



# **Strategic Challenges in the Asia-Pacific Region**

## ***Three Waves of Five...& Some Trends Ahead***

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# With us now:

1. The attraction of terrorism to those disadvantaged and with little hope.

- An opportunity for identity; a means to act
- Enablers:
  - Socio-economic gaps
  - Transnational crime
  - Globalization (seamless internet effectiveness)



# With us now:

2. The limiting effect of corruption, particularly within governments, throughout the region and the world.

- Pervasive
- Enervating
- Tolerated, too often by many



# With us now:

3. Political polarization leading to extremist views...AND diminishing shared values.

- Interest → Identity → Values clashes
- Strategic alignments—major actors
  - PRC-Russian security cooperation
  - PRC-South Asian nations
  - Entire region positioning, given PRC economy
  - US presence, a security ctr-weight



# With us now:

4. Disrespect due to a lack of appreciation for cultural/racial/ethnic diversity.

- Rooted in intellectual, ethnic, racial, social, & psychological arrogance
- Fundamental to collaborative progress
- Ldr-to-ldr relationships “decide the day”



# With us now:

5. Extremes in educational opportunities.

- Deeds, not words
  - Availability
  - Quality
  - Access
- Why not main effort collaborative prioritization?



# With us now, or ...on the horizon:

1. Extremes in human security due to the growing have and have-not gaps the world over.
- Demographic profiles identify possible security threats
  - Socio-economic trends are key



# With us now, or ...on the horizon:

2. Interruptions in information-technology networks that impact global security.
- Info-age absolute dependence on IT, especially in the economic and military dimensions.
  - Are “degraded-mode” operations still an alternative?
    - F-22s
    - World financial systems





# With us now, or ...on the horizon:

## 3. Environmental effects

physically impacting large portions of the region/world due to unchecked global warming.

- Fact: global economic competition driving adverse environmental impacts
- Energy security gained using less environmentally threatening energy sources



## With us now, or ...on the horizon:

4. Over-extension of multinational and multilateral forums intended to foster collaboration on security-cooperation opportunities.
- UN simultaneously in crisis & demand
  - Many international orgs face calls for reform (UN, WTO, IMF)
  - Shaping potential of Asia-Pacific forums...impacts?



# With us now, or ...on the horizon:

5. Uncontrolled means of mass destruction and/or mass chaos.

- Unraveling global nonproliferation
- Nuclear wpns: security asset or liability?
- Shock event → Chaos, in info age
  - Dirty bomb, or atk on nuclear reactor
  - Low-tech tactics also show potential



# With us now, or on the horizon, ... but translucent

1. Conflict over scarce and valuable resources and/or disputed territory believed to contain such resources.
- For example, potable water in South Asia...or anywhere else



# With us now, or on the horizon, ... but translucent

2. Balancing country X's demand for increased power and influence and the willingness of other major actors to accommodate this.

- PRC
- India
- Smaller countries on the rise (Vietnam)



**With us now,**  
**or on the horizon, ...**  
**but translucent**

3. Mutating pandemic disease among humans.

- “One in ten chance of human-to-human transmission in next ten yrs.”
- World health orgs not as confident
  - Not “if” but “when”
- What type, where, by whom, & how much prep is enough?



# With us now, or on the horizon, ... but translucent

4. Understanding, and managing, reactions to the perceived threat of information globalization to cultural identity.

- Pursued “inside out”
- Grounded in promise, not fear
- Transforming from power to coerce to power to aid



# With us now, or on the horizon, ... but translucent

5. Leaders without a vision that serves the common good...the harder right.

- How do we develop ldrs with such vision?





# So What?

- If these are trends, how do we influence and shape them, to advantage? Or, mitigate those we cannot shape?

A couple final thoughts...



# Final Thoughts

- Security challenges have always been complex, but perhaps the nature of the complexity today is shifting
- **Ways** (problem analysis), toward solutions, require “centering” highly dynamic, diverse knowledge/people relationships and their impacts on organizational potential
- **Means** must be adapted to applications in very different social & cultural frameworks
- **Ends** sought → conditions v. endstates