

# NSI Pathways™ Afghanistan

April 2019 Rapid Update and Implications for Global  
Competition and Conflict

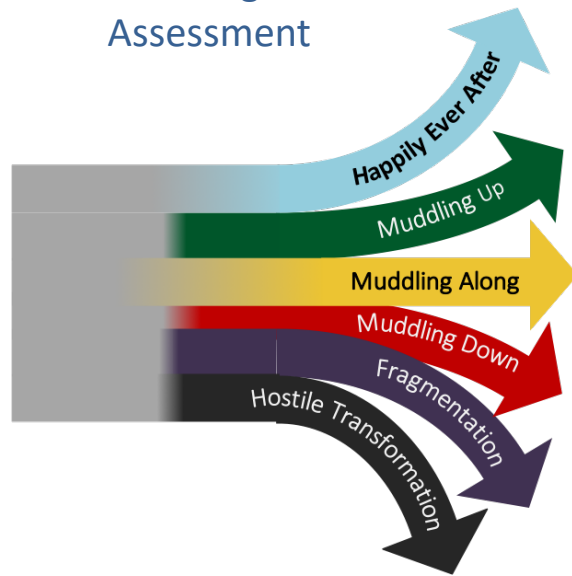
*Presentation at the 2019 Annual SMA Conference:  
“The Evolving Anatomy of Conflict in a Dynamically Changing World”*

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# NSI Pathways™ Model

*The Pathways model provides a framework for assessing the current conditions of a state—governance, economic, and social—and the direction in which it may be headed*

2018 Afghanistan Assessment



2019 Rapid Updated Assessment of Afghanistan Muddling Pathways



Today...

Use this analysis to explore how examination of one region can yield insights into global competition and conflict

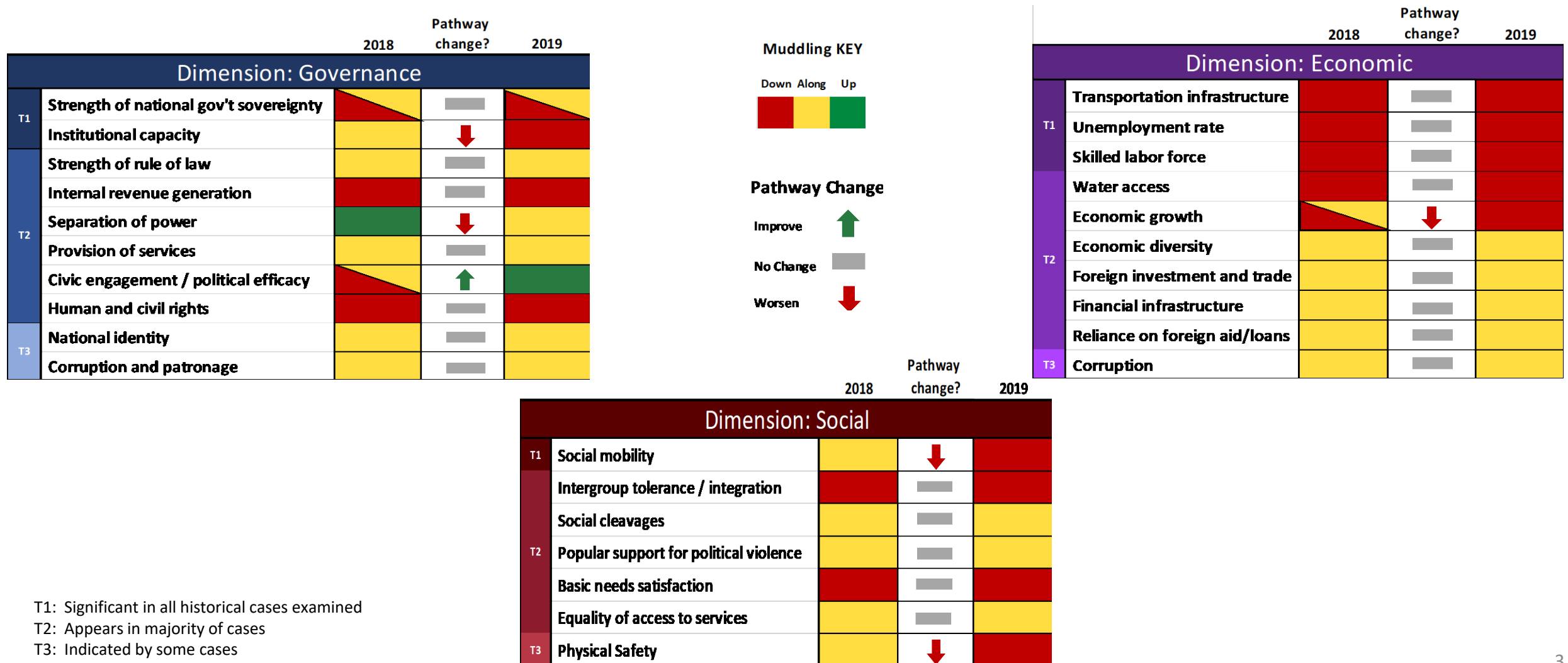
## Analytic Uses of Pathways

- Systematically evaluate conditions in a state to determine its current status
- Identify factors driving its trajectory or blocking future progress (good or bad) along a specific path
- Generate indicators and warnings for decline, fragmentation, or hostile transformation
- Identify possible points of leverage for moving on to, or further along, a pathway toward improvement

# NSI Pathways™ Afghanistan: Comparative Overview of Findings

**2018: Overall, AFG was muddling along**

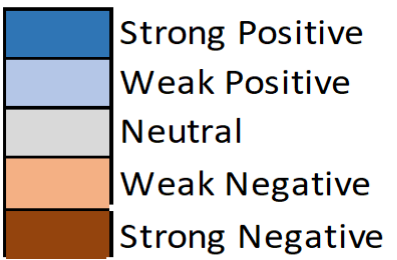
**2019: Still muddling, closer to muddling down**



T1: Significant in all historical cases examined  
 T2: Appears in majority of cases  
 T3: Indicated by some cases

# How Does This Relate to Global Competition and Conflict?

GLOBAL POWER INTERESTS		<i>How does a failed AFG affect INDIVIDUAL GP Interests?</i>		
		US	Russia	PRC
All	A. Promote domestic prosperity and economic strength	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
	B. Ensure security of borders and citizens	Strong Negative	Weak Negative	Weak Negative
US	C. Maintain existing rules-based international order	Strong Negative	Neutral	Neutral
	D. Maintain dominant status of political & cultural norms	Strong Negative	Neutral	Neutral
RU   PRC	E. Ensure regime legitimacy and survival	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
	F. Increase international influence	Neutral	Weak Positive	Weak Positive
	G. Decrease economic vulnerability	Neutral	Neutral	Weak Negative



# How Does This Relate to Global Competition and Conflict?

GLOBAL POWER INTERESTS		How does a failed AFG affect INDIVIDUAL GP Interests?			Relationship BETWEEN GP interests globally		
		US	Russia	PRC	US		Ru- PRC
					Russia	PRC	
All	A. Promote domestic prosperity and economic strength	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Competitive	Competitive	Complementary
	B. Ensure security of borders and citizens	Strong Negative	Weak Negative	Weak Negative	Competitive	Competitive	Complementary
US	C. Maintain existing rules-based international order	Strong Negative	Neutral	Neutral	Competitive	Competitive	Conflicting
	D. Maintain dominant status of political & cultural norms	Strong Negative	Neutral	Neutral	Zero-Sum	Zero-Sum	Identical
RU   PRC	E. Ensure regime legitimacy and survival	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Competitive	Competitive	Identical
	F. Increase international influence	Neutral	Weak Positive	Weak Positive	Zero-Sum	Zero-Sum	Complementary
	G. Decrease economic vulnerability	Neutral	Neutral	Weak Negative	Competitive	Competitive	Complementary

- Strong Positive
- Weak Positive
- Neutral
- Weak Negative
- Strong Negative

- Identical
- Complementary
- Competitive
- Conflicting
- Zero-Sum