Instruments of Power

Erik Gartzke POLI 142, Lecture 5b 15 July 2015



Tools of the Trade

- The Military
 - Conventional
 - Nuclear
 - Covert
- Diplomacy
- Trade and Aid
- Soft power

The Military

- What do we spend? --> ~\$550 billions
- Personnel --> 1.4 active / 1.4 reserves
- Organization
 - Divided up into 4 Branches + Marine Corps
 - Headquarters: Pentagon (DC), operations worldwide(!)

The Army

- 531 k active / 346 k National Guard / 190 k Army Reserves
- 10 Divisions (1st Armor, 1st Cav, 1st Infantry, 2nd Infantry, 3rd Infantry, 4th Infantry, 10th Mountain, 25th Infantry, 82nd Airborne, 101st Air Mobile)
- 6 Smaller combat units (Regiment/Brigade Combat Teams)
- Shift to lighter units (no thanks, tanks)



- 332 k Personnel
- 11 Carrier Battle Groups / 2 in construction
- 280 Ships / 3700 Aircraft
- Move toward multi-use platforms
- Shifting forces to Pacific (away from Atlantic)

The Air Force

- 329 k Active / 50 k Reserve
- Active:
 - 57 Flying Wings / 8 Space / 55 non-flying
- Reserve:
 - 35 Flying Wings / 1 Space / 8 non-flying
- National Guard:
 - 87 Flying Wings
- Big reorganization after First Gulf War

The Marine Corps

- 193 k Active / 40 k Reserve
- Organized around Air-ground task forces
- Marine Amphibious Units (MAU) onboard ships
- The Marine Corps is the chief beneficiary of the current threat environment for the United States

Going Nuclear

- Organization
 - Triad: Air / land / Sea
- Strategy: Nuclear weapons are different:
 - Very difficult to use (how do you intimidate when opponents doubt your willingness?)
 - Kennan/Shelling/Kissinger/Brodie/RAND
 - Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD)

Going Nuclear II

- Tactics: Counter force vs. Counter value
- Shift after Cold War -- deterrence / MAD
 - Preemption: Confront worst threats before they
 emerge
 - How do you know?
 - Security dilemma: we become "worst threat"

Diplomacy

- Diplomacy under the shadow of conventional power:
- Diplomacy under the shadow of nuclear power:
- "Shadowless" diplomacy:
- Carrots and Sticks

Trade and Aid

- Much can be accomplished with handouts
- Aid = influence
 - Who gets the most US aid?
 - Relationship between aid and voting in UN
- President is usually pro-free trade (why?)

Covert Instruments

- Intelligence / espionage / analysis
- Organization:
 - Director of Central Intelligence (DCI)
 - President's daily briefing (PDB)
 - Intelligence failures (selection effect)
 - Counter-Intelligence
 - Covert action