



Crafty Bastards[®] Spotlight

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Crafty Bastards[®] Spotlights are occasional products of Kiernan Group Holdings (KGH) that provide clients in-depth analysis and insights on new developments and key topics of interest as they relate to the emerging analytic lines of the Crafty Bastards[®] Workshops.

National Security Strategy Closely Resembles Findings from Workshops

The President's National Security Strategy (NSS) touches upon many of the findings and objectives from the Blue, Green, and Red Workshops. Using the language and categorizations in the NSS may increase acceptance by the policymakers for the findings of the Workshops.

Blue

An outcome stated by NCTC for the Workshop series was ways in which Blue can: 1) continue to improve our model of governance and society; and 2) shape the strategic environment in ways that allow our model to compete successfully for security and prosperity.¹ The NSS also envisions the US as leading the way in reinforcing, shaping, and creating the rules, norms and institutions that are the foundation for peace, security, prosperity, and the protections of human rights in the 21st century.²

As discussed in Blue and reiterated in the NSS, American exceptionalism is not rooted solely in the strength of our arms or economy; it is the product of our founding values, including the grit, talent, and diversity of the American people.³ The NSS follows on lessons from Blue such as: the US needs to lead with all aspects of its power, and its power goes far beyond military might. As a Blue participant eloquently observed, the arsenal of democracy has not gone to war. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Johnson reiterated these goals by explaining that it is a complicated world, but the 2015 National Security Strategy points the way for an America whose global influence is powered not by our military might alone but by the forceful engines of our economy and timelessness of our ideals and values.⁴

Blue, G2G, and Green

The Blue, G2G, and Green Workshops also illuminated the changing nature of the nation-state as well as better identification of the drivers and levers of influence within the global

¹ The Blue Paper, NCTC, p. 3.

² National Security Strategy, February 2015 p. 23.

³ National Security Strategy February 2015 p. 3.

⁴ <http://www.dhs.gov/news/2015/02/06/statement-secretary-jeh-c-johnson-2015-national-security-strategy>.



ecosystem. This is in line with the NSS in the discussion of the five recent transitions that have changed the security landscape and may offer more opportunities for influence:

1. In Blue, participants noted that power among states has become more dynamic.
2. Blue, G2G, and Green all acknowledged that power is shifting below and beyond the nation state, opening the way for non-state actors, both violent and non-violent.
3. Green examined the increasing global economic interdependence and the rapid pace of technological change, which strengthen links between and among individuals, groups, and governments.
4. Green and the upcoming Red Workshop examine the power struggle among and within many states and regions because of disaffection, demographic shifts, or new cultural awareness.
5. Green touched briefly on the global energy market, which could be seen as an area of change that gives the US more flexibility regarding conflict involvement, greater self-reliance, and potentially more strategic choices.⁵

Blue and Green discussed the need to include all segments of society and governance in solving problems. The NSS calls this the “Whole of Community” approach, comprised of individuals, local communities, private and non-profit sectors, faith-based organizations, and all levels of government.⁶ Focusing on better inclusion of all elements of society may lead to less conflict and superior solutions with an emphasis on cultural identity.

The work of NGOs and development agencies also can be leveraged. From strengthening global health security to advancing gender equality, USAID’s mission aligns with the NSS’s objectives to end extreme poverty and promote resilient, democratic societies. It also emphasizes the need to build partnerships, especially in emerging markets and fledgling democracies.⁷ Blue and Green have emphasized this need to form relationships - elastic though they may be - regardless of borders or nationalities to pursue a common interest or reduce a common threat.

Green

For Green, the levers and drivers could be reorganized to mirror the NSS’s top strategic risks⁸. Many risks in the NSS would fall under more than one Workshop category.

⁵ National Security Strategy, February 2015 p. 5.

⁶ National Security Strategy, February 2015 p. 8.

⁷ <http://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/feb-6-2015-statement-usaid-administrator-shah-launch-2015-national-security>.

⁸ National Security Strategy February 2015 p. 2



Security	Resources	Economics	Culture	Governance	Technology	Population	Information
Catastrophic attack on US homeland or critical infrastructure	Catastrophic attack on US homeland or critical infrastructure	Catastrophic attack on US homeland or critical infrastructure	Catastrophic attack on US homeland or critical infrastructure	Proliferation and/or use of WMD	Proliferation and/or use of WMD	Severe global infectious disease outbreaks	
Threats or attacks on US citizens and allies abroad	Climate change	Global economic crisis or slowdown	Threats or attacks on US citizens and allies abroad		Major energy market disruptions		
Proliferation and/or use of WMD		Major energy market disruptions					
Significant security consequences with weak or failing states			Significant security consequences with weak or failing states	Significant security consequences with weak or failing states	Significant security consequences with weak or failing states		Significant security consequences with weak or failing states

Red

For the upcoming Red Workshop, several points of change can be derived from the NSS and discussed in the Workshop:

- Address the underlying conditions that help foster violent extremism - poverty, inequality, repression.
- Support alternatives to extremist messaging.
- Create greater economic opportunities for disaffected youth and women.
- Assist others in defeating local terrorists.
- Seek to address the root causes of terrorism brought about by weak governance and widespread grievances.⁹

Synthesis

The Synthesis Workshop will blend all of the objectives, lessons learned, and outcomes as well as enhance the goals of the NSS and countering terrorism with the following findings:

- Boost good governance by strengthening state-society relationships.
- Encourage transparent leadership in other countries.
- Provide peaceful avenues to advance interests and express convictions.

⁹ National Security Strategy, February 2015 p. 8-10.



- Build relationships with the world's young people and identify future government and industry leaders.¹⁰

Alternative Analysis

A potential flaw within the NSS is the conviction to view the world order as it is and not recognize the fluid, flexible, and dynamic nature of the current world order or the severity of threats. The NSS contends that we will continue to embrace the post-World War II legal architecture - from the UN Charter to the multilateral treaties that govern the conduct of war, respect for human rights, nonproliferation and many other topics of global concern - as essential to the ordering of a just and peaceful world.¹¹

As has thus far been learned through the Workshop series, clinging to the old world model and trying to fit the current realities into this may cause potential opportunities to be overlooked and cause the US to miss new adversaries. The NSS leaves out many actions that could further the world order. It rejects the notion that the future of the order is at a hinge point. It sees many crises as immediate but not likely to define the next decade. It does not identify stark strategic choices that the US must choose between, as determined by Workshop participants.¹²

This NSS breaks new ground by elevating "strategic patience" to a guiding principle for US national security policy and drawing attention to the institutional foundations of world order. The NSS urges a policy of strategic patience that allows America to prove its power when it must, but more often resists reflexive responses that could ensnare the US in long-term conflicts.¹³ This strategy is limiting and does not allow for long-term effective strategic thinking and planning.

¹⁰ National Security Strategy February 2015 p. 21.

¹¹ National Security Strategy February 2015 p. 23.

¹² <http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/up-front/posts/2015/02/06-interpreting-the-national-security-strategy>.

¹³ <http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/02/05/white-house-to-unveil-call-for-strategic-patience-russia-ukraine-syria-iraq-china-asia/>.