



Crafty Bastards[®] Update

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

Literature Review: Three Papers from Green Workshop Attendees

Several participants from the Green Workshop, held January 21-23, submitted additional papers or articles. Three synopses are provided here; the papers will be added as appendices to the final Green Report. They also are available upon request.

1. ***“Considering the Organizational Ecosystem Metaphor and Altruism in the Context of ‘Red’ and ‘Green,’” Dr. Matthew Mars, The University of Arizona***

Altruism is a component of human nature, but the ways in which Blue, Green, and Red systems—aggregations of humans, groups, and organizations—operate omit altruism, reinforcing the metaphor’s applicability and enabling an objective perspective of the conflict. The world can be viewed as one mega-system in which terrorist organizations (Red) carry out self-serving, radical agendas by preying on other actors and groups.

- Red is an ecosystem predicated upon the advancement of an ideology. It is made up of the networks, infrastructure, and ideologies that enable terrorist groups. Red, therefore, could be viewed as an invading species that threatens the mega-ecosystem with perturbation.
- Actors and organizations within “Green” also could be recognized as acting out of their own interests, such as protecting their stakeholders and economies.
- As altruism (which is not a factor in traditional biological ecosystems) is removed from the conception of these factions, the ecological metaphor gains applicability.

2. ***“Religion Isn’t Everything; Religion is the Only Thing,” Dr. Philip Schrodt, Parus Analytical Systems***

Looking out 10 years, any serious ideational challenge to the status quo will be framed in religious terms, simply for lack of an alternative. Most challenges to Blue interests during the twentieth century were characterized by secular ideologies; momentary rises in religious ideologies provoked responses that accommodated religion, focusing on tolerance, or opposed and suppressed it. As such, the secular ideologies, whatever their nature, are now the status quo, and no universalist ideology has emerged to challenge liberal democracy.



- However, unlike the ideological battles of the 20th century, Blue elites (for the most part) have little or no understanding of either the nature or the appeal of a religious worldview.
- Indicators suggest that we could be entering a period of upheaval based on the blurring of religious and political systems similar to the European “early modern” period when the nation-state system was consolidating.
- China, which is neither Blue nor Red, is oblivious about the challenges that religion could pose to its stability. China is already facing two violent ethno-religious insurgencies against the Sunni Uighurs and the Buddhist Tibetans. Both conflicts could further escalate, and to Blue (and to China), a worrisome prospect would be the Uighurs tapping into the aforementioned deep reservoir of contemporary Sunni militarism.

3. “Complex Learning Designs: Conceptual Drawings,” CAPT Wayne Porter, PhD

Conceptual diagrams illustrate the causal loops between and among Red, Green, and Blue, asserting that Red action begets Blue action and vice versa. As Green conditions become more favorable to Blue, Blue’s perception of the threat decreases and Red’s perceived dominance increases. The author plans to explore the disproportionate impact of the conditions of Green in future submissions.

