NUKES, OIL AND MISSILES: THE THREE ARROWS OF IRAN & THE QUEST TO REDRAW THE MAP OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Luncheon Address
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Redrawing Maps

• Victor Davis Hanson writes in National Review on June 18, 2015:

  “Well before the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Imperial Japanese government had redrawn the map of Asia and the Pacific....

• Fascist Italy, by the outbreak of World War II,...had already been remaking the map of the Mediterranean”...

• “Before the outbreak of the war, Hitler’s new Third Reich had created the largest German –speaking nation in European history”.
Redrawing Maps II

• “All of these hegemonies had arisen without triggering a global war”.

• “The contemporary world is starting to resemble the 1930s...and maps again must be redrawn”.

• “Theocratic Iran is forging its own Shiite empire...Iran now effectively runs much of Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen.”
Redrawing Maps III

• “Russian President Vladimir Putin thinks he can reconstitute the empire of the czars and the later Soviet Union.”

• “The Chinese are building new military bases by turning coral reefs into islands of sand while instigating territorial disputes with Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam”.
Iran’s Three Arrows

• Missiles
• Oil
• Nuclear Weapons
Iran’s Missiles: The Challenge for Missile Defense in the Middle East

• Hezbollah has 40,000 rockets and missiles
• Hamas fired 6600 rockets in 60 days greater than all Nazi Germany rockets attacks in WWII vs. Great Britain

• Iranian missile inventory approaching >500 Shahab
• Hundreds more short range Scud-type ballistic missiles
• Tens of Thousands unguided rockets
• According to Janes and IISS....
• China, North Korea both missile partners....
Iran Missile Inventory (NIAC)

- **Fateh-110** Solid Road-mobile 2-300
- **Shahab 1** Liquid Road-mobile 300
- **Shahab 2** Liquid Road-mobile 500
- **CSS-8 (M-7)** Solid/Liquid Road-mobile 150
• CRS noted that a major concern is that Iran's neighbors do not have **missile defenses** or the ability to deter an Iranian attack. This could allow Iran to "blackmail such states into meeting demands, for example, to raise oil prices, cut oil production or even withhold cooperation with the U.S. on which their very survival depends." Any Iranian interference with **Gulf oil exports** would adversely effect oil prices and be difficult for the United States to prevent.
Iranian Missile Advancements

• In May 2013 Iranian officials unveiled a domestically developed transporter-erector-launcher (TEL) system for their Shahab-3 missiles, making their missile arsenal more mobile and easily disguised.

• The development of a multiple reentry vehicle (MRV) attachment for the Shahab-3 missiles and newer longer range Qiam missiles was unveiled in February 2014.

• Also unveiled in 2014 was the Iranian Kadr F missile, capable of striking targets up to 1950 kilometers away.
Iran Missile Advancements

• In a report published in October 2014 by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Iranian military had begun to put GPS guidance systems on their Zelal-2 warhead.

• Israel missile defense expert Uzi Rubin stated that this threat must not be underestimated, and these GPS guided missiles “can degrade the [Israeli military’s] ground capabilities... can paralyze Israel’s war economy, and inflict massive casualties.” (Aviation Week, February 17, 2015)
Iran’s Nuclear Connections

• Iran Does Things for a Purpose:
  --An Iran dissident group reveals thousands of centrifuges spinning at secret facilities—2002
• --An Iran defector discloses a nuclear facility is being built with North Korean technicians and Iranian cash in the desert north of Syria---destroyed by Israel airstrike in September 6, 2007
More Nuclear Connections...

• Thus it is understandable why Iran does not want to open up its military and nuclear sites for inspection:

• ---Reuters, September 17, 2011: NK delivered software to Iran vital to the development of nuclear explosives. Guy Hecker told an IAEA seminar “There is just a lot of synergy in how they would be able to exchange capabilities”-

• YONHAP News Agency, November 13, 2011: “Hundreds of North Korean nuclear and missile engineers and scientists have been working at more than 10 sites in Iran...”
The Missile Threat Framework

• Director of Intelligence and Security at Strategic Command Jeffrey Haworth noted re missile threats:

• “There is more of everything at every range, there is more of everything at every capability, there is more of everything at every category of threat.”

• *Unfortunately the people getting “A WHOLE LOT MORE” missiles right now are the bad guys.*
Missile Factors

- SMDC General Mann says 22 countries have a BM capability and 9 of those have a nuclear capability...
- The technology of our adversaries is growing re: capability, capacity, quantity and quality.....
- In the week after February 16, 2015 when DOD budget released....... 
- Pakistan tests nuclear capable Ra’ad missile;
- Iran launches satellite into space;
- Russia tests its new RS-26 ICBM;
- DPRK tests five anti-ship missiles into Sea of Japan
Missile Defense Challenges

• General Spellman: Better **networking** is required to deal with the gaps in US air and missile defense systems even as a wide variety of missile threats are evolving across the globe

• Maj Gen Knudson says we have to **integrate** missile defense systems such as THAAD into the IAMDS.....

• Rear Adm Jesse Wilson says concept of greater focus on “left of launch” has also to be better **integrated** into air and missile defense plans
Iran Can Only Build Scuds?

• Current about 2200 – 2400 Km. If BM25 is tested the capability goes to 3500 Km.
• Israeli disclosures of a solid propellant 10000 Km missile in design
• From Iranian sources we hear of a very heavy SLV in development, could be the same.
Iran Missile Factors

• Uzi Rubin: There is an incontestable evidence that the Iranians have moved way beyond the Scud technology

• Iran uses BM25 steering rockets with more advanced fuel for the second stage of their "Safir" space launcher,

• They have tested successfully a two stage solid propellant ballistic missile "Sejjeel" with a 13 ton solid rocket motor for the first stage, equivalent to the early Minuteman and Polaris technology.
Iran’s Redrawing Map Strategy

• Dominate the Persian Gulf oil and gas resources
• Control Iraq, Kuwait, Iran, KSA
• Economic and political leverage from control over 70% of the world’s conventional oil and gas
• The connection: Shia Tribes=Oil Resources

• **Iranian missiles as factors of terror, intimidation and coercion key factor in strategy to control Persian Gulf oil and gas resources**
Based on OPEC compilations, the area inside the triangle holds 56% of the world’s known oil and gas reserves. -- Mark Langfan
There is a very strong correlation between the location of the majority of the Shia population in the Middle East and the distribution of the region's natural gas and oil reserves. This pattern is particularly evident in the Persian Gulf region, where the Shia-inhabited southern and southwestern provinces of Iran, as well as those in Iraq, are rich in oil and gas deposits. The same trend is observed in Saudi Arabia, where Shia-inhabited areas are also major oil producers. Even in the larger Gulf region, this pattern can be observed. The location of the Shia-inhabited areas is also reflected in Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan. This geographical correlation is not coincidental but rather a result of historical and cultural factors. The Shia majority has historically lived in areas with rich natural resources, particularly in the region's major oil and gas fields.
Iran a Peace Partner?

- Iran Tightens Its Grip On Syria Using Syrian And Foreign Forces (May 2015 - MEMRI)
- Iran's Grand Strategy is to Become a Regional Powerhouse (April 2015 - The Washington Post)
- Iran Flexes New Clout Beyond It's Borders (March 2015 - Wall Street Journal)
- Secret Iranian Unit Fueling Mideast Bloodshed With Illicit Arms Shipments (February 2015 - Fox News)
- Iran Must Strengthen Foothold in the West Bank: IRGC Commander (February 2015 - PressTV)
- Iran Has No Territorial Ambitions? Tell It to Lebanon and Syria (May 2013 - Commentary)
- Why Iran is Falling into Russia's Arms (February 2013 - New York Post)
The Prospects for a nuclear deal

---"With that deadline looming, Iran's top leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, on Tuesday rejected a long-term freeze on nuclear research and supported banning international inspectors from accessing military sites. Khamenei, in comments broadcast on Iranian state television, also said Iran will sign a final deal provided all economic sanctions now on Iran are first lifted — in a sign the Islamic Republic *may* be toughening its stance ahead of the deadline.” (Only ABC News would think this MAY indicate a toughening!)"
Putin’s Strategy is Iran’s Strategy: Oil as a weapon of empire

• The appropriation of the energy industry by the state and the ‘creation’ of Gazprom as the most powerful weapon in foreign policy was the result of a strategy explicitly elaborated in Vladimir Putin’s academic writings.

• “The Kremlin’s 2008 war with Georgia, which Putin admitted to planning from 2006, its coercive incorporation of the Georgian territories of Abkhazia and South Ossetia into Russia, and the war with Ukraine all represent a working out of this logic of imperialism and war.” Steve Blank, Newsweek, 4/6/15
BMD Strategy Going Forward

• Despite concerns as expressed by General Todorov (which I share re: the cost of interception) I still believe we have to get the resources to get greater inventory of Patriot, Aegis, THAAD and GBI systems as well as sensors;

• We do certainly need “left of launch” systems including cyber ...

• Critical is to be able to significantly blunt any initial use of missiles by an adversary and then respond by taking out an enemies missile batteries and launch sites
INTEGRATE/INNOVATE

• “Find new ways to use existing systems and to look beyond traditional interceptors to technologies like lasers, cyber attack and jamming

• “Shift from a policy of only deploying BMD against certain kinds of limited threats vs. defending against most plausible threats irrespective of their nature” (Heinrichs, 2/15)

• Congress may again push for new technologies such as directed energy, rail guns, and space-based defenses to give the US a strategic advantage

• Next missile defense “steps” critical to assess, adopt and implement
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

• Iran seeks to redraw the map of the Middle East which it has done in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen.

• It seeks the prize: the KSA and control of the oil and gas resources of the Persian Gulf.

• Missiles are a key means to get the oil prize.

• Nuclear weapons would give Iran the ultimate hammer with which to achieve its empire.
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

• Fielding and deploying sufficient missile defenses critical to stopping Iran’s hegemonic goals....

• A nuclear deal unless airtight will give Iran a nuclear weapons capability...and undo the best missile defense strategy...

• Iran is mirroring its strategy after that of Russia’s President Putin and China’s Premier Li Keqiang