Strategic Foresight Analysis
ACT Workshop on Regional Perspectives

BUDAPEST 6 - 8 NOVEMBER, 2018

CHALLENGES TO THE LIBERAL WORLD ORDER

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The Liberal World Order at an Inflection Point

• Rise of Regional Hegemons: Russia and China
• The Return of Geopolitics
• Clashes of Interests, Competitive Behavior: Lessons from History
• The Liberal Order
• The U.S. Role
• Europe’s Role
The Liberal World Order as an Existential Threat to Russia and China

- The Spread of Democracy as Containment
- Peer Competitors – Not Stakeholders
- Revisionist Challenges
- Unipolarity Rejected
- Spreading Uncertainty, Exploiting Divisions
Western Passivity and Weaknesses

- Failed Expectations: The Arc of History
- Tribalism and Nationalism
- The Narrowing of America’s National Interests
- The End of Europe’s Integration Project
- The Erosion of Institutionalized Diplomacy
The Return of Nuclear Weapons

• American Nuclear Strategy and Low-Yield Nuclear Weapons
• Russian Nuclear Strategy and ‘escalate to de-escalate’ and tactical superiority
• The Near Death of Arms Control: INF and New START
The Future: Looking Ahead

- Russian Strategic Culture
- American Strategic Culture
- The Changing Nature of War
Russian Strategic Culture

• Restorer of Russia, Leader of Eurasia
• Limiting the Sovereignty of Neighboring States
• Inventing a New National Narrative: Anti-West
• Rhetoric Hiding Fundamental Vulnerabilities
American Strategic Culture

• Leadership, Investment, Engagement as Sources of National Security
• Retrenchment and Transactionalism
• Loss of European-focused Elites
The Changing Nature of War

- Russia is at War with the West – Have We Noticed?
- Disinformation, Election Interference: The West is the Enemy
- Putin: Maintaining Capacity to Act Across the Non-Military and Military Spectrum