

Climate Change is the Ultimate Collective Action Program

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- What is needed to address the problem is a global framework and global cooperation. An ecological perspective is essential.
- National security cannot be considered apart from international security.
- We require a new way to think about problems of the global commons, with fundamentally important roles for corporations, intelligence and security services, among other actors.
- Critical to any prospect for meaningful action is a sense of urgency, but not paranoia. Sound science is the basis for action but we must grow constituencies which will support and embrace the action.

1. Borders, Boundaries, and National Security Thinking

Our conventional concepts of national security are rooted in a world view dominated by nation states, the dominion they exercise, and the legitimacy of their boundaries. We still talk of avoiding "intruding into the internal affairs" of other states. We respect territorial waters and airspace. We continue to think, talk, and deal with each other largely within this context.

Personal observations:

- Finland/USSR
- Chernobyl
- The Schengen Accord

2. The "classical system" was based on state control over the means of aggression and the use of lethal force.

Prime example, command and control arrangements over nuclear arsenals

- MAD
- Containment Theory

3. The Increasing Prominence of Issues Which Threaten Others but Defy the Control of Sovereign States

- Cyber space (no boundaries, no borders, challenge of attribution)
- Transnational organized crime
- Health issues, both man made (i.e., bioterrorism) and "naturally" occurring (i.e., SARS pandemic)

4. Perils of Linear Thinking in an Age of Discontinuities and Disruptive Possibilities

- We continue to think about, and deal with, problems we have already solved in an age which no longer exists
- We are all strangers in this new world
- Since we do not know the capacity of the earth's systems to tolerate continuing or increasing assaults we literally do not know/know how close we may be to breaking points .
- We have begun to make modest progress in understanding precipitating events in the social (i.e., Tunisia) and financial (i.e., Lehman Brothers) worlds. Similar efforts are urgently required to deal with trip wires and tipping points in the natural world.

5. Global Governance

- At a time of globalization we have seen and experienced the limits of national sovereignty in the financial (and other) world(s) and have witnessed the rise of supra national powers to deal with natural resource constraints (energy, food, rare minerals, etc.)
- We are doing the hard work of establishing, through disciplined, rigorous scientific inquiry, the empirical basis for the universal challenge posed by climate change, the ultimate transnational issue, but we have yet, with respect to the issue of climate change, to achieve the degree of shared acceptance of general principles (i.e., we have an urgent problem which affects us all) which has been achieved in other aspects of globalization.
- We must continue to build the constituencies which will support urgent, meaningful action around issues (climate change) in which costs are everywhere apparent and proximate and gains are often remote and longer term. Central to success will be the new and essential contributions of actors such as corporations and intelligence services.
- "National security" is a way into this discussion and a way to focus attention. Nations should be concerned about the impact of climate change but must see themselves and behave, as members of a global commons in which all share, benefit from, and are vulnerable to forces they neither understand nor control completely.