



21st Century Great Power Competition in the Indo – Pacific

Col Joachim Isacsson, DCDC Futures

DCDC's Continuum of thought

“

To be a leader in **innovative** and **respected** Defence **thinking**.

”

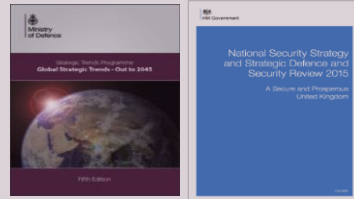


“

To **develop**, **deepen** and **challenge** the conceptual component of Defence's contribution to national power in order to produce outputs that **inform** Defence policy, strategy and force development, and **guide** operational activity and joint training and education.

”

Futures and Strategic Analysis



Doctrine



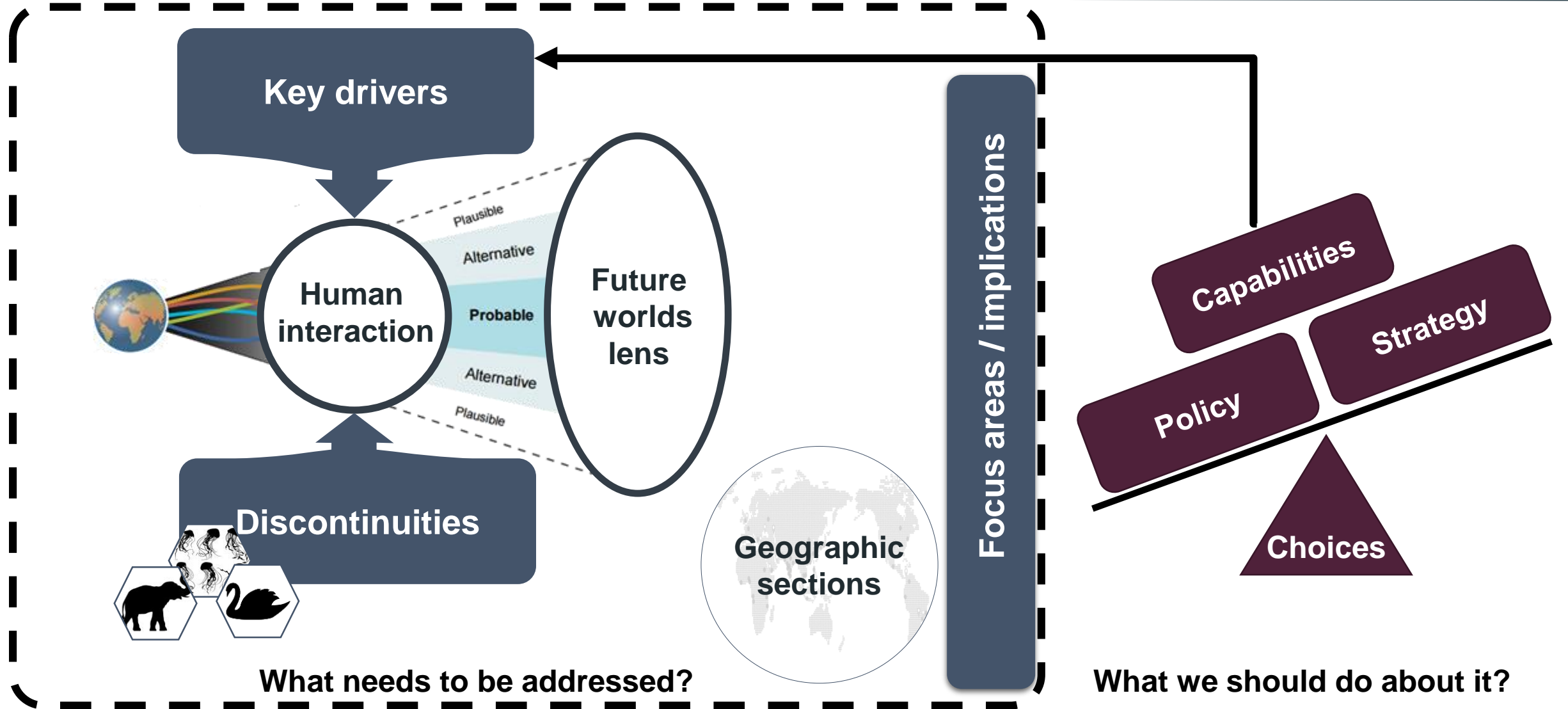
Concepts

Strategic Force Development



Command Force Development

Global Strategic Trends - shaping strategy



Six drivers of change

Increasing environmental stress



ACTION

Centrality of information



EXPLOITATION AND MITIGATION

Increasing human empowerment



ADAPTATION

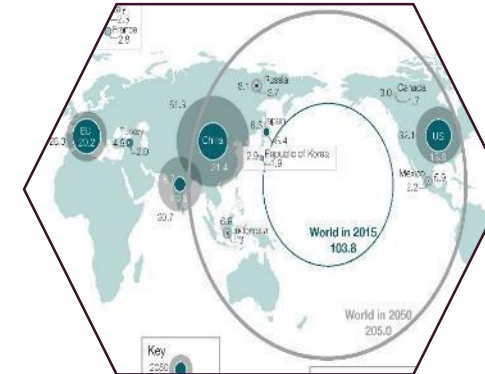
Changing populations and habitats



Accelerating technological advancements

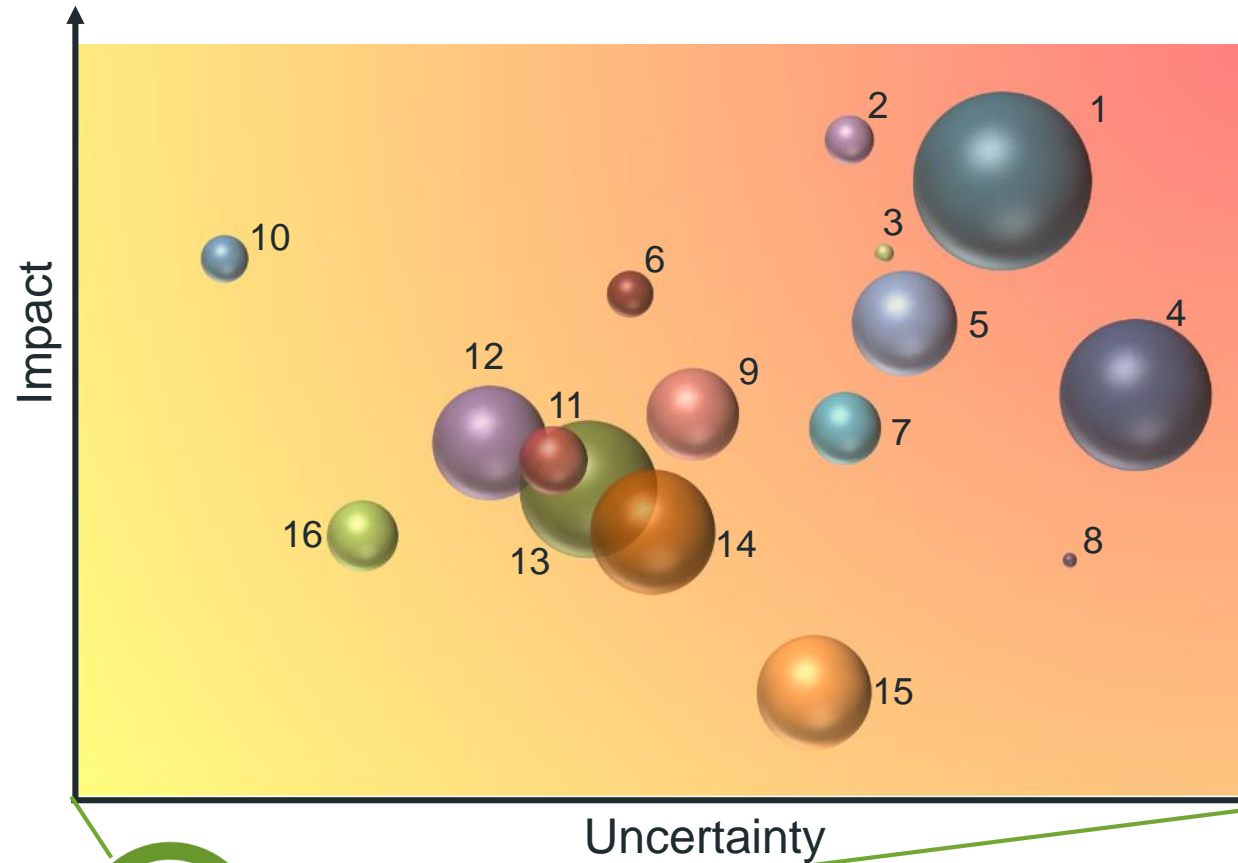


Power transition and diffusion



Exploring uncertainty

GST 6 Central idea: the rate of change and level of uncertainty may outpace good governance and unity



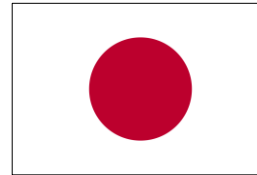
1. Harnessing artificial intelligence
2. An expanding competitive space
3. Increasing proliferation of weapons of mass effect
4. Erosion of state sovereignty
5. Adaptation of the rules based international system
6. An expanded and unregulated information space
7. Rising inequality, reducing social cohesion and fragmented societies
8. Understanding human enhancement
9. Increased competition in the global commons
10. Increasing disruption and cost of climate change
11. Resources, changes and competition
12. Greater automation and an increasingly diverse workforce
13. Managing technological change
14. The challenge of affordability
15. Increasing threat from crime and extremism
16. Managing demographic change

Great powers



US – China relationship pivotal to the world order

Future of China - a decisive factor for how the world order will develop



?

Other powers?



Power in decline?
Military power
China – Russia relation?



Biggest population
Third economy?
Great power - when?

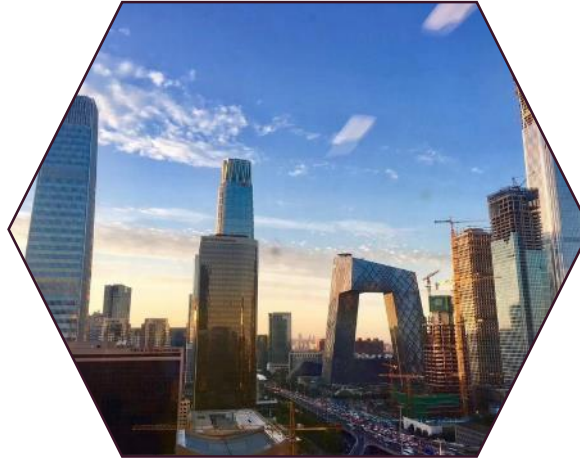


Still wealthy but
European cohesion
under pressure

Non-state actors



International organizations



Cities



Corporations



Organized crime



Violent extremist organizations

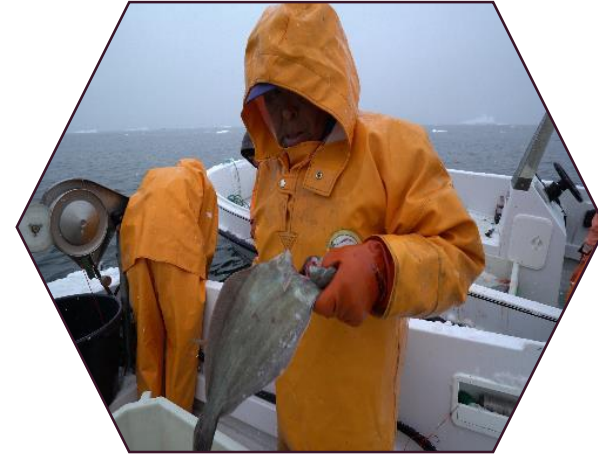
An expanding competitive space...



Technology



Space



The Oceans



Cyber space and information



Climate, energy and trade



International
Institutions

Geostrategic Competition



Security implications

Changing character of war and persistent competition?



Collective security and international law ?



Arms control?



Indo-Pacific security architecture



US remain the strongest military power

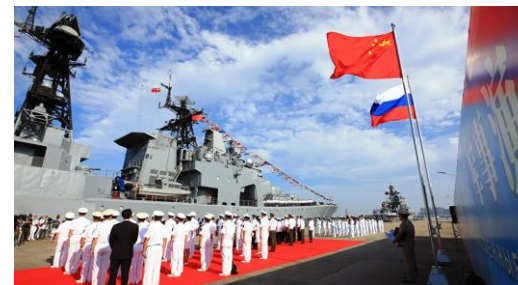
Chinese military superiority in the Western Pacific?

Expanding alliances/security cooperation?

Perceptions of threats, Chinese power ambitions and US reliability key.

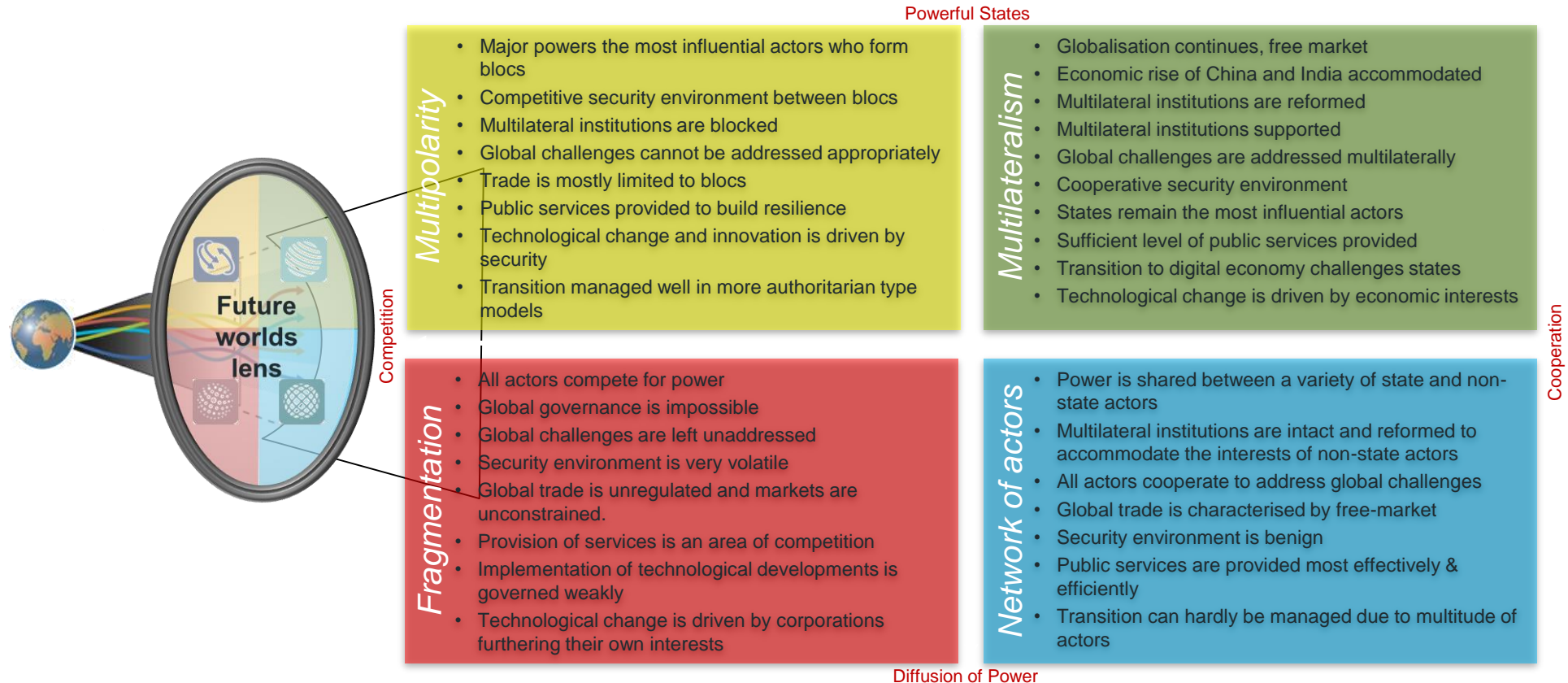


?



?

Which future world?





Questions?

Colonel Joachim Isacsson

UK MOD, DCDC

joachim.isacsson100@mod.gov.uk