

U.S. National Security Policy: Nat'l Security Policymaking in Practice

Masaryk University
Fall 2009
Dave McCuan

This Week's Agenda

- Bush II vs. Obama Strategies & 'Worldview'
- Strategic Constants & Norms
- International Relations Theory
- Instruments/Elements of National Power
- The Limits of Military Power
- Strategy as a Concept & Process
- USA "National Interests"
- The US National Security Strategy (NSS) 2008, 2009

What is “National Security?”
What are its components?
How wide-ranging is the term,
“national security?”

... Predicting Nat'l Security Policy

Understanding the 90% on the bottom from the 10% on the top

“I hold that man is in the right who is most closely in league with the future.” Henrik Ibsen



“There is no use trying,” said Alice, “one cannot believe impossible things.” Lewis Carroll

“But, how do you tell?”
Richardson



National Security Policymaking in Theory

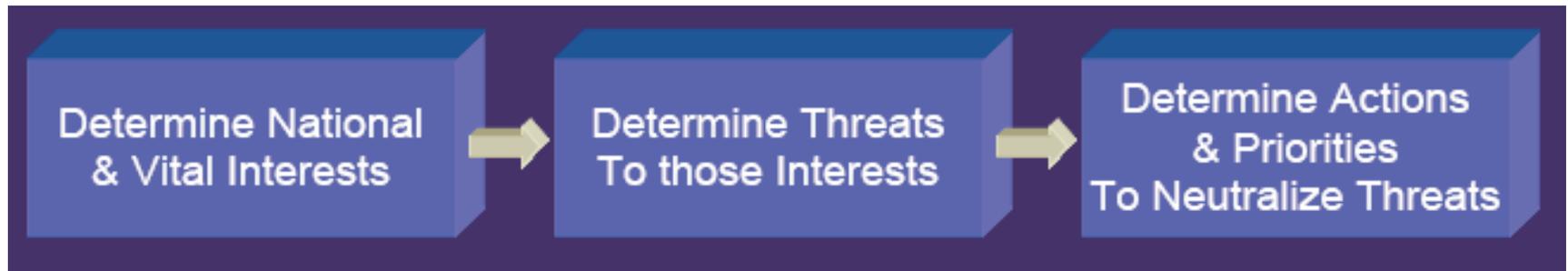
On-going conversation about

What are our national interests?;

Our vital interests?;

Who and what threatens them?;

What we should do about it?



Politics in Policy-Making

- Facts are not enough to set policy priorities
- Politics = Clash of values & interests in determining policy
 - Clash of “future visions”
 - What “ought to be”
 - How to get there
- Role of budgets & budget-making here?
- Policy legitimacy
 - How policy choices were made
 - Not their “correctness”

National Security Strategies

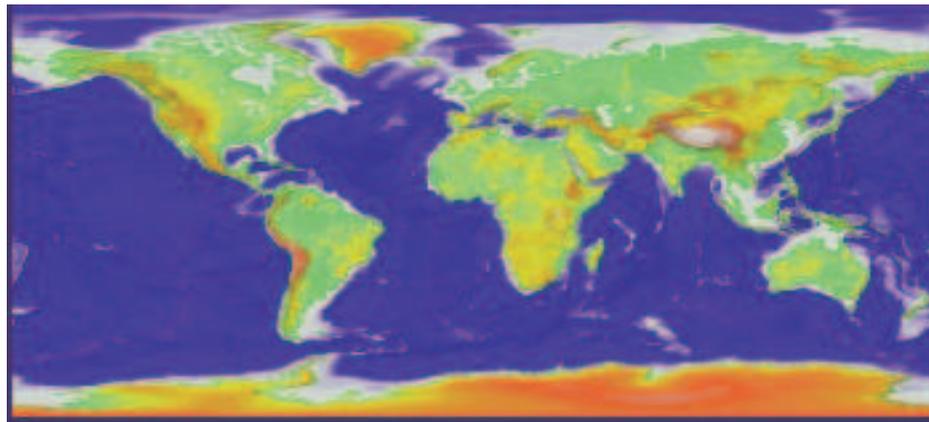
- National Power
- Alliances & Coalitions
- Collective Security
- International law

National Power

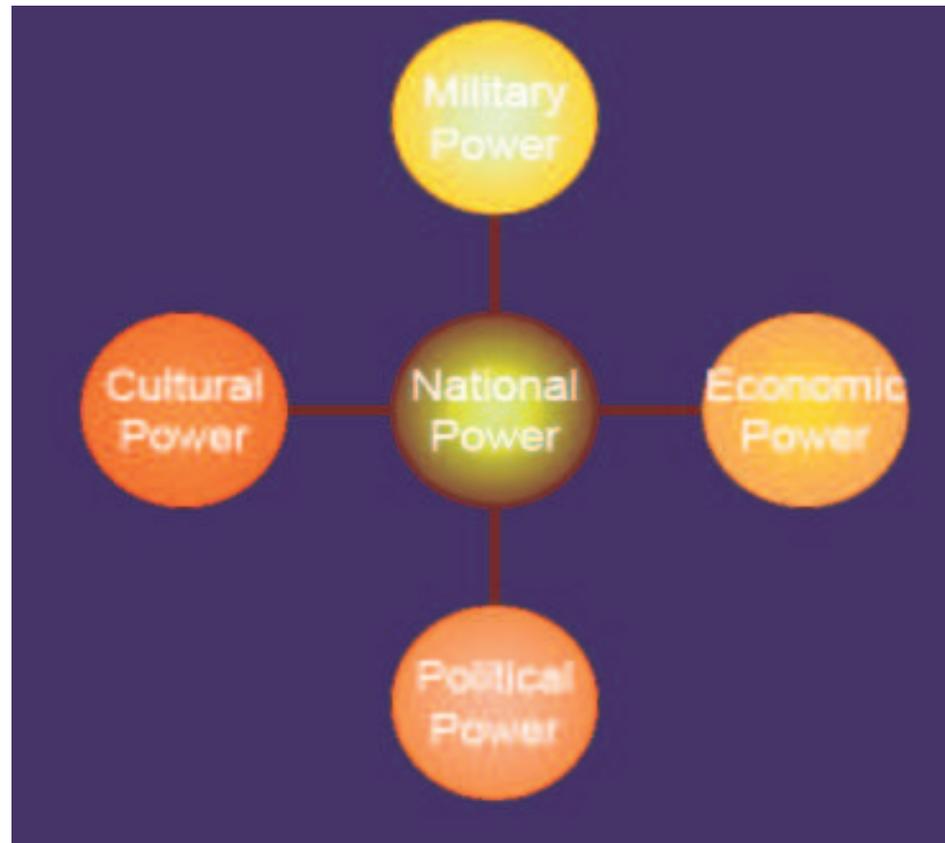
Capacity to influence the decisions & actions of other countries & actors

Power = Work / Time

= Force x Distance / Time



Components of National Power



Bases of Military Power

Geography

National resources

Population

Economy (fiscal resources)

Industrial capacity

Technology

Willingness to Use Force

Bases of Political Power

Moral authority & Reputation

Leadership

Capacity for Diplomacy

Engagement in Bilateral & international
political institutions

Organizations

Treaties

Bases of Economic Power

Dominance of Markets & Trading
[strategic minerals & resources]

Oil in 1940s and 1950s

Foreign Investment & Fiscal Capacity

Capital : Financial Loans, Grants, Aid

Control of International Financial Institutions

Boycotts, Embargoes, Blockades

Policy Arenas

High Policy

Should we develop a national missile defense system and how much should we spend?

Middle Policy

What would be the most effective NMD configuration and how should the program be managed?

Low Policy

Which competing interceptor design is best?