

Red Workshop Objectives

March 3-5, 2015

Washington, D.C.

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Context

We are considering many different frameworks, models, and metaphors to better understand and characterize the nature, motivation, and intent of those who use terrorism (“Red”) against the United States and its like-minded partners (“Blue”). From what we’ve discovered in other workshops, this terrorism/counterterrorism dynamic coevolves in the context of an interconnected and interdependent global environment (“Green”).

- **We ultimately want to understand where we, as Blue, may identify, explore, and exploit opportunities to our strategic advantage to diminish Red.**

Other workshops in this series independently examined Blue and Green, and our aim at the end of this workshop series is to synthesize all three understandings (inclusive of Red) in one document. Our goal at the conclusion is to describe the major systems and cultures that connect and influence Green, Blue, and Red so we may identify and suggest topics worthy of further study and exploration by counterterrorism (CT) net assessments.

Red is not a single group or alliance, but a recurring human phenomenon—non-state violence to object to a development or condition, or to implement a revolutionary vision. We refer to these groups and the phenomenon collectively simply as “Red” as a shorthand.

Purpose of the Workshop

Our goal for the Red workshop is to gain a systems-based¹ understanding of the workings of Red as a phenomenon through history and over the next 10 years. We surmise that unwanted change and risk across global, regional, and local systems is a key dynamic driving our terrorism/counterterrorism problem set.

- **We want to identify the *dynamics* that recur rather than necessarily focus only on specific groups. We will discuss groups as case studies that help us identify and test the validity of those dynamics. Our standard is not exactitude, but that the dynamics we identify be “mostly true, most of the time.”**

¹ Understanding how things, regarded as systems, influence one another within a whole. In nature, systems thinking examples include ecosystems in which various elements such as air, water, movement, plants, and animals work together to survive or perish. In organizations, systems consist of people, structures, and processes that work together to make an organization “healthy” or “unhealthy”, available at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Systems_thinking.

What we are asking of you

From your unique perspective, we want you to help us understand the dynamics that cause Red to flourish or decline so we can accurately depict Red in our master systems diagram we will compile later. What are the salient phenomena, drivers of change, and forces of continuity that we should be concerned about? What systemic conditions and social dynamics give rise to Red activity or enable Red to flourish? What frameworks and models best describe and explain violent extremism and potentially related developments like social unrest and political instability? What emerging factors might we face over the next 10 years that would feed into the emergence, success, or decline of Red?

Expected Outcomes from the Workshop

An outcome of this Workshop will be a greater understanding of the dynamic nature and character of Red that we can apply to our CT net assessments. At the conclusion of the Workshop, we will have:

- Identified key actors and phenomena within the Red system
- Captured the most salient interactions, relationships, and interdependencies in Red that warrant further exploration and the scientific domains we might pursue to deepen our understanding.
- Identified emerging factors and developments under way or that are very plausible for the next 10 years
- A better understanding of how Blue and Red coevolve and coexist, and how these elements interact in the context of the Green strategic environment
- A working list of plausible environmental conditions that create opportunities to hinder Red in accomplishing their strategic interests

Structure of the Workshop

A series of questions will be used by the facilitator to drive the discussion. Please refer to the agenda in your binder for a time-based schedule.

Day 1

Answer the following main question(s):

- What causes Red to emerge, flourish, and decline?
- Does Red include those that have actually gone violent or does it include a broader population that has strong or even latent potential to take violent action?
- What are salient phenomena, drivers of change, and forces of continuity within Green should be concerned about, particularly over the next 10 years?

Day 2

Answer the following main question(s):

- What frameworks, models, paradigms, and metaphors are better suited to understand, account for, characterize, and visualize the dynamics of the system or paradigm we have identified so far?
- How can we map these dynamics visually?

Conclude workshop and complete evaluations. Thank you for your participation!