

# Security Threats in the 21st Century

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# Purpose

- Identify the principal threats to national and international security
- Examine each in the contexts of the others. Threats come in bunches.

# The “Forseeable Future” Isn’t!

The future ain’t what it used to be.

Yogi Berra

It is impossible to predict the future, and all attempts to do so in any detail appear ludicrous within a few years.

Arthur C. Clarke

Nothing dates so rapidly as today’s tomorrow.

Anon.

# Security Threats

1. Return of great power conflict
2. Climate change
3. Uneven development
4. Overpopulation, migration, pandemics

# Security Threats

5. Resource shortages: water, food, energy
6. Nuclear proliferation and nuclear wars
7. Religiously motivated terrorism

# Threat 1

## Great Power Conflict

- Rise of China
- Rise of India
- Return of Russia
- EU-Europe and NATO
- Japan's dilemma
- Changing alliances?

# Threat 2

## Climate Change

- Uncertainty
- An old cause of new wars
- Test of “the world community”
- Why this is a threat we cannot manage
- Probable consequences

# Threat 3

## Uneven Development

- Problems of modernization
- Die-hard resistance to modernity
- Globalization and exploitation
- Moral issues
- Strategic consequences

# Threat 4

## Overpopulation, Migration, Pandemics

- Climate change means overpopulation
- Mass migrations are unstoppable
- Migrations mean conflict and war
- Pandemic conditions

# Threat 5

## Resource Shortages

- Water
- Food
- Energy
- Land

# Threat 6

## Another Nuclear Century

- Nuclear proliferation is unstoppable
- There will be nuclear wars
- Consequences very uncertain

# Threat 7 Terrorism

- The last and least major threat
- Al Qaeda is in decline
- Religiously motivated terrorism is a problem of modernity for Islam
- Only Islamic moderates can beat fanatics
- There is no single, dominant solution

# Today - A Golden Age?

- So much for the very bad news
- The very good news is that most of these threats have yet to mature
  - China is still only rising
  - Climate change hasn't gone critical

# Today - A Golden Age?

- Resource competition is tough but not yet bloody
  - Nuclear wars have yet to occur
  - Al Qaeda is running out of steam
- 
- So, things could be a lot worse

# The American Role

- Still the only superpower
- The essential guardian of world order
- Must protect its honor, reputation for acting effectively
- Requires military excellence in regular and irregular warfare