Power in Foreign Policy

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Definitions of Power

• Motivational:
  • Power is the proximate objective of states.

• Latent:
  • The ability to influence.
  • The absence of harm.

• Kinetic:
  • The exercise of a faculty; the employment of strength.
Security Dilemma

• Herz, Jervis:

  • Proximate goal of states is security.

  • Security is zero-sum:

    • My safety is only achieved by diminishing your ability to protect yourself.

  • Ecological presence of aggression:

    • Ergo, war can result from insecurity.
911 & the Security Dilemma

• 911 attacks make the US security conscious
  • Homeland security
  • Protect ourselves by projecting power
    • Leads to less security elsewhere

• One: “Blowback” (Chalmers Johnson)

• Two: Heightened protection, but at considerable cost.
US Preponderant Power

• U.S. more powerful than most combinations of other nations
  • What do we do with extraordinary power?
    • More security?
    • More influence?
  • Security/influence tradeoff.