



Crafty Bastards[®] Update

April 1, 2015

Crafty Bastards[®] Updates, a product of Kiernan Group Holdings (KGH), provide clients a periodic snapshot of emerging analytic lines during the Crafty Bastards[®] program. Analytic content will be folded into the final reports for each workshop.

Getting to Synthesis: Looking Back To Go Forward

Reviewing the goals set out by NCTC at the beginning of each workshop, analyzing how the goals changed throughout the Workshops, then assessing where they stand in the run up to the Synthesis Workshop may assist in identifying several key areas for exploration in the final session. Newly emerging ideas also have been captured for consideration, including the need for a thought and action “revolution” within Blue, as well as the stark realization that Red will always exist.

Common Threads

The recurring theme throughout the Blue, Getting-To-Green, Green, and Red Workshops is that Blue needs a makeover. The idea that Blue, defined in the Blue Workshop as the US Government, needs to recreate its image featured prominently in each workshop, indicating that this task was an intrinsic part of defeating Red. Consistency in Blue’s actions and deeds, in line with Blue’s original and stated principles, was determined to be key.

Blue Needs a Revolution in Thought and Deed. The US needs to enter into its own revolution of thought and action. Rather than a violent upheaval like those occurring in other parts of the world, a peaceful reformation that leads to improved global and public attitudes toward our actions in the world would most likely lead to improved security and international relevance. The US should reclaim its place as an honest broker, trusted ally, and “beacon of light” by standing steadfast against specific threats to its security while taking actions that are explainable and consistent with its values.

Blue Needs To Defeat Red’s Narrative. In addition to reminding the world what Blue stands for, Blue should identify values that it shares with others, then demonstrate and spread those values. The US should step back, recognize the shared values of others, assist and applaud other countries for their versions of “self-determination,” and make it easier for friends to be Blue’s friends. Such values do not have to be universal, but Blue should try to demonstrate them consistently.

The World Is Too Complex for One Model or Metaphor. One model or metaphor would be insufficient to frame Green. Although all metaphors discussed—an ecosystem, organism, complex adaptive system, or cultural communities—have elements that help frame Green, all



have drawbacks. Using multiple metaphors—or none at all—would be required to fully assess Green.

Red Will Exist for the Foreseeable Future. Violent non-state actors have existed throughout most of human history. Diminishing, co-opting, and potentially including some of these actors while protecting Blue's borders are more achievable and effective strategies than the goal of eradicating all elements of Red.

Getting to Synthesis

The Synthesis Workshop may seek to debate and develop a strategy that allows the US to reclaim its place of honest-broker, trusted ally, and “beacon of light” by standing steadfast against specific threats to its security while dependably taking actions that are explainable and consistent with its values and that incorporate the “others” — be they the repressed, millennials and global youth, or those representing other forms of government besides strict democracies or those of differing, but non-threatening, world views.