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The Importance of Foresight to Grand Strategy

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U.S. Department of State / Bureau of Intelligence & Research

Office of Outreach



The Critical Importance of Foresight to Grand Strategy



Foresight



Grand Strategy

"The purpose of strategic intelligence is not to predict the future but to help policy makers shape it." Sherman Kent,

"...But even as we are tested by *new challenges*, the question of our *future* is not one that will be answered for us, it is one that will be answered *by us*. And in a young century whose *trajectory is uncertain*, America is ready to lead once more."

National Security Strategy of the United States, May 2010.



U.S. National Security Strategy

May 2010

“... The international order we seek is one that can resolve the challenges of our times –

- countering violent extremism and insurgency;
- stopping the spread of nuclear weapons and securing nuclear materials;
- combating a changing climate and sustaining global growth;
- helping countries feed themselves and care for the sick;
- resolving and preventing conflict, while also healing its wounds.”



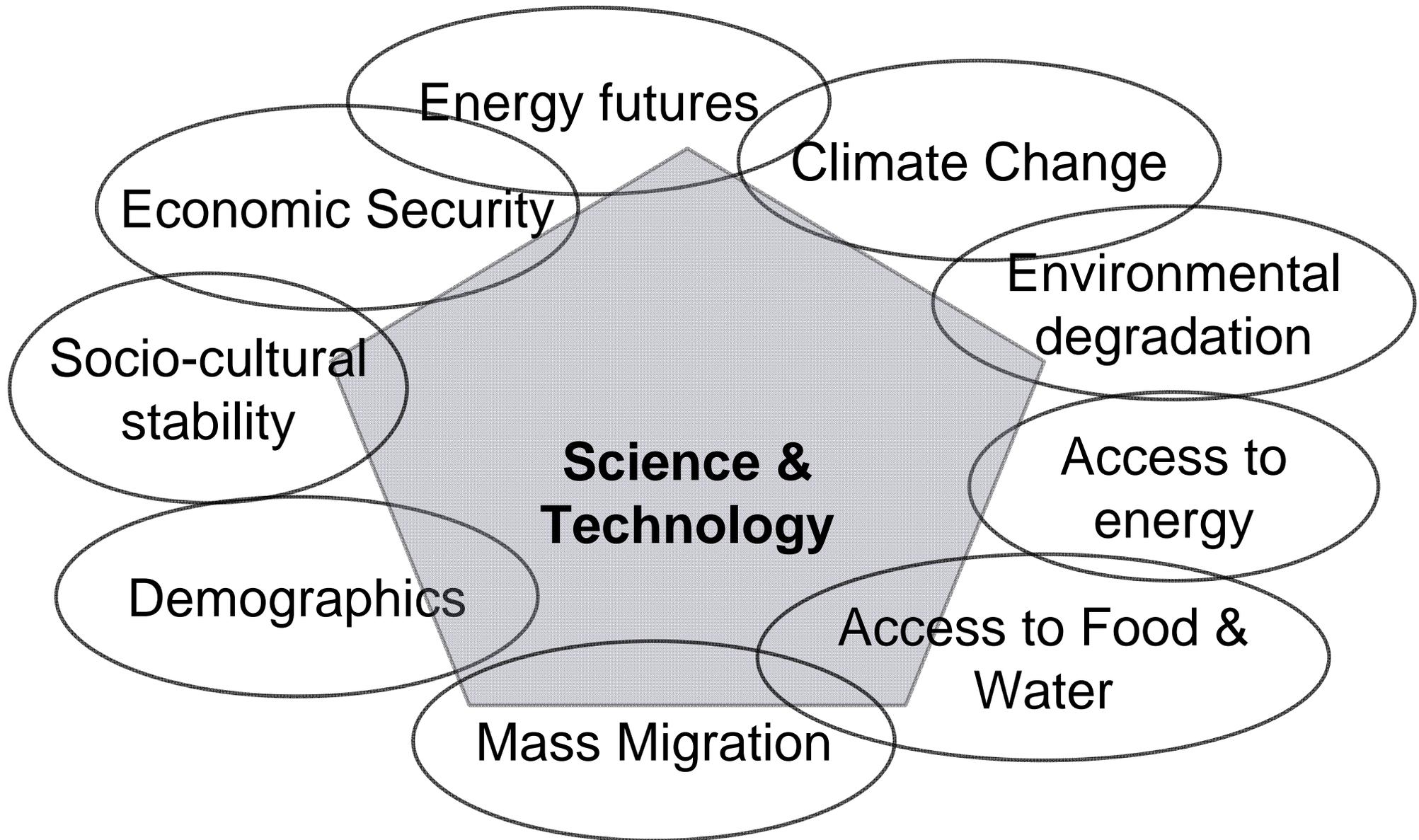
Grand Strategy Implementation

“Grand Strategy begins with theory: leaders' theories about how the world works and what is or ought to be their states' roles in that world. Yet it is embodied in policy and practice: government action and reaction in response to real (or perceived) threats and opportunities. Grand strategy may be born in debates at the highest levels of national power, but it ***lives or dies in the collaborative action of myriad junior officials.***”

Dr. Peter Feaver, Foreign Policy Magazine, Loyal Opposition Blog.



What are the critical variables for understanding global security?





Foresight is a Global Challenge

- “... we must focus American engagement on **strengthening international institutions and galvanizing the collective action** that can serve common interests such as combating violent extremism; stopping the spread of nuclear weapons and securing nuclear materials; achieving balanced and sustainable economic growth; and forging cooperative solutions to the threat of climate change, armed conflict, and pandemic disease...
- *The starting point for that collective action will be our engagement with other countries.* The cornerstone of this engagement is the relationship between the United States and our close friends and allies in Europe, Asia, the Americas, and the Middle East—ties which are rooted in shared interests and shared values, and which serve our mutual security and the broader security and prosperity of the world...”
- National Security Strategy of the United States, May 2010, p.3.



International Outreach



- The Global Futures Forum is a multinational community initiated in 2005 that works at the unclassified level to *make sense of emerging and future transnational and global security challenges.*
- Its primary goal is to *foster enhanced insight and foresight* among its membership through the *exchange of diverse perspectives* and the development and utilization of collaborative analytic tools.



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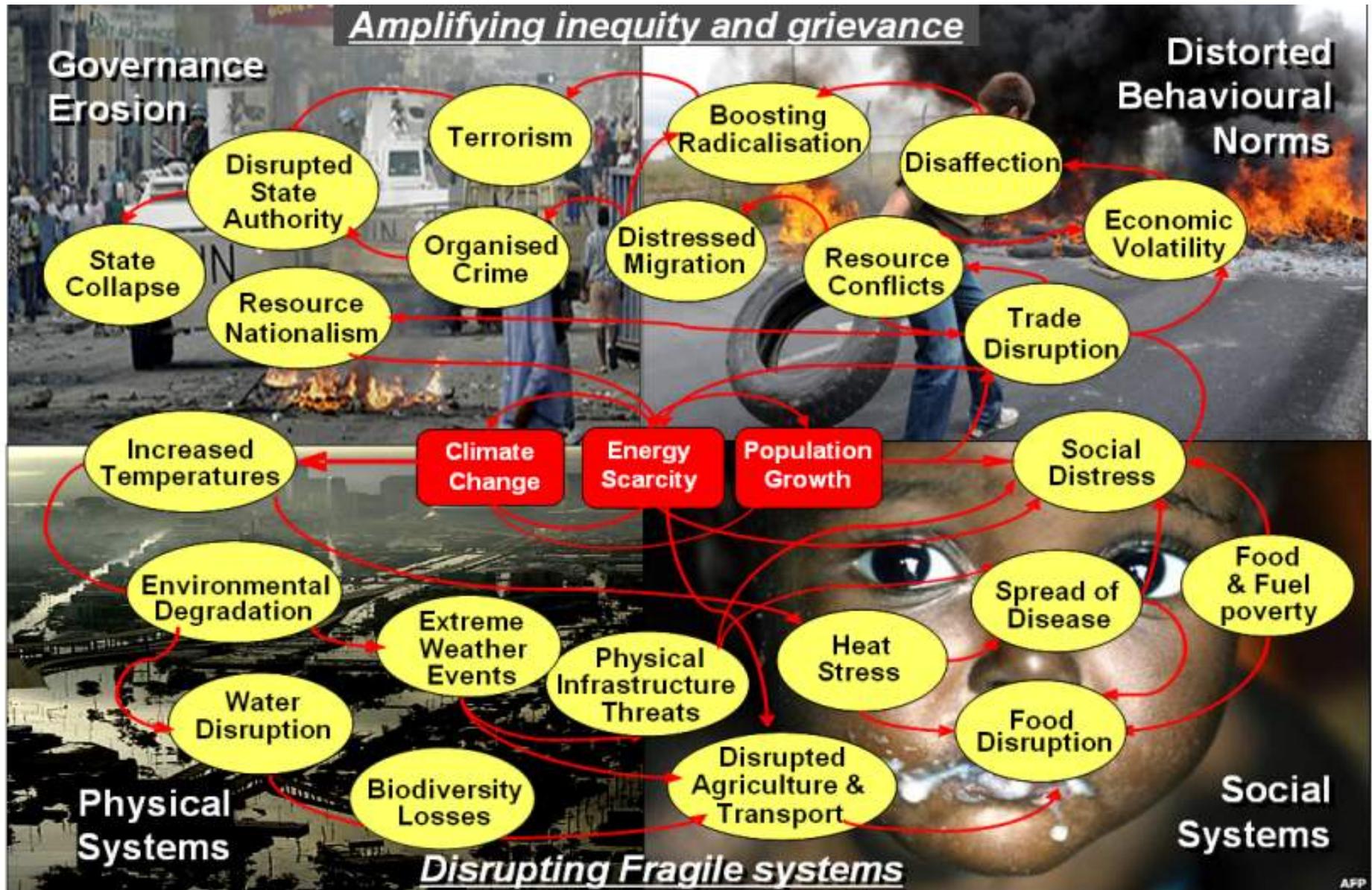


Antwerp GFF 16-18 Oct 2011

Interconnected Global Security Challenges Exercise

RESPONSES

STRESSES





“You’ve got to think about the big things while you’re doing small things, so that the small things go in the right direction.” Alvin Toffler