme
Allied
Commander
Transformation**



SFA Helsinki WS

Breakout session out-brief

22 October 2015

Political Theme

Trend Review – Shift of Global Power

1. The transfer of power from West to East is occurring but we have to define power; Military, Economic, Diplomatic, Ideational/Normative
2. Some powers including Russia and China may challenge the liberal world order.

Key Takeaways

- 1. Trend still valid.**
2. Russia and China's resurgence needs to be monitored. The future of Russia is unpredictable. There is no certainty that they will be the only resurgent powers 20 years from now.
3. Major shifts of power between states/regions occur more frequently and are likely to reinforce the characteristic of complexity and uncertainty.

Political Theme

Trend Review – Shift in Political Structures

1. There are transitions in both directions (to/from authoritarian/democratic).
2. There is a lack of trust in the governance structures.
3. There's a convergence between global actors due to shared economic structures (capitalism).

Key Takeaways

1. **Trend is still valid, but we recommend:**
 - to rename it as **“Shifting domestic governance structures”**
 - to merge it with **Democratic Discontent**
2. Economic growth occurs with both Autocratic and Democratic states.
3. Democracy does not guarantee peaceful relations with non-democratic states.
4. Types of government structures can't prevent partnerships, but democratic process and potential needs to be supported.

Political Theme

Trend Review – Increased Role of Non-State Actors

1. Non-state actors continue to provide complexity but this presents both challenges and opportunities.

Key Takeaways

1. **Trend still valid, but overlaps with recommended new trend “Shifts in global institutional structures”.**
2. Increased access to technology enhances role and power of non-state actors.

Political Theme

Trend Review – Return to Power Politics

1. Power Politics was understood differently by participants.
2. There was non-consensus on whether this should remain a trend or be placed as a consequence of the Shift of Global Power.

Key Takeaways

1. **We strongly recommend to rename this trend as “Increasing potential for conflict including the use of military force”.**
2. Conflict may occur between major powers and/or at regional level.

Political Theme

New trends to monitor

1. **“Shifts in global institutional structures”:**
 - Erosion of trust and legitimacy in existing multilateral institutions.
 - Increased prevalence of informal coalitions and networks.
2. **“Possible retreat/disengagement of the West”:**
 - Conflicting demands on limited resources.
 - Result of learning process (it didn't really pay off).
3. **“Possible tensions within the West”:**
 - Re-nationalisation of interests.
4. **“Resurgence of regional dynamics”:**
 - Rise of regional hegemons.
 - Strengthening of regional institutions.

Political Theme Group #2 Summary

Vulnerability and Resilience

Existing Trends:

- Shifts of Global Power: Valid trend, highlight that this shift may ebb and flow East to West and back again over time, rising powers will not likely offer competing ideologies.
- Shifts in Political Structures: More research needed other than just Arab Spring, valid trend, could negatively impact human theme (human rights), Track III diplomacy.
- Polycentric World: May be an end result of trend #1, recommend combine with #1

Emerging Trends:

- Increasing Return Use of Power Politics: Valid trend, includes all aspects of power not just hard power, collective defence requires credible deterrence, realism vs. idealism, challenges to existing arms control efforts.
- Increasing Role of Non-state Actors: Valid trend, broad definition used, seems to be a natural progression, does not necessarily mean the state is weakening. Radical non-state actors continue to exercise their influence by conducting terrorist acts, hybrid warfare and possible use of WMD.
- Increase in Democratic Discontent: Discuss the fragility of new democracies, emphasize the universal appeal of democratic values.

Missing Trends:

- Increasing congestion and competition in space and arctic area.
- Potential adversary actions may fall beneath Article 5 threshold.
- Increasing challenges to NATO and partner nation integration and coherence.
- Increasing public health, access to education and gender equality.

Human Theme Out-brief

Existing Trends - Previously Identified

- Changing Demographics
- Urbanization
- Fractured Identities
- Human Networks

Changing Demographics

- As populations age, social spending increases
- Contention is that as Social spending is increased defense spending must be decreased
 - May be true for certain countries, but not necessarily so
 - Depends on the security environment at the time and threats to a nation state
 - Generally true for Western developed nations, but may not be true for developing nations where the first \$ goes to security
- Changing role of Women in various roles, civil society and military roles
 - Assumption is policies will change over the next 15 years to allow women in military roles
 - Unsure how change in women's role in civil society will affect security

Urbanization

- Still occurring and will continue to occur in the future
- Mega cities still being created in the future
- Issue is governance and providing needed services and security in large cities
- Some of these may contain ghettos where the population is not governable
- Operations in these cities, or in portions that are under- / un-governed could be problematic
- Dealing with gangs, terrorist groups or insurgents could be a challenge
- **Strike the reference to cities that straddle borders and become a new larger city challenging the nation state**
 - We had a hard time finding one of these

Human Networks

- Trend towards global interconnectedness will continue
- Small networks will come and go as needed
 - Example: Network created to call for and coordinate volunteers to deal with migration crisis in Germany
- Networks can increase or decrease security of the state
 - Allows the state to mobilize volunteers
 - Allows the state to ease drop on what is occurring on potential adversary networks
 - May facilitate migration, e.g., migrants are told which borders to cross, how to cross, how much to pay, which services to use, etc.
 - Some of those migrating might be bad actors

Fractured Identities

- What is more important to an individual... nationality, religion, culture, tribe, sect, etc.
 - Different for different people in different situations
- Identity and loyalty to other than the state can be problematic if the individual decides to carry out violence against the state or other states
- Identity to other than the state can be a problem with migrants and refugees
 - Mass migration can stress a state's capacity to provide necessary services, governance and employment
 - Also depends on whether or not employment is available that matches the skill sets of those migrating, and on on how the immigrants are received/treated
 - Can also be a problem with those who ally themselves to a radical cause, e.g., ISIS fighters not able to go to Syria, but carrying out violence in Europe
- Annexation of parts of nation states could be an issue/threat where there is a large ethnic group that feels and communicates to their home state that they are being mistreated
- Interconnectedness and social networks can promote the growth of fractionalization a like minded peoples can communicate with one another
- Need a National narrative to counter what is being said by ethnic groups

Emerging Trends

- Transparency
- Ideological Polarization

Transparency

- Agree with overall findings
- Information in the past that could be kept secret is now more prone to be known and spread widely, especially concerning corruption, malfeasance, etc., on the part of a state
 - May lead to unrest or strife
- Other side of transparency is that state control of its citizens is increasing through the monitoring of communications, peoples movements, and peoples transactions
 - Loss of personal privacy is increasing
 - Individuals now need to actively work to maintain their privacy

Ideological Polarization

- Not an emerging trend
- Has been around forever
- It is a logical extension of fractured identities
- Can/should be subsumed under “fractured identities”

New Trends or Areas Worth Further Research

- Migration
- Rise of, or Reemergence of an Ideology
- Gender Imbalance
- Human Enhancement
- Freedom to Practice Religion
- Rise of private firms supplying warriors, e.g., think Black Water with 20K warriors

Migration

- **Migration is a trend, but...**
 - **Current issue is overwhelming numbers of refugees (different from normal migration) where those immigrating are seeking safety and security**
- **States can have difficulty absorbing large numbers of immigrants**
- **Current issue in Europe probably not a trend but rather a shock or wildcard**
- **Overall group thought that immigration levels will increase and there will be peaks (shocks) on top of the overall increase, and the peaks will occur more frequently in time**
- **Others thought that perhaps individual states may take in refugees while others may put up barriers to immigration if it is too large in numbers and overwhelming to the state**
- **Result could be a trend towards re-nationalization and away from unions of states, i.e., EU**
 - **Some states cannot employ the unskilled immigrants that are coming in and provide social benefits and cannot afford to do so**
- **Is this a subsection or part of fractured identities?? For now no.**

Rise of, or Reemergence of an Ideology

- Return of communism or fascism?
- Rise of radical Islam
 - Under control in authoritarian regimes, e.g., pre Arab spring Egypt, then out of control, e.g., post Arab spring Egypt, ISIS, etc., then back under control in some places, e.g., post military coup in Egypt and perhaps in the future in Syria and Iraq
- One thought is that as migration occurs people will become assimilated, another thought is they will not

Gender Imbalance

- More men than women in certain areas
- Social science says this can lead to increased violence???
 - There are and have been lots of ruthless women



Human Enhancement

- Human enhancement via chemical, biological, genetically and physical means have occurred, e.g., Zulu warriors v. British troops, continue to occur, and are advancing
- Issue is whether nation states will allow different forms of enhancement
- Some enhancements are deemed okay in certain circumstances while others are not. Examples....
 - Caffeine in the morning and melatonin in the evening considered okay to enhance soldiers skills, performance and alertness
 - But, removing working limbs and replacing them with artificial limbs to enhance performance – is that okay?
 - Pick a DNA structure to create clone warriors – okay?
- Other nations may not have the reticence to human enhancement that western nations do
- History is full of examples where weapon systems in the early stages were deemed immoral and are now commonplace, e.g., the cross bow, bombs from aircraft, submarines
 - The human is a weapon system

Freedom of Religion

- Defined as free to practice, freedom to not practice, free to practice in the public square
- Pew Research – says more secure nations allow freedom of religion
- Issue is worth further study

Rise of Private Warriors

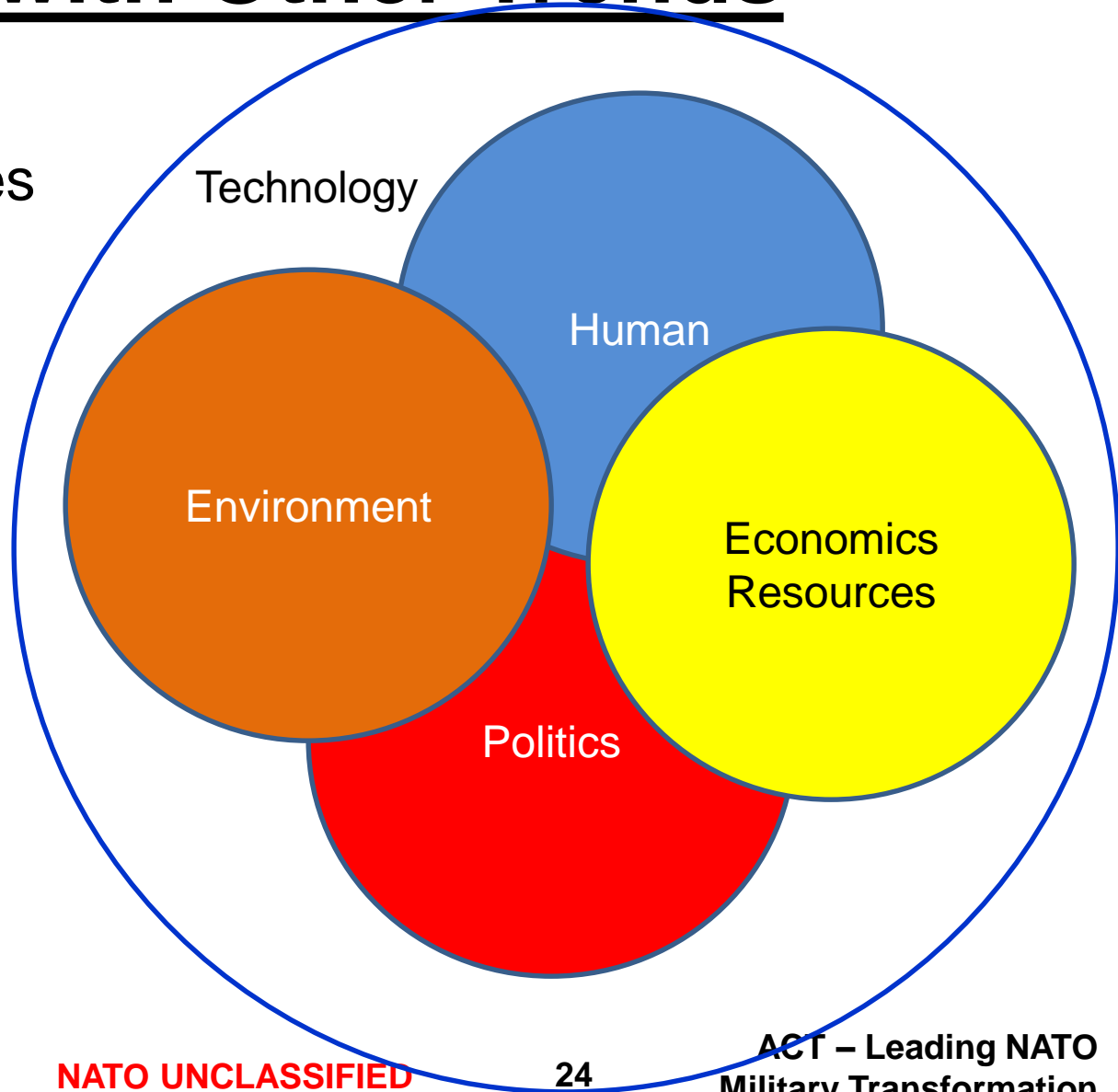
- Future firms with many warriors/fighters for hire, e.g., private mercenaries
- Could be a security concern - may allow nation states, non state actors to have capability they might not otherwise have
- Do laws of war and nation states apply to these warriors/fighters?
- Political group picking this theme up??

Trends in the Science & Technology Theme:

- Increased Access to Technology Promotes Dynamic Change
 - But no faster than humans can adopt it.
 - But Industry develops the Technology
 - Lead / Follow / Watch... where must the nations Lead?
- Increasing Access, Adaptation and Use of Technology
- R&D Investment Increasingly comes from Industry
- Dynamic Networks are Central to Human Endeavour
 - When the Internet becomes ubiquitous, it becomes like air
- Proliferation of Autonomous Systems enabled by AI
- Ever Increasing Demand for Mobile Energy

Nexus with Other Trends

- Human
- Economic/Resources
- Environment
- Political



Economics/Resources Theme

Trend Review – Economics and Defence

1. Increasing Volatility in Globalisation of Financial Resources
2. Decreasing defence expenditures but NATO defence budgets subject to pressure from border instability
3. Water and REE more critical but Technology reduces hydrocarbon scarcity

Key Takeaways

1. MNC influence will compete with State Power
2. Reduced energy and commodity prices catalyst for conflict
3. Shocks to BRICs and global instability

New Trends- Global Inequality

1. Increasing automation increases unemployment
2. Gaps between “Have” and “Have Nots” continue to increase
3. Network-based Smart Economy and rising power of Prosumers

Environment Theme

Trend Review – Climate Change

1. The trend is continuing. Intertemporal, collective action problem. Magnitude dependent on future emission, mitigation and adaptation.
2. Three need to balance or rate of change will accelerate - faster than evolution. Subject to threshold behaviour/tipping points.
3. Distribution is unequal – greater impact on already stressed areas.
4. Education is required – if we wait, it may be too late.

Key Takeaways

1. Horizontal aggravating effect on most other trends.
2. NATO's role? Green Defence? spend more, wisely? Or spend more wisely now? Support innovation.

New Trends to monitor - Nil

Environment Theme

Trend Review – Natural Disasters

1. Exacerbated by climate change – more precipitation, longer droughts, etc.
2. Greater impact due to globalisation and urbanisation
3. Monitoring and Prediction
4. Infrastructure decisions - Why build there? Industrial accidents

Key Takeaways

1. NATO's role, building resilience:
 - A. Coordination- NCS/NRF, EADRCC
 - B. Preparation - capacity building, emergency preparedness, legal framework (EU Solidarity Clause, UN, etc.)

New Trends to monitor Nil

QUESTIONS

“Emerging Trends”

- *Loss of state/government monopolies*
- *Trending toward network capacity*
- *Technological Control*
- *Artificial Intelligence*