



STARING-DOWN THE ABYSS: NUCLEAR SECURITY IN SOUTH ASIA

- **In Our Times**
- **The Nuclear Environ**
- **The Indian Perspective N-Deterrent Settings**
- **Contradictions, Trends and Conclusions**

IN OUR TIMES: CRISES

- End of a World Order, Plurality of Powers
- Techno-Economic-Societal Collision with Political Systems
- Orwellian Wars
- Radical Islam and Bizarre Sense of DPRK
- **The Uncertainty Paradigm**
- **Wars Governed by Political Considerations**

THE BACKDROP: SIX TECTONIC SHIFTS

- China: Strategic Narcissism, Lebensraum and Revisionism
- Fall and Rise of Russia, Unleashing Japan, Plurality of Powers. Strategic Pivot to Indo-Pacific
- **Historical N-Lessons: Controllability, Theoretical Extrapolation & Flash Points**
- Derangement of Order: Radical Islam, DPRK Conundrum
- Technology & Dark Side of Globalization
- Climate change, Demography, N-Proliferation

A THESIS

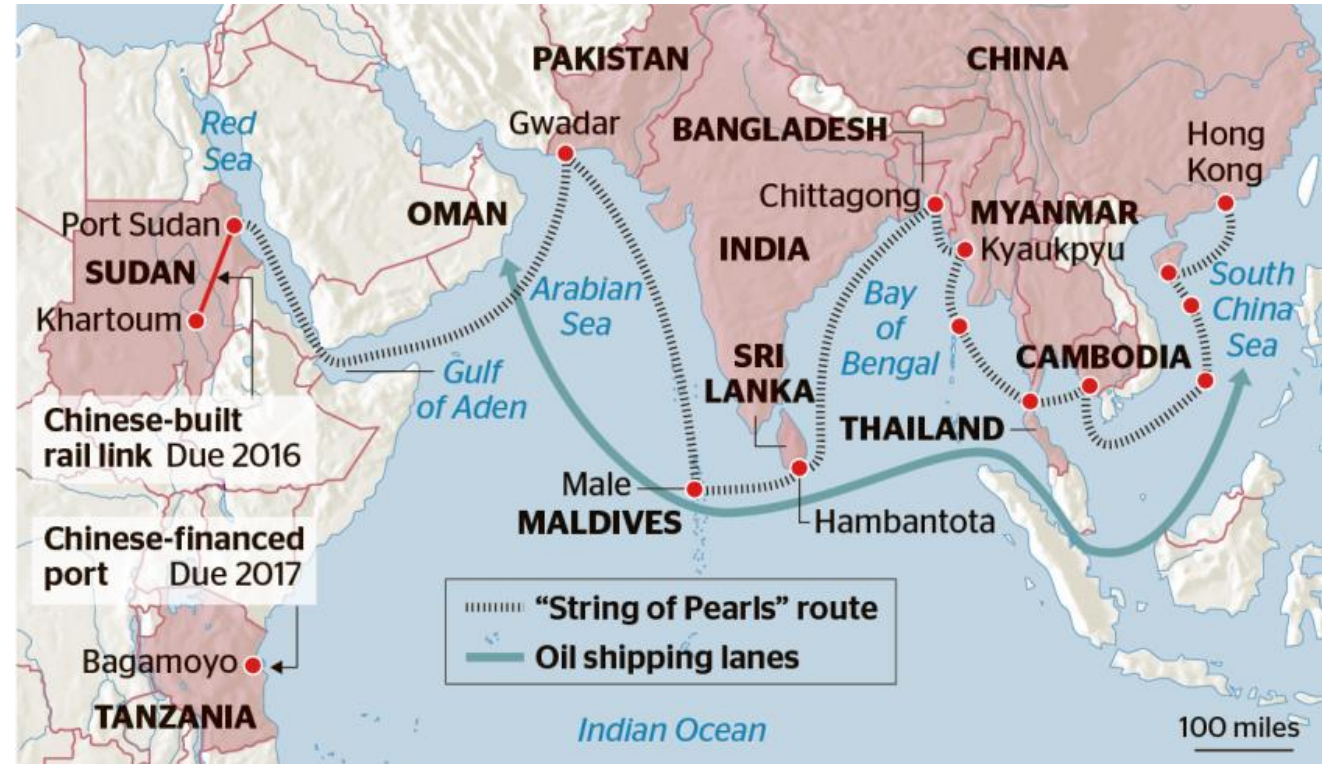
*Within change, uncertainty and realism, dynamics that condition conflicts are predicated on two faces of warfare: Primary face as defined by conventional forces and the shadow face as circumscribed by strategic nuclear forces. **Application of the former is an active art while the latter destroys purpose and therefore scripts the perimeter and imposes cut-offs.***

NUCLEAR ENVIRON: CHINA - STRATEGIC UNDERPINNINGS OF NUCLEAR POLICY

Guidelines for Development of Nuclear Weapons (1959) 7 tenets of the nuclear doctrine stemming from Mao's 'paper tiger' and minimalist appraisal:

- No First Use. Centralized Command and Control
- Minimal N-Forces without Compromising Credibility
- Assured Retaliation
- Modernization and Survivability
- **Value of Demonstration and Doctrinal Dynamism**

TENSIONS AT SEA: FREEDOM OF PASSAGE VS. PROPRIETARY ROUTES “MARITIME SILK ROUTE”



TENSIONS AT SEA: SOVEREIGNTY

- Strategic Orientation: Revisionist
- Case for Cooperative Security



PAKISTAN: THE N-PLANNERS NIGHTMARE STRATEGIC & DOCTRINAL FOUNDATIONS

- Strategic Collusion
- Arsenal-Acquisitory
- Ambiguity in Intentions , Specificity in Purpose
- Command and Control: Controller & Custodian – One
- Readiness & Survivability
- **Elements of “Irrationality,” Non State Actors**
- **Tactical Nuclear Weapons**

INDIAN PERSPECTIVE: NUCLEAR WEAPONS

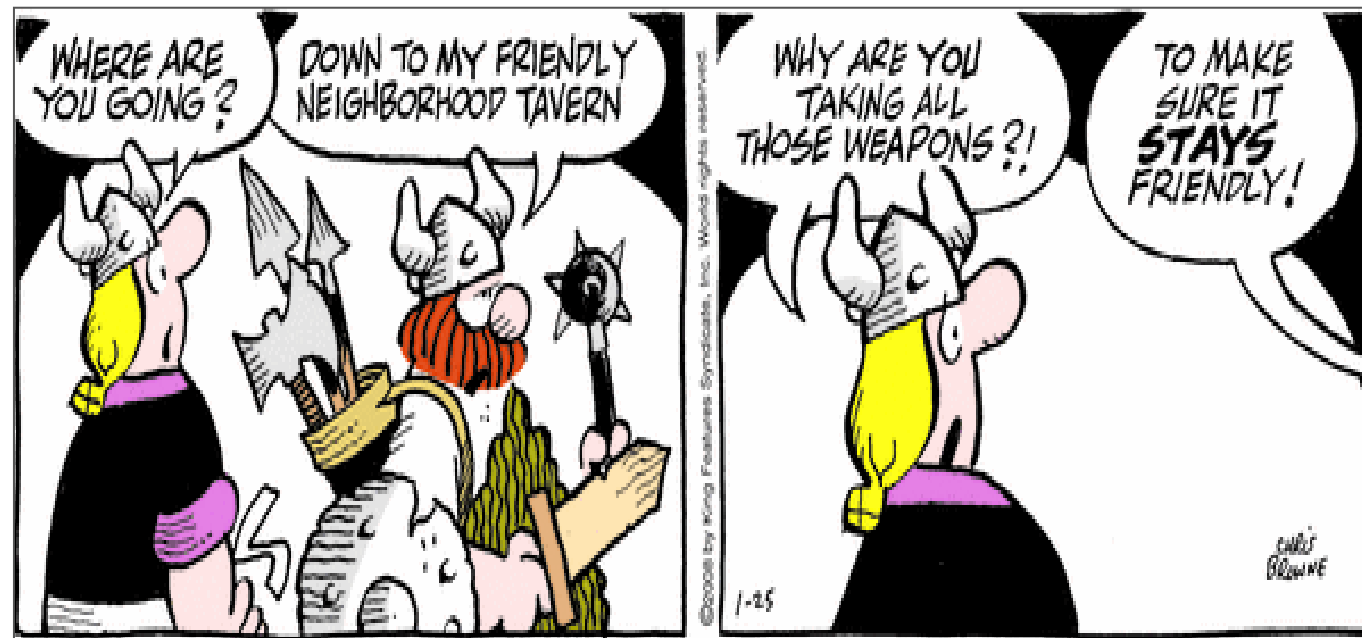
- Form: NFU, Minimality, Credibility
- Substance: Triad, Controller-Custodian Separation, **Nuclear**
Multilateralism
- No Recognition of Proportionality/Escalation Control
- Rationality

DETERRENT ENVIRONMENT

- Tripolar Tangle
- Perverse logic of nuclear exchange
- **The Nightmare Scenario: A conventionalized hair trigger deterrent, guided by ambiguity, opacity and military control strategy that finds unity with jihadists.**
- Deterrence Stability: an Illusion
- **Crisis stability: a Possibility**

DETERRENCE

- Rationality at the Core
- Gradations of Rationality:
Opportunistic, Feigned, Irrational

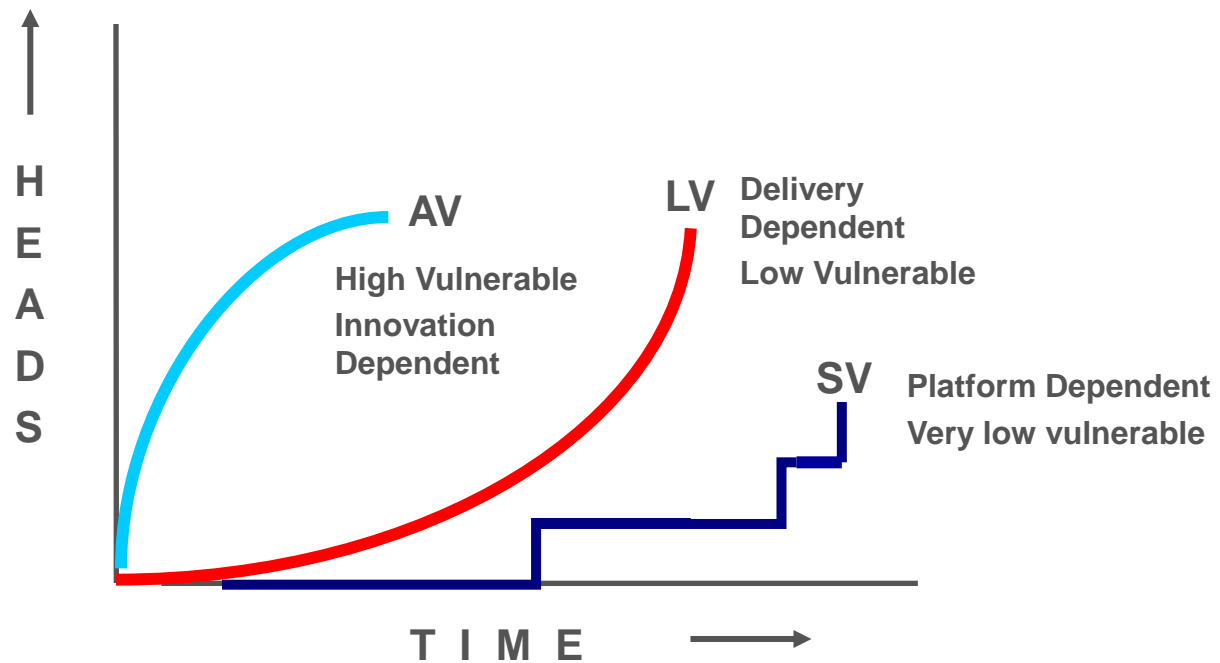


CONTRADICTIONS AND TRENDS

- Strategic Non-nuclear Weapons
- **Technology Paradox**
- **North Korea and Pakistan Conundrum**
- Evolution of Vectors and Arsenal
- How Much is Enough?
- Vulnerability

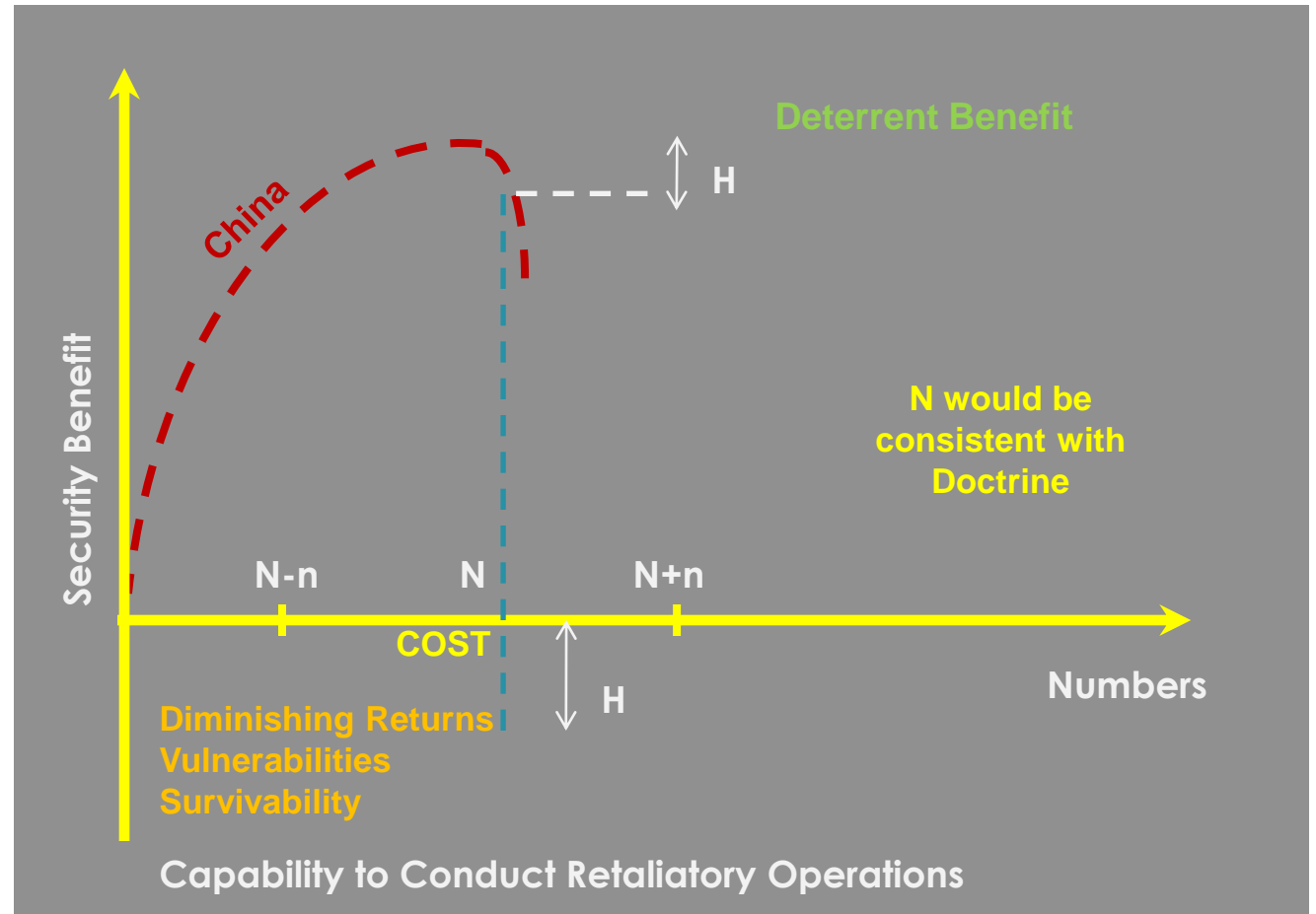
EVOLUTION OF ARSENAL

TIME – HEADS – VECTOR PROJECTION



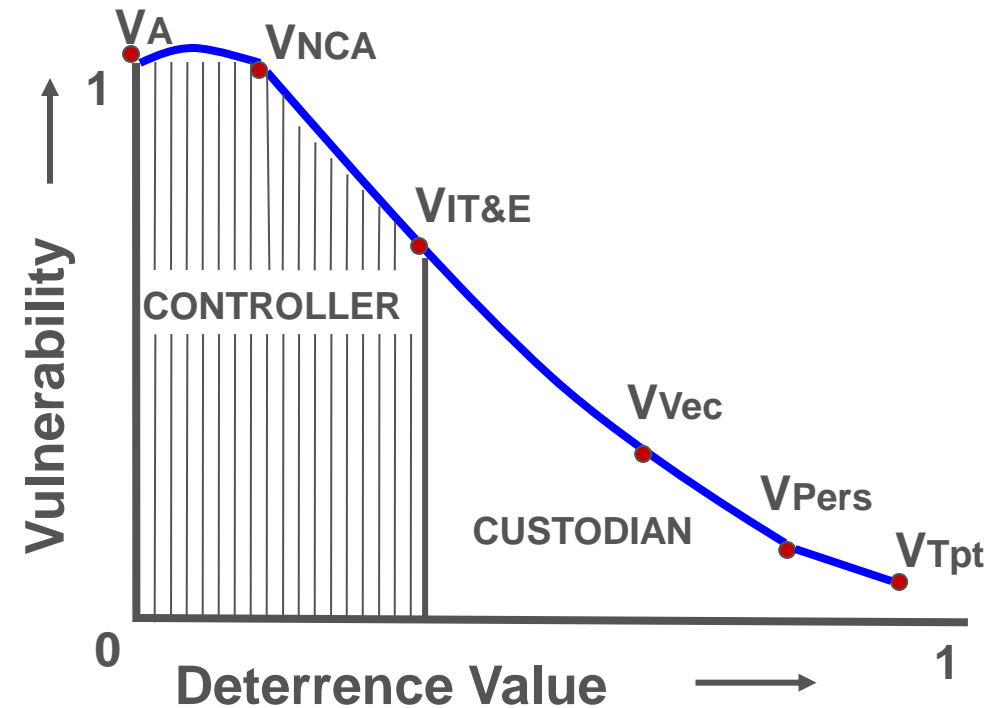
HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH? A LOGIC

Security Benefits of Nuclear Weapons



VULNERABILITIES AND SEPARATION OF CUSTODIAN FROM CONTROLLER

TIME – HEADS – VECTOR PROJECTION



Vulnerability values based on CARVER/DELPHI

IMPACT ON NUCLEAR FORCE PLANNING

- The Proposition: Examination of individual nuclear arsenals (China-DPRK-Pak) and their strategic underpinnings is not intelligible without **seeing them as one and then separate** – need for response
- Dualistic Nature of China's Strategic Thought
- Criticality of China's Nuclear Alliances
- China's Doctrinal Dynamism – Strait Jacket Effect

THE NCA PREDICAMENT

- Tech and Political Events driving the Arsenals
- Resolution of Technology Dilemma
- **Military psychology when charged with delegated TNWs**
- How to Weaken China's N-Alliances

CONCLUSION

- Nuclear Stability function of Intent, Credibility & Rationality
- Strategic Realities must be Accounted. Deterrence **Not** Theoretical Extrapolation
- Uncontrollability of N-Exchange
- Collusive Nature of China's Nuclear Alliances
- The Strangelove Effect and Purpose of War
- **NFU and the Triad: Staring Down an Abyss or a Recipe for Stability?**

