

Developing Terrorism Analysts

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Disclaimer

The information and opinions in this Presentation are my own and do not reflect the official policy or position of the Department of Defense, the Defense Intelligence Agency or the National Defense Intelligence College

Overview

- ∅ What Analysts Need to Know about Terrorism
- ∅ How do we get them there?
 - ∅ Epistemologies/ Pedagogies
 - ∅ Approaches/ Methods

Core Learning Outcomes

- ∅ Be able to identify the terrorism phenomenon when you encounter it
- ∅ Be able to comprehend/ explain how terrorism functions as a unique form of human interaction
- ∅ Be able to identify the type of terrorism you are dealing with

Core Learning Outcomes, con't.

- ∅ Be able to ascertain the strengths and vulnerabilities of the form of terrorism you have encountered within the context of the socio-political environment in which it is operating
- ∅ Be able to selectively apply and properly use the appropriate theoretical approach(es) to assess terrorist threat under scrutiny
- ∅ Be able to identify gaps in intelligence and develop proper collection requirements to close those gaps

What Intelligence Analysts Need to Know About Terrorism

∅ Understand the Terrorism Phenomenon

- ∅ The Nature and Unique Characteristics
- ∅ Capabilities/ Utility
- ∅ Strengths and Weaknesses

∅ Types of Terrorism

- ∅ Insurgent/ Revolutionary
- ∅ Anarchy
- ∅ Ethnic/ Genocidal
- ∅ Transnational/ State Sponsored
- ∅ Criminal
- ∅ (etcetera)

Bottom Line: Intelligence Analysts Must Be Able To Identify

- ∅ **Composition – “force” structure**
- ∅ **Disposition – location**
- ∅ **Capabilities**
- ∅ **Intent:**
 - ∅ **Tactically – When, Where, How and Why they will Strike**
 - ∅ **Strategically – the Political Ends Being Sought**
- ∅ **What do you NOT know, that you need to know?**
 - ∅ **Drives Collection Requirements**

Useful Analytical Methods

- ∅ Motivational Theory (Individual)
- ∅ Structural Theory (Group)
- ∅ Military “Theory” – The Art and Science of War
- ∅ Open Systems Theory (Process)
- ∅ Revolutionary Mobilization Theory

Motivational Theory

(Ted Robert Gurr – Why Men Rebel)

- ∅ Examines two Variables:
 - ∅ Value Expectations
 - ∅ Value Capabilities

- ∅ Tracks Four Perceived Conditions Within the Terrorist's Targeted Constituency
 - ∅ Relative Deprivation (RD)
 - ∅ Source of that RD
 - ∅ Perceptions for Chance for Success
 - ∅ Perceptions of what Constitutes a “Better Tomorrow”

Structural Theory

(Theda Skocpol – *States and Social Revolutions*)

- ∅ Offers an Understanding that Organizations are not Homogenous Units
- ∅ Numerous Internal Cleavages and Interest Groups
- ∅ Analysts Must:
 - ∅ Identify disparate groups within the organization
 - ∅ Potential points of friction that may be exacerbated or capitalized upon

Military Arts and Science

(Von Clausewitz, Sun Tzu, Mao . . .)

- ∅ Domains of War
 - ∅ Physical – Unable
 - ∅ Cognitive – Uncertain
 - ∅ Moral – Unwilling
- ∅ Principles of War and Combat
- ∅ Cohesion
- ∅ Centers of Gravity Analysis
- ∅ Understanding Strategy vs. Operations and Tactics
- ∅ Combatants – Warriors vs. Soldiers
- ∅ Weapons – Shock vs. Fire
- ∅ Evolution of War over Time

Military Arts and Science

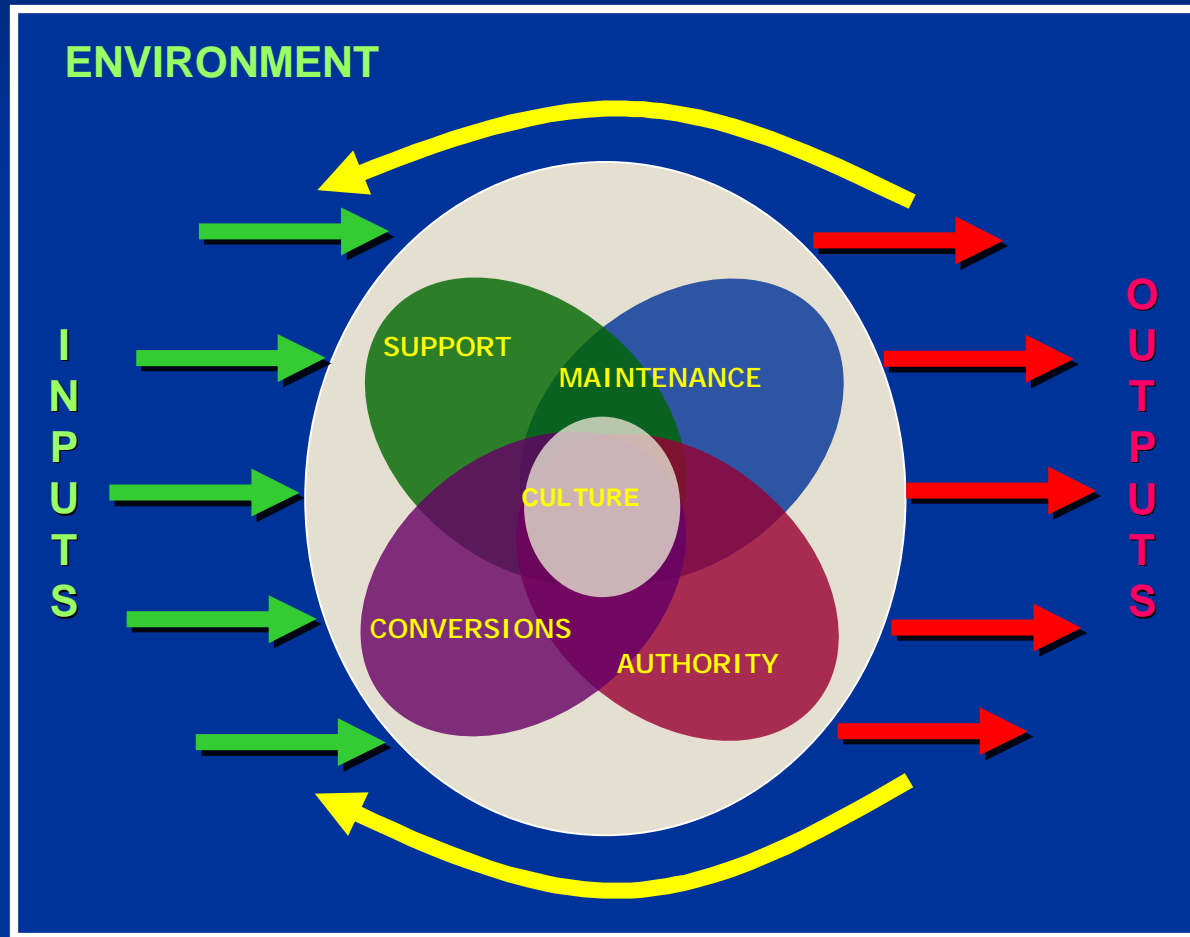
(Von Clausewitz, Sun Tzu, Mao . . .)

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- ∅ Evolution of War over Time

**Must Teach Them
What They Do Not
Know About War**

Open Systems Theory

(Thomas and Casebeer, "Violent Systems" INSS Occasional Paper #52
US Air Force Academy, March 2004)



ENVIRONMENT

CAUSATION

INPUTS

Resource Scarcity
Demographic Pressures
Socio-economic Deprivation
Organized Crime & Corruption
Identity Cleavages

CONVERSIONS

Failures of Governance
Identity Mobilization



OUTPUTS

Religious Movements
Ethnopolitical Groups
Warlords w/ Militias
Crime Networks
Eco-warriors
Tribes /Clans
City-States
Allison Hall
Ideological Groups
Vigilantes

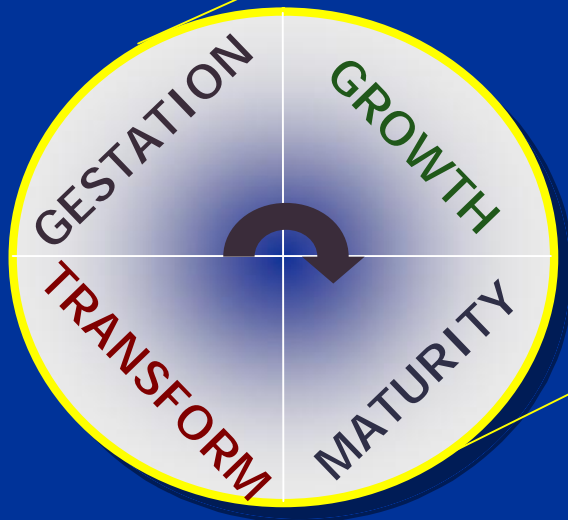
Reinforcing Actions

"The roots of violence have explanatory power regarding the formation of an at-risk population, ripe for mobilization along existing identity cleavages."

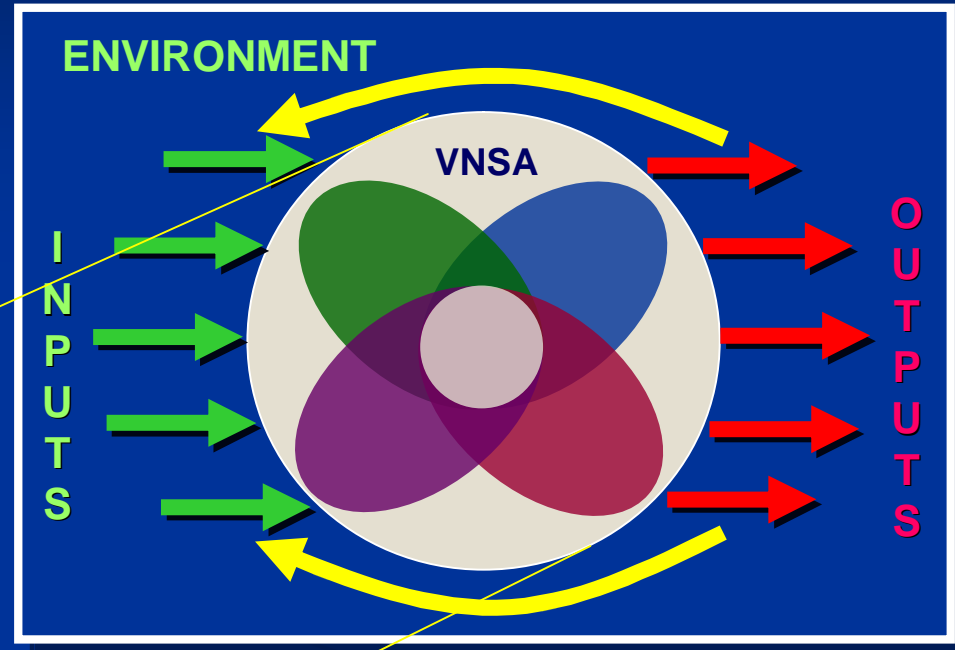
SYSTEM

COMMON SYSTEM CHARACTERISTICS

Import Energy
Convert Energy
Export a Product
Cyclic Processes
Differentiation
Negative Entropy
Dynamic Homeostasis
Equifinality
Feedback



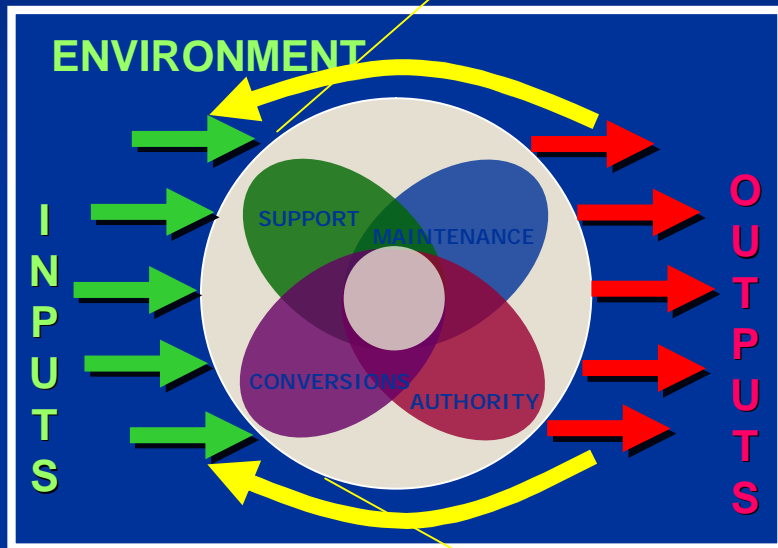
PROPERTIES



"Organisms have life cycles. They do not spontaneously appear on the international scene as mature beings with well-ordered structures and patterns of activities. Rather, they pass through a distinct series of stages in form and function."

SUB-SYSTEMS

SUB-SYSTEMS



SUB-SYSTEM FUNCTIONS

SUPPORT

Resource Acquisition
Stakeholder Associations
Recruitment

MAINTENANCE

Socialization to Culture
Rewards and Sanctions

AUTHORITY

Learning (Intelligence)
Strategy (Decision-making)
Control / Communications

CONVERSIONS

Training
Production
Operations

MATURITY ◀ GROWTH ◀ GESTATION

CONGRUENCE
NEGATIVE
ENTROPY

"A function's value to VNSA prosperity derives from its contribution to reducing uncertainty, increasing negative entropy, and supporting the congruence, or 'fit' of sub-systems."

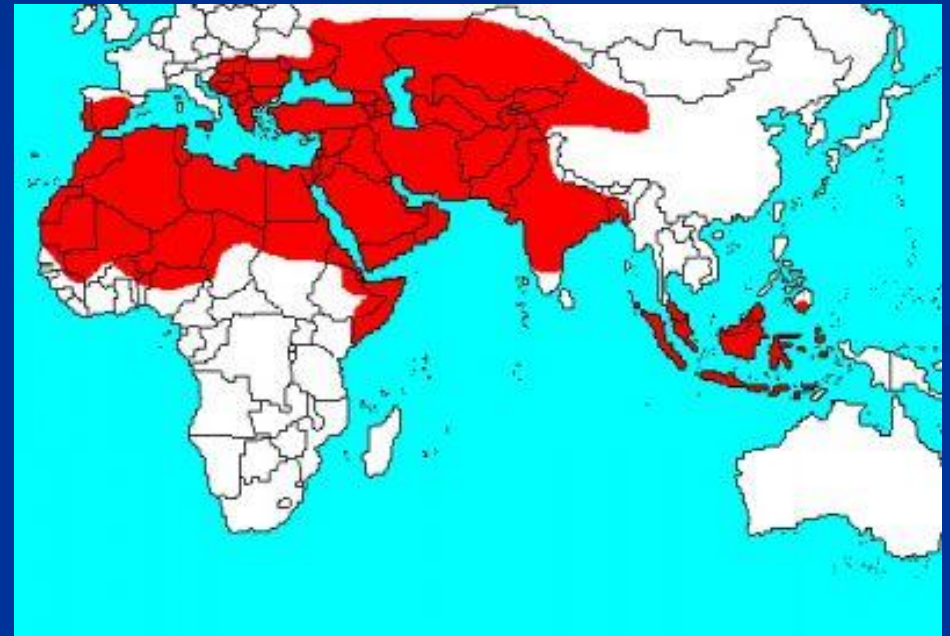
Identity Mobilization

Myth Building

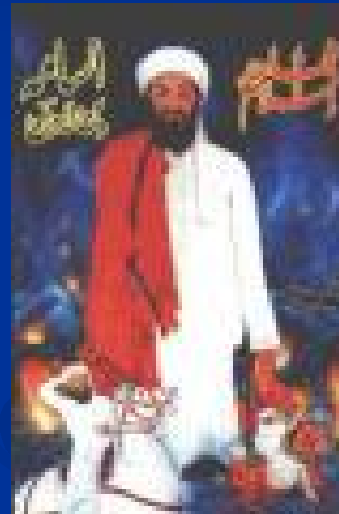
Identity
Entrepreneurs

Identity Mobilization – Cognitive Domain –

- ∅ Al Qaeda narrative is based upon the myth of a lost “Golden Age”
- ∅ For Osama bin Laden this was in the era of the Caliphate
- ∅ He claims the Caliphate was lost because of a loss of faith and the erosion of Muslim ideals



Identity Entrepreneurs



The Bridge Between Motivational Theory
and Open Systems Theory

The Analyst Must

- ∅ Identify the Identity Entrepreneur
- ∅ Understand his message
- ∅ Determine the Target Audience
- ∅ Ascertain whether or not the message is resonating with the Target
- ∅ Facilitate the construction of a counter-narrative



Revolutionary Mobilization Theory

(Donald Hanle, *Terrorism: The Newest Face of Warfare*)

Mobilization Process

<u>Phase</u>	<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Preparatory	Previolent	Establish Cause
Initial Violence	Terrorism	Morally Isolate
Expansion	Guerrilla War	Physically Isolate
Victorious	Conventional War	Physically Destroy
Consolidation	Terrorism	Reprogram Populace
Administrative	Post violent	Maintain Regime

Mobilization Process

Phase

Preparatory

Initial Violence

Expansion

Victory

Consolidation

Post-violence

Characteristic

Previolent

Terrorism

Guerrilla War

Conventional War

Terrorism

Post-violence

Purpose

Establish Cause

Morally Isolate

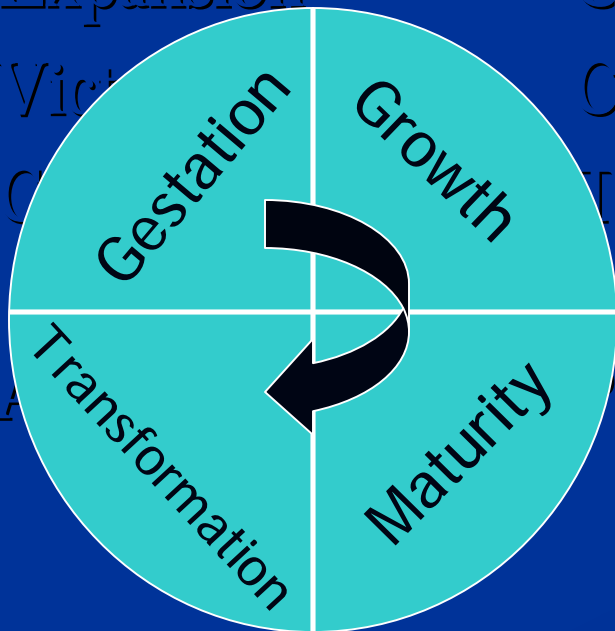
Physically Isolate

Physically Destroy

Reprogram

Populace

Maintain Regime



**Revolution
Fails**

The Analyst Objective –

**Build a Strategy for Understanding a
Given Terrorist Group or Movement
Using All Five Approaches
Simultaneously**

This Approach is . . .

- ∅ Qualitative in nature
- ∅ As Holistic as Possible
- ∅ Multidisciplinary
- ∅ Focusing upon Identifying:
 - ∅ The Unknowns
 - ∅ The Capabilities – both strengths as well as weaknesses
 - ∅ The Intents

The Goal Is . . .

- ∅ First – To Prevent Surprise
- ∅ Second – To “Defeat” the Terrorist Organization by Morally Isolating it from the very constituency it seeks to mobilize

Questions?