

Analyzing National Security Policy

Strategic Policy-Making

Concepts

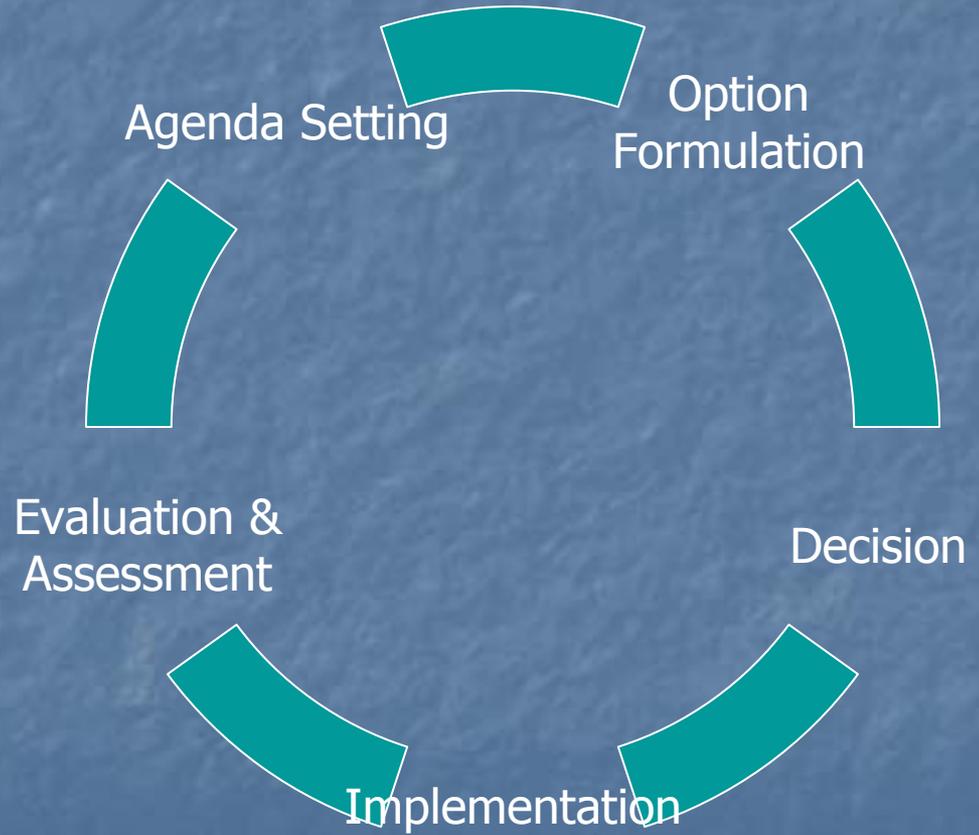
- Policy Arenas
- Policy Cycles Model
 - Agenda setting
 - Problem framing
 - Implementation
- Realist Model
 - Rational actor model

Policy Arenas

- **High Policy**
 - Fundamental Decisions about Interests, Threats, & Responses
 - Should we develop a national missile defense system and how much should we spend?
- **Middle Policy**
 - Turning decisions into actions
 - What would be the most effective NMD configuration and how should the program be managed?
- **Low Policy**
 - Which competing interceptor design is best?
 - Technical details of actions

Policy Cycles Model

- Heuristic
 - Focus analytic attention
- Nested cycles
 - Policy moves down through arenas of action
 - Implementation



Agenda Setting

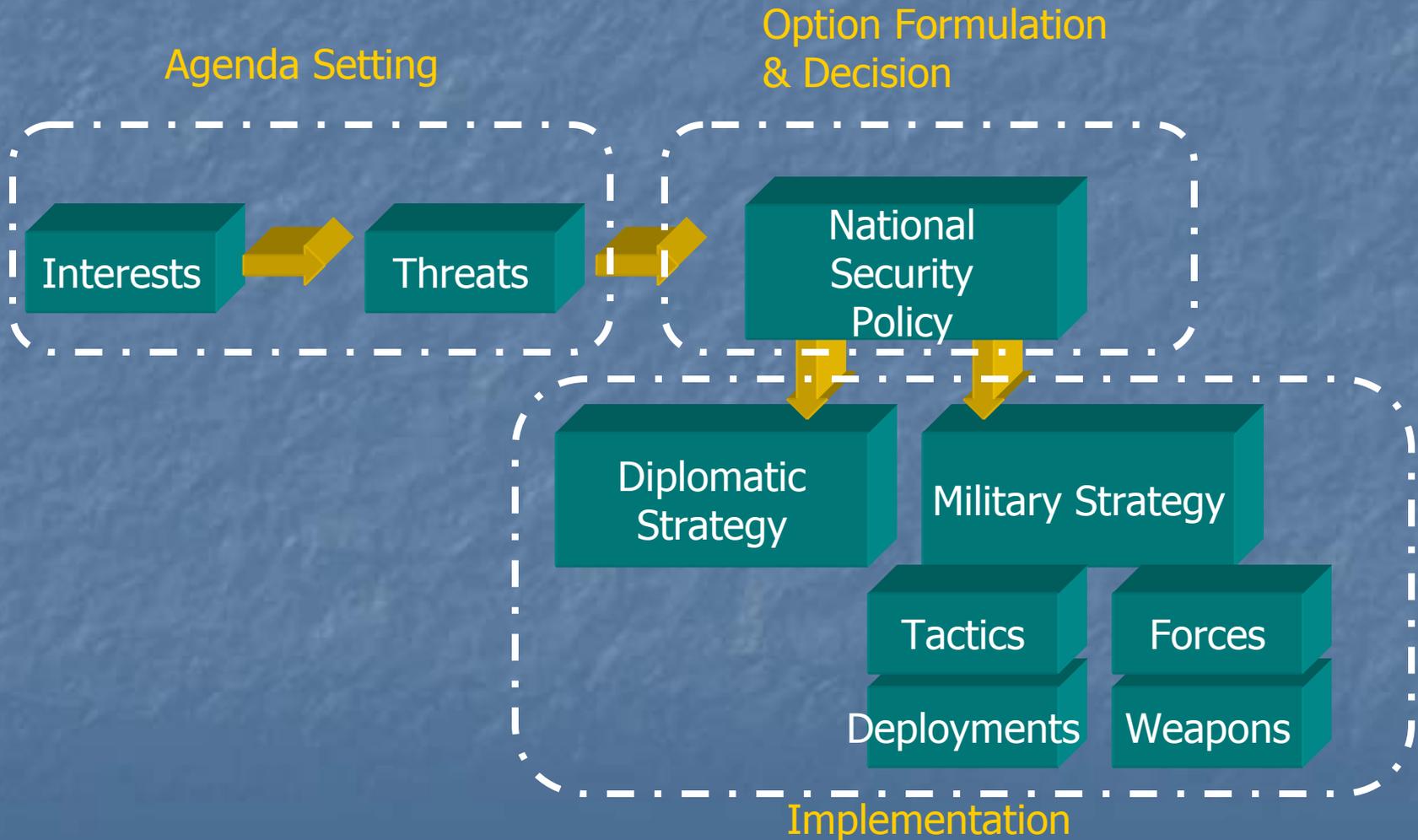
- **What should the government “worry about?”**
 - Controls subsequent stages in the policy cycle
- **Problem Framing**
 - How should the government characterize the national security issue?
 - What is the causal story that drives the need for policy?
- **Terrorism Example**
 - Is terrorism a surrogate for state-based aggression?
 - E.g., Iraq, Iran, Libya
 - Is it caused by poverty and desperation?
 - Is it caused by legitimate political-economic complaints against U.S. policies?
 - Is it caused by charismatic religious zealots?

Realist Model

Realist Model

- **“State” as the focal and unitary actor**
 - Actions can be understood without reference to domestic politics, leadership, etc.
 - States have interests that transcend domestic politics and leadership change
 - Broad orientation of foreign and defense policies are invariant
 - Interests are fixed by geo-political-economic situation & state “character”
- **Decisions are based on strategic analysis of interests, threats, resources, etc.**
 - Cost-Benefit Analysis
 - Maximizing preferences
- Requires the *least amount of information* to “predict” behavior

Implications for How We Analyze National Security Decisions



Questions

- How do national security issues get on the government's agenda in the realist model?
- Where do policy options come from?
- How are decisions made?
- What do we assume about implementation?

Clinton National Security Policy

Clinton: National Security Objectives

- **Primary Objectives of National Security Policy**
 - Enhance U.S. Security
 - Promote Domestic Prosperity
 - Promote Free-Market Democracy overseas

Clinton: National Security Interests

- 3 Tiers of Interests
 - **Vital Interests:** of broad overriding importance to the survival, security, and vitality of our national entity ; defense of US territory, citizens, allies, and economic well-being
 - **Important Interests:** affect importantly our well-being and the character of the world we live in
 - **Humanitarian interests**
- These dictate when we will use force.

Clinton: National Security Threats

- Nuclear Proliferation
- Regional Instability
- Reversal Of Reform In Russia
- Unfair Trade Practices
- Other
 - Terrorism
 - Drug trafficking
 - Refugee flows
 - International environmental issues

Clinton: Strategy

- Strong Defense Capability
 - Deter/defeat aggression in major regional conflict
- Maintain credible overseas presence
 - Rapid response
 - Prevent power vacuums

Clinton: Strategy

- Countering WMD
 - Arms Control is the core strategy
- Contribute to Multilateral peace operations
- Support Counterterrorism efforts & Other NS Objectives [of equal weight]
 - In special circumstance may need to attack terrorist bases overseas with special ops
 - Pressure state sponsors of terrorism
 - Exploit legal mechanisms to punish terrorists
 - Help other govts. Improve their counter-terrorism capabilities

Clinton: Strategy

- Goals cannot be secured by acting unilaterally
 - Collective decision-making
 - International collaboration & leadership
- Arms Control is essential for dealing with WMD

Clinton: Promoting Prosperity & Democracy

- Promote Domestic Prosperity
 - American competitiveness
 - Access to foreign markets
 - International Macroeconomic coordination
 - Energy Security
 - Emphasis on efficiency, conservation & alternative technologies
- Promoting Free Market Democracy
 - Focus on regions where we have strongest security concerns
 - Russia
 - Democratic Peace theory: major powers that are free-market democracies will not wage war

Questions Confronting the Realist Model

- Are the Interests enumerated by Clinton (1997) significantly different from those enumerated by Bush, or any U.S. President?
 - How & Why?
- Are the strategies and approaches for protecting those national interests articulated by Clinton different from those of Bush, or some other president?
 - How & Why?

Inferences

- Realist Model may be most appropriate for analyzing actions when vital interests are at stake -- in crises.
- Realist Model may have little explanatory power for non-crisis national security policymaking