

NSI Pathways™ Afghanistan

April 2019 Rapid Update and Implications for Global
Competition and Conflict

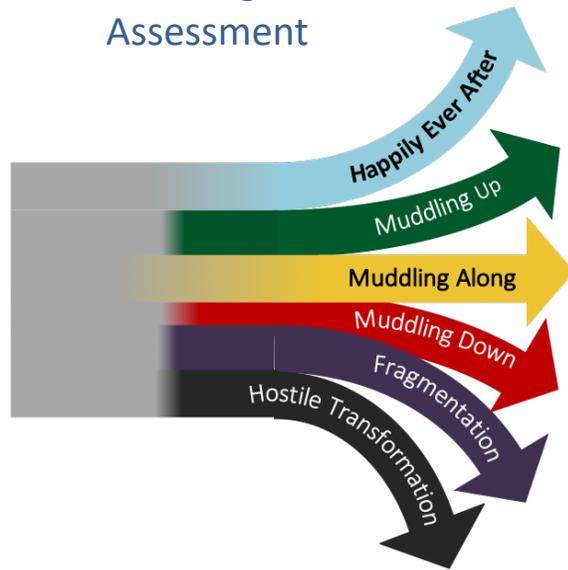
*Presentation at the 2019 Annual SMA Conference:
“The Evolving Anatomy of Conflict in a Dynamically Changing World”*

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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

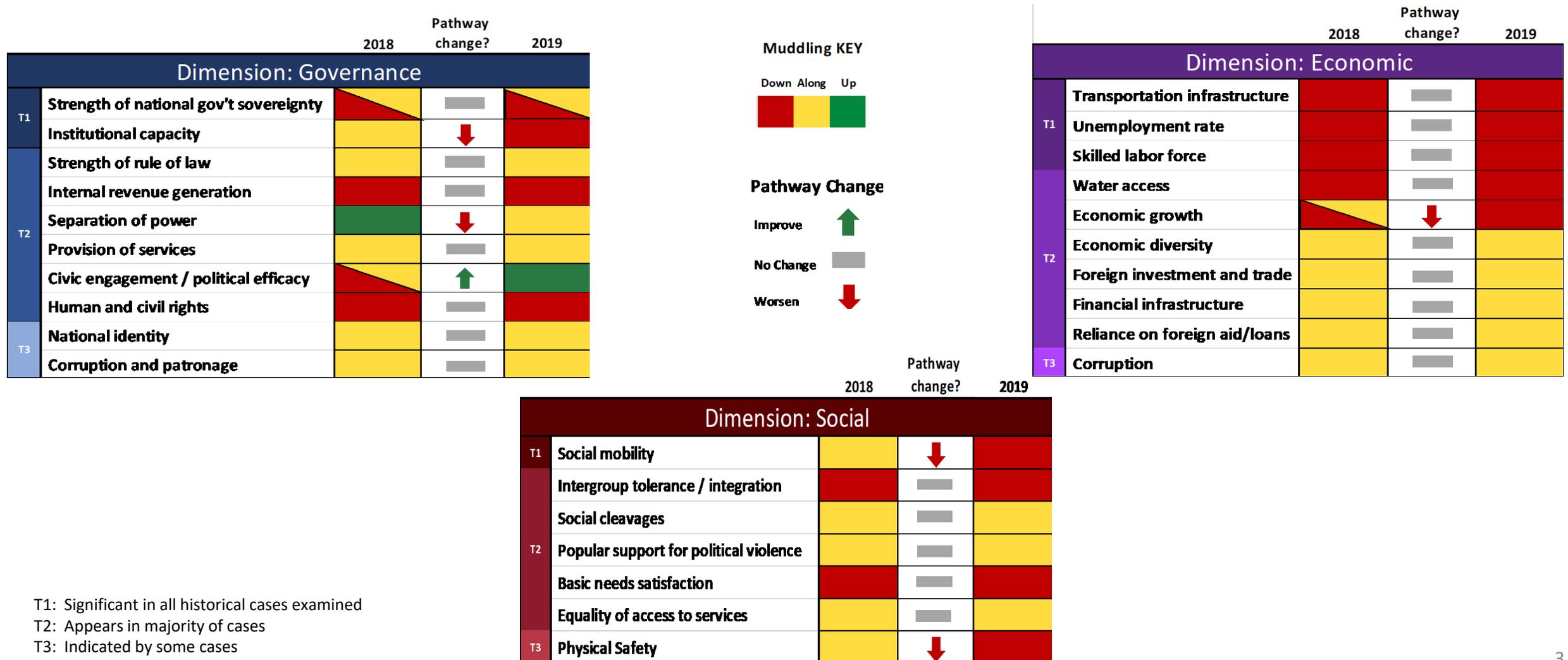
Analytic Uses of Pathways

- 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