Political Science 154: Weapons of Mass Destruction
Consider something more conventional... the war in Mali
The structure of a conventional conflict

- **Actors:**
  - National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA)
  - Mali government(?)
  - Toure
  - Coup(s): National Committee for the Restoration of Democracy and State (CNRDR)
  - ECOWAS (Economic Community for West African States)
  - France
  - US...
The structure of a conventional conflict

(Framing) Preferences:

- “Good” vs. “Evil”
- “Islam” (90% Muslim)
- “Ethnic”
  - Many tribal groups
  - Geographically located...
The structure of a conventional conflict
The structure of a conventional conflict

- Problems with “ethnic” story:
  - How do you resolve ethnic differences through fighting?
  - Why would France, US care about “ethnic” conflict?

- More clearly about politics:
  - Want friendly government.
  - The Coup/Army
Conventional Weapons

• Difference between “conventional” and “unconventional” weapons
  • In the eye of the beholder
  • Nuclear/chemical/biological taboo

• Perhaps biggest difference is in the lethality of weapons
  • Scale of damage limits “fungibility” of NBC weapons.
    • Takes many people to deploy conventional weapons.

• May be diminishing over time
Conventional Weapons, cont.

- Conventional militaries/wars consist of organization and ammunition...
  - Organization: all militaries are hierarchically organized: chain of command
    - Much like any bureaucracy (pyramidal - works up and down)
Conventional Weapons, cont. II
Conventional Weapons, cont. III
Conventional Weapons, cont. IV

• Ammunition: Conventional war is more about logistics than weapons.
  • Given large organizations required to deploy conventional force
    • Much of what armies do is move stuff around and make sure it is where it should be.
  • This
Conventional Weapons, cont. V

- brings this
Conventional Weapons, cont. VI

- Most potent weapon in the world today:
Conventional Weapons, cont. VII

• Most effective weapon in the world today:
Conventional Weapons, cont. VIII
Enough about war... lets talk nuclear weapons!

• Conventional Weapons

• WMD lay of the land

• Global Zero
Who has (which) weapons of mass destruction?

• Nuclear
• Biological
• Chemical
Global zero

• What is “Global zero”?

• Why is there sudden enthusiasm for it in the halls of Washington?
  
  • In a country that cannot conduct successful domestic arms control, how (likely) is it that we will be able to participate in global disarmament?

• What are the assumptions about how disarmament will work/not work?
  
  • “Why should we expect a world without nuclear weapons to be safer than one with (some) nuclear weapons?”
The security dilemma

“If, at the outset of what appears to be a major war, or the imminent possibility of major war, every responsible government must consider that other responsible governments will mobilize their nuclear weapons base as soon as war erupts, or as soon as war appears likely, there will be at least covert frantic efforts, or perhaps purposely conspicuous efforts, to acquire deliverable nuclear weapons as rapidly as possible.”

Schelling (2009, p. 126)