



17.471 American National Security Policy

Elements of National Security Policy

Concepts

- National Security Policy
- National Security Policy Making
- National Interests
- Vital Interests
- Politics
- Policy legitimacy
- National Power

National Security Policy

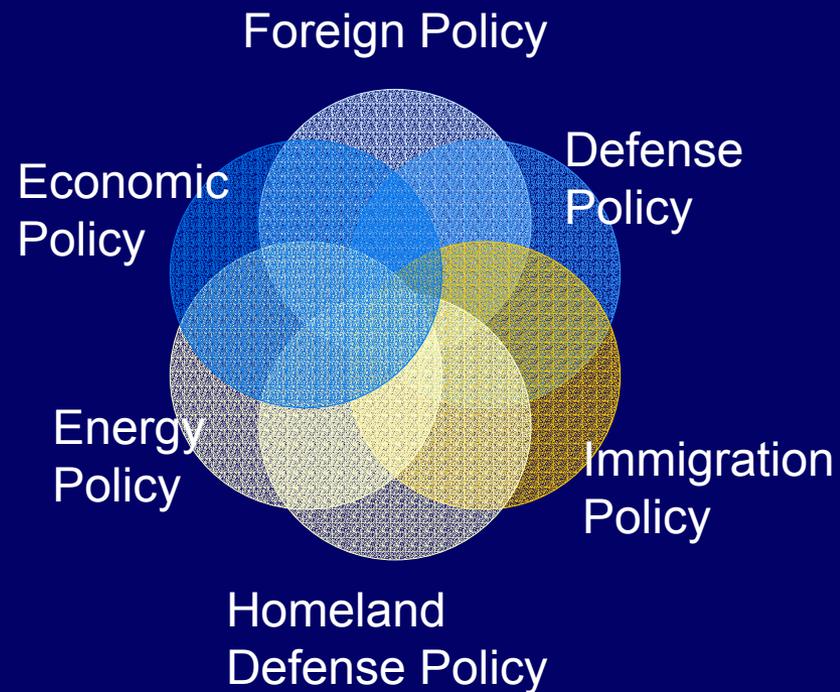
- Pattern of government decisions & actions
 - intended to counter perceived threats to America's national interests,
 - and especially America's vital interests

Key Questions for the Course:

- What are America's "national interests?"
 - What are America's vital interests?
- Who determines American national interests? Vital interests?

Key Questions for the Course:

- Who and what threatens those interests?
 - How do we determine threats?
- What actions should we take to protect those interests?
 - Who determines priorities?



National Security Policy

□ Pattern of government decisions & actions intended to counter perceived threats to American national interests

- Policy = $\sum_{\text{time}} \sum_{\text{players}}$ decisions, laws, rules, actions
 - History matters
 - Prior decisions
 - Prior actions/inactions
 - Prior events

National Interests

- Things deemed important for national well-being, prosperity, continuity

- Economic interests

- access to markets

- Political interests

- countries with shared interests and values

- Political Values

- democracy

- human rights

Vital Interests

- Things deemed *essential* for national well-being, prosperity, continuity
 - things on which our national survival depends
 - what are you willing to sacrifice lives for?

- External Focus

- Foreign threats

- Internal Focus

- Education
- Poverty
- Environment

America's Vital Interests

- American territorial integrity
 - Stable and friendly Canada & Mexico
- Preservation of American political and economic institutions
- Safety of Americans at home and abroad
- Strong & Prosperous European free market democracies

Generic Threats

□ Countries

- Soviet Union
- China
- “axis of evil”

□ Events

- War
- Political and Economic Instability

□ Technology

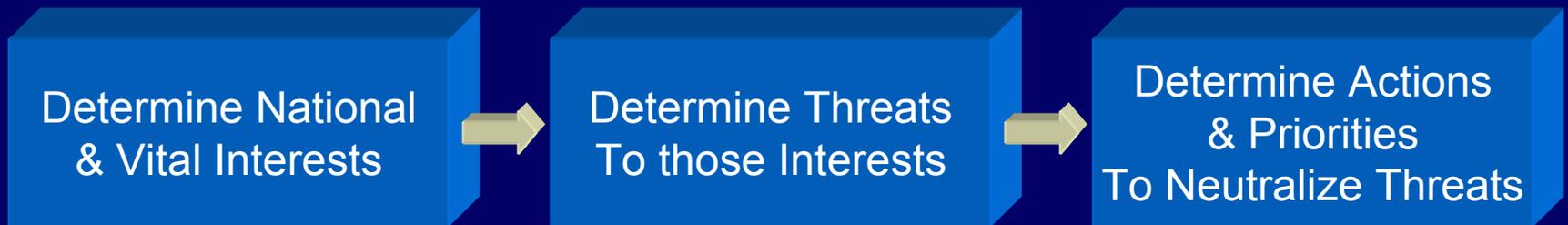
- WMD
- Terrorism

Specific Threats – Setting Priorities

- ❑ Iraqi atomic bomb vs. Pakistani atomic bomb
- ❑ Nuclear missiles vs. terrorism
- ❑ Collapse of Russian economy & fledgling democracy vs. Collapse of Latin American economies & democracies
- ❑ **How do we decide?**

National Security Policy Making in Theory

- On-going conversation about
 - What are our national & vital interests
 - Who and what threatens them
 - What we should do about it



Politics in Policy-Making

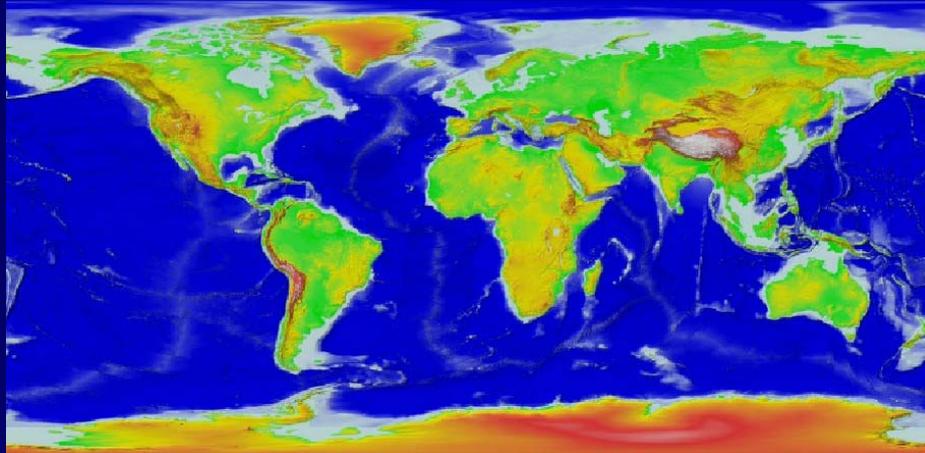
- Facts are not enough to set policy priorities
- Politics = Clash of values & interests in determining policy
 - Clash of “future visions”
 - What “ought to be”
 - How to get there
- Policy legitimacy
 - How policy choices were made
 - Not their “correctness”

National Security Strategies

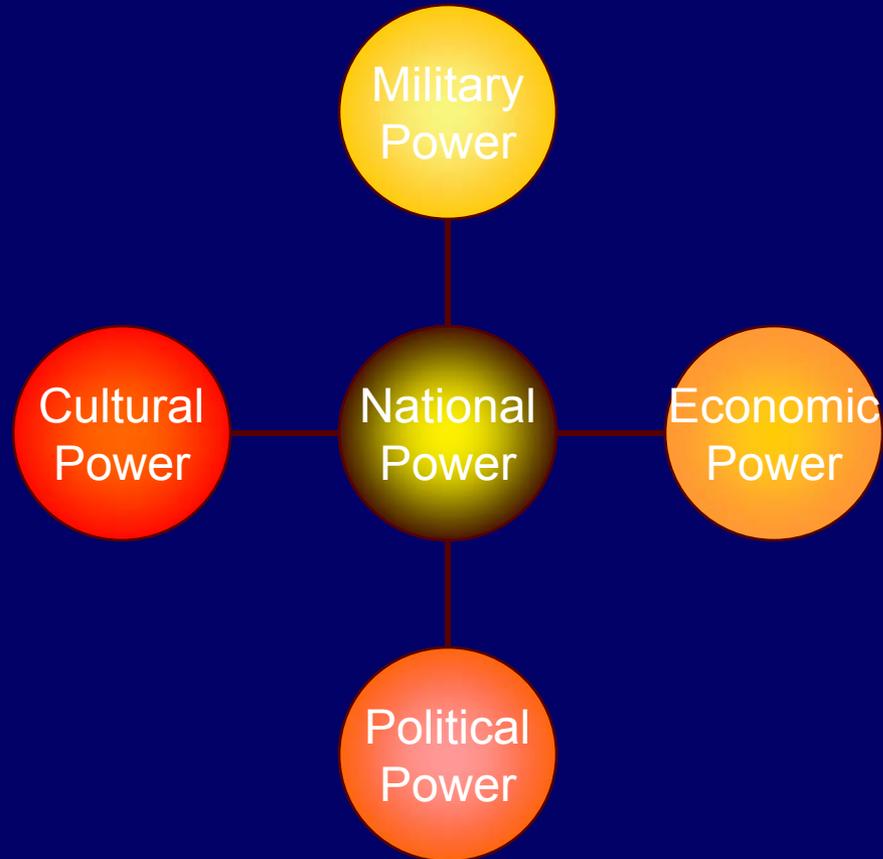
- National Power
- Alliances & Coalitions
- Collective Security
- International Law

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
- Natural 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?

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- Policy legitimacy
- National Power

Assignment for Wednesday

- http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/252/nation/The_hunt_for_Al_Qaeda+.shtml