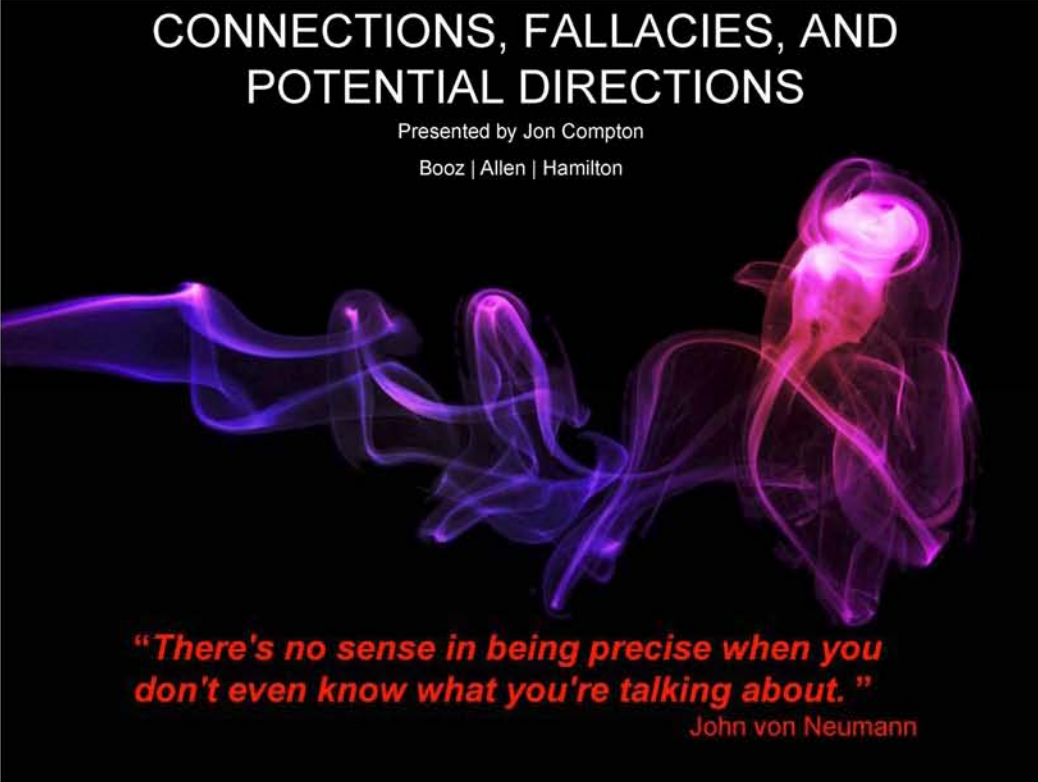


5.5 Connections, Fallacies, and Potential Directions

**CONNECTIONS, FALLACIES, AND
POTENTIAL DIRECTIONS**

Presented by Jon Compton
Booz | Allen | Hamilton



***“There's no sense in being precise when you
don't even know what you're talking about.”***

John von Neumann

PROBLEM

Quote of the hour (well, the next 20 minutes anyway....)

**“All models are wrong;
some are useful.”**

~ George Box

PROBLEM

Lies, damned lies, and statistics

A study published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition shows that breastfed infants tested 5.2 IQ points higher than formula fed infants, for a comprehensive study involving 11 different studies and over 7000 children.

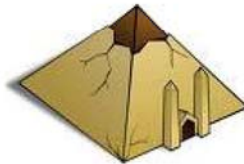


"Statistics are like bikinis. What they reveal is suggestive, but what they conceal is vital." ~Aaron Levenstein

PROBLEM

Forest but for the trees, trees but for the leaves

One of the major problems faced by the early pyramid builders was the need to move huge quantities of rock. While 80 men can drag a 2.5-ton block of stone on a sled, as depicted in carvings in some later Egyptian tombs, this brute-force method was not very efficient.



"Two quite opposite qualities equally bias our minds - habits and novelty" ~Jean de la Bruyere

"When knowledge is well guarded, it's easily lost." ~Anon.

PROBLEM

What econometricians know....

Without doubt the most widely cited review is the classic Meta-analysis of research on the relationship of class size and achievement (Glass & Smith, 1978). The two primary conclusions drawn from this material are:

- * reduced class size can be expected to produce increased academic achievement
- * the major benefits from reduced class size are obtained as the size is reduced below 20 pupils



"I never let schooling interfere with my education." ~Mark Twain.

PROBLEM

The Terms of the Discourse....

The Climate change debate:

Do you believe in:

- Climate Change?
- Global Warming?
- Anthropogenic Global Warming?
- Catastrophic Anthropogenic Global Warming?

And just who are the "flat Earthers" and just what don't they believe in?

"The most perfidious way of harming a cause consists of defending it deliberately with faulty arguments." ~ Friedrich Nietzsche

PROBLEM

Where theory and culture diverge

Prior to the development of consciousness, Julian Jaynes argues humans operated under a previous mentality he called the bicameral ('two-chambered') mind. In the place of an internal dialogue, bicameral people experienced auditory hallucinations directing their actions, similar to the command hallucinations experienced by people with schizophrenia today. These hallucinations were interpreted as the voices of chiefs, rulers, or the gods.



"The weight of original thought in it is so great that it makes me uneasy for the author's well-being...." ~D.C. Stove on Jayne's *The Origin of Consciousness*

PROBLEM

The Terms of the Discourse

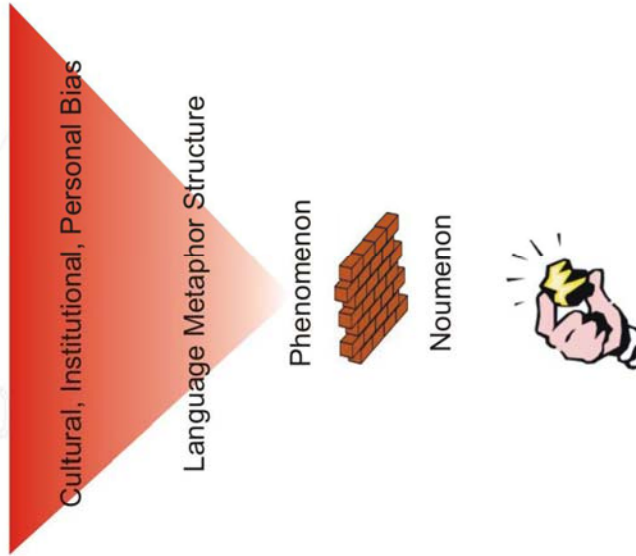
What is the definition of consciousness?

- Abstract thought?
- Memory?
- Language?

"The visionary lies to himself, the liar only to others." ~ Friedrich Nietzsche

PROBLEM

Even supermen must amuse themselves (sometimes at the expense of the lives of others)



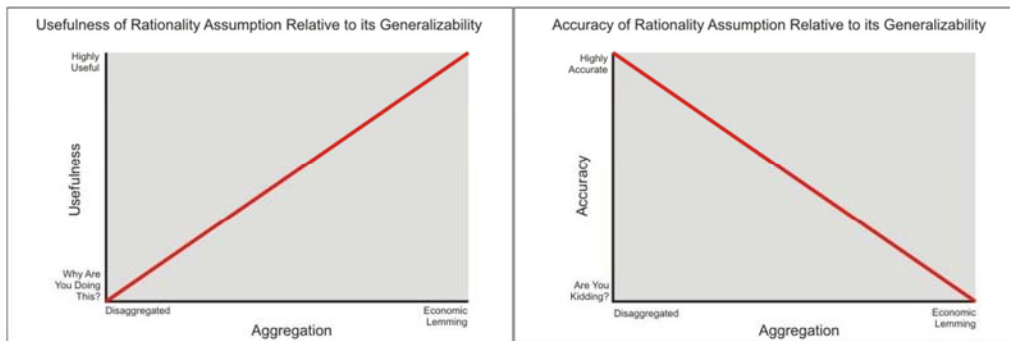
CHUMP

(Compton's Heuristic Ultracrepidarian Macromantic Pantomancer)

CONNECTIONS

The beauty of the rationality assumption (a tired tale indeed)

But what is the real problem?



Do you play chess?

"The irrationality of a thing is no argument against its existence, rather a condition of it." ~ Friedrich Nietzsche

CONNECTIONS

No, it's the theory, stupid



ASSUMPTIONS

NEVER ASSUME WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO PROVE,
UNLESS YOU'RE TRYING TO PROVE YOU'RE A BONEHEAD.

CASES

Who are these folks and what do they have in common?



Okay, this one is cheating... Hiroko Nagata

CASES

Terrorism: common assumptions

1. Terrorists are rational actors (Richardson)
2. Terrorism is largely the result of poverty or unequal distributions of wealth (Crenshaw)
3. Terrorists act to achieve specific political goals (Richardson)
4. Terrorism is a response to external pressures, such as foreign occupation (Pape)
5. Terrorism occurs for nationalist or separatist reasons (Williams)
6. Terrorism is a result of religious extremism (take your pick)

"Fighting terrorism is not unlike fighting a deadly cancer. It can't be treated just where it's visible - every diseased cell in the body must be destroyed." ~ David Hackworth

PROBLEMS > CONNECTIONS > CASES > WHAT NOW?

What are the problems with our common assumptions?

The seven problems identified by Max Abrahms

1. Terrorism fails to achieve the stated goal almost all of the time
2. Terrorism is almost never used as a last resort
3. Terrorist organizations almost always reject compromises despite significant policy concessions
4. Political goals of terror organizations are, without exception, protean
5. Terrorist attacks are usually anonymous
6. Competing terror groups with identical or highly similar goals generally prefer to attack each other than any other target
7. Terror groups seldom disband despite the consistent failure of the tactic to actually accomplish their objectives

"Everybody's worried about stopping terrorism. Well, there's a really easy way: stop participating in it." ~Noam Chomsky

"Noam Chomsky is a dumbass" ~Sebastian Synclair

What are the commonalities?

What are the common factors in these groups?

Identity Entrepreneur

Each has a founding member with charismatic appeal, a perception of injustice, and a...

Commitment to Violence

Each group has a core of people who hold a commitment to violence that shapes the goals and philosophy of the group (not the other way around). This core attracts people who seek...

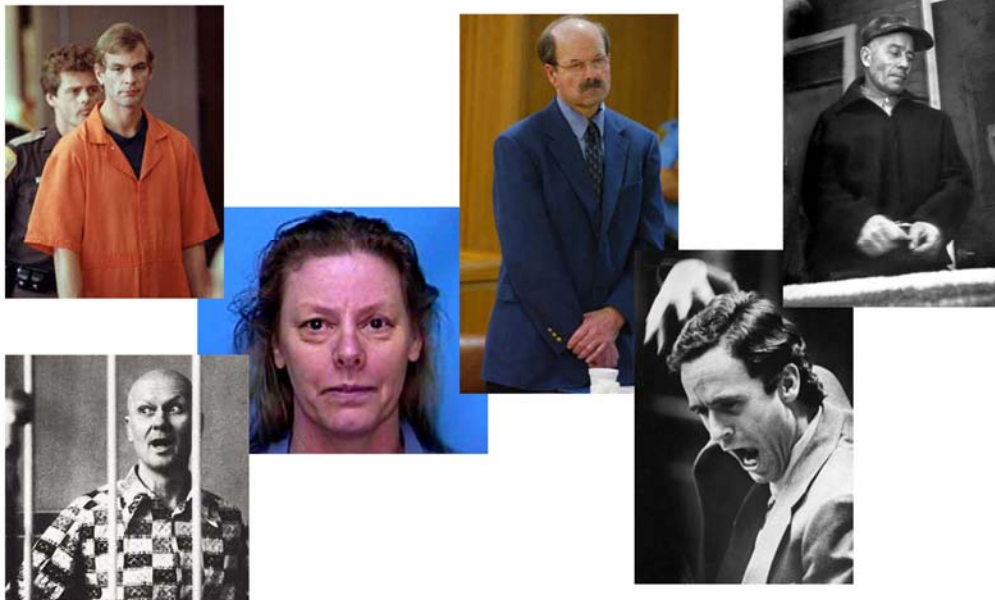
Social Affiliation and Identification

The bulk of these groups are filled out with people who lack the strong commitment to violence, but self identify with the lifestyle, philosophy, social atmosphere, and so forth, of the group.

"I don't worry about terrorism. I was married for two years." ~Sam Kinison

CASES

Who are these folks and what do they have in common?



What are the commonalities?

What are the common factors in these people?

Traumatic Experience Leading to Anger

Each has had some form of trauma as a child which spurred deep-seated resentment.

Strong Personal Commitment to Violence

Once begun, the commitment to violence against their chosen victims over-rides inhibitions.

Objectification of Victims

To accomplish the over-ride of inhibition to violence, victims are objectified—held apart—from their perception of humanity.

"People don't know me. They think they do, but they don't." ~Andrew Cunanan

Wait, What?



What are the common factors?
Traumatic Experience Leading to Anger
Strong Personal Commitment to Violence
Objectification of Victims

This is how we kill.

But...

What about the capacity for obsession?

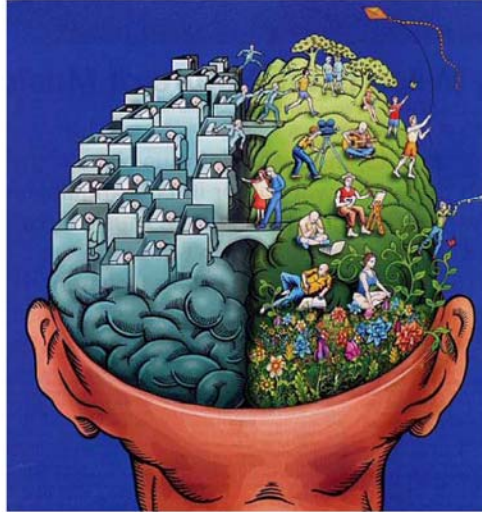


Figuring Out Where to Look....

Brain Hemispheres

Characteristics:

Narrow Focus
Linear
Non-multi-tasking
Decontextualizing
Abstractive
Specialized



Characteristics:

Broad Focus
Non-Linear
Multi-tasking
Contextualizing
Synthesizing
General

Figuring Out Where to Look....

This is a TEST!

Left Brain - Right Brain Conflict

Look at the chart and say the **COLOR** not the word

YELLOW BLUE ORANGE
BLACK RED GREEN
PURPLE YELLOW RED
ORANGE GREEN BLACK
BLUE RED PURPLE
GREEN BLUE ORANGE

Left - Right Conflict

**Your right brain tries to say the color but
your left brain insists on reading the word**

According to Iain McGilchrist, the hemisphere's of the brain vie for dominance in the individual, and that struggle manifests itself not only in the individual, but in society at large. This is because environmental conditions influence which side is dominant, and there are feedback effects.

Synthesis.....

How Do the Hemispheres Communicate?

Remember Jaynes?

If Bicameral Mind theory is correct, the development of Complex metaphor in language enabled modern consciousness.



What do Linguists think of that?

The Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis

Weak hypothesis: Structural differences between language systems will, in general, be paralleled by nonlinguistic cognitive differences, of an unspecified sort, in the native speakers of the language.

Strong hypothesis: The structure of anyone's native language strongly influences or fully determines the worldview he will acquire as he learns the language.

" Language forces us to perceive the world as man presents it to us." ~Julia Penelope

Synthesis.....

Cracked Pots...

If these observations and theories are correct:

1. There should be a correlation between language and hemispheric dominance in the brain.
2. Strong left-brain dominance in population groups should correlate with higher likelihoods of violent behavior, rational or otherwise.
3. Permissive or non-permissive environments should moderate the levels of violence originating from a particular social or cultural group.
4. These hypotheses should be testable.
5. We should, therefore, be able to identify population groups with higher likelihoods of violent behavior, and be able to apply policy decisions based upon the degree of permissiveness in the environment.

"Follow the path of the unsafe, independent thinker. Expose your ideas to the danger of controversy. Speak your mind and fear less the label of "crackpot" than the stigma of conformity." ~Thomas John Watson, Sr.

"Arnold has had his spokesman call me a crackpot. That was a mistake." ~Warren Beatty

Synthesis.....

This Pot Has Definitely Cracked....

Herein lies the end of the nutty part. The rest is boring.

Thank you for your attention.

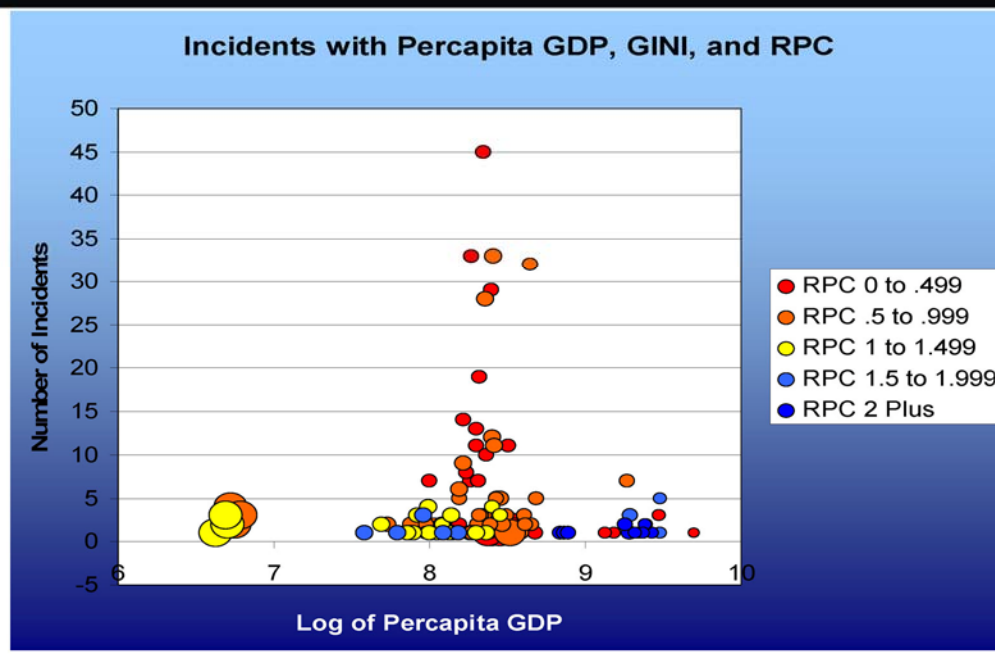
Comments are always welcome.

If you want to see the rest, I'm happy to go through after the session.

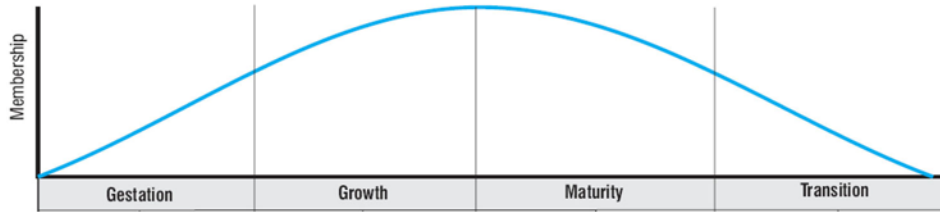
"Quotation is a serviceable substitute for wit." ~Oscar Wilde

CASES

What does the data say?



A way to conceptualize... The power of metaphor

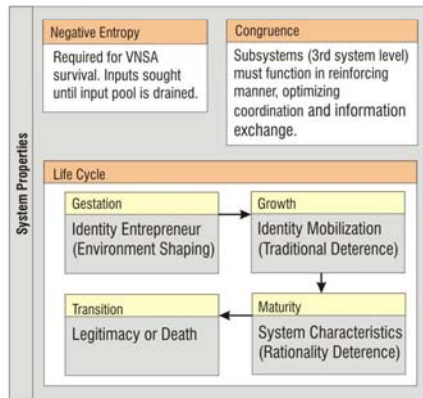


Violent Systems Theory: terror groups as living organisms

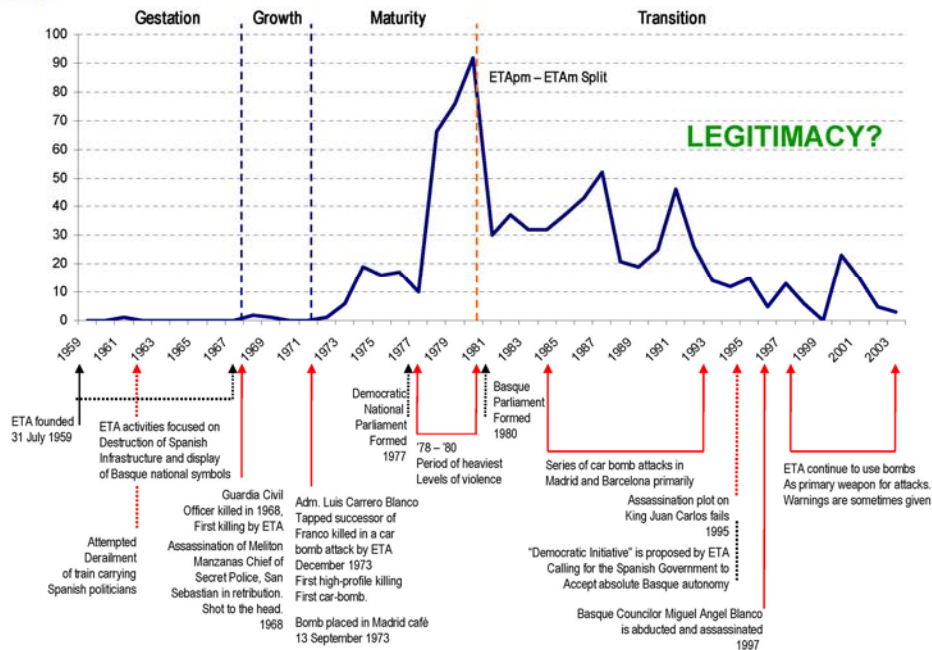
Entails:

- Life cycle
- System congruence
- Negative entropy

Overriding goal: SURVIVAL

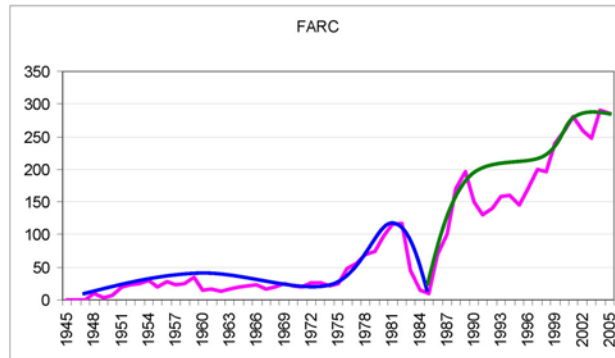
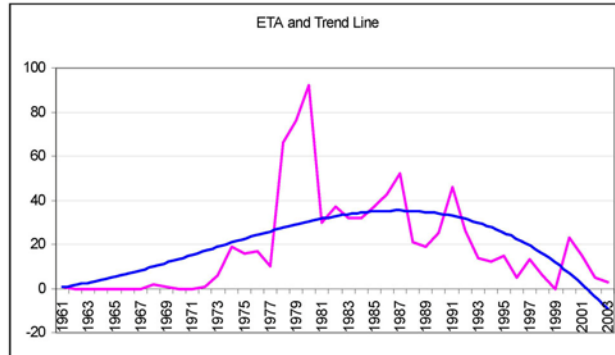
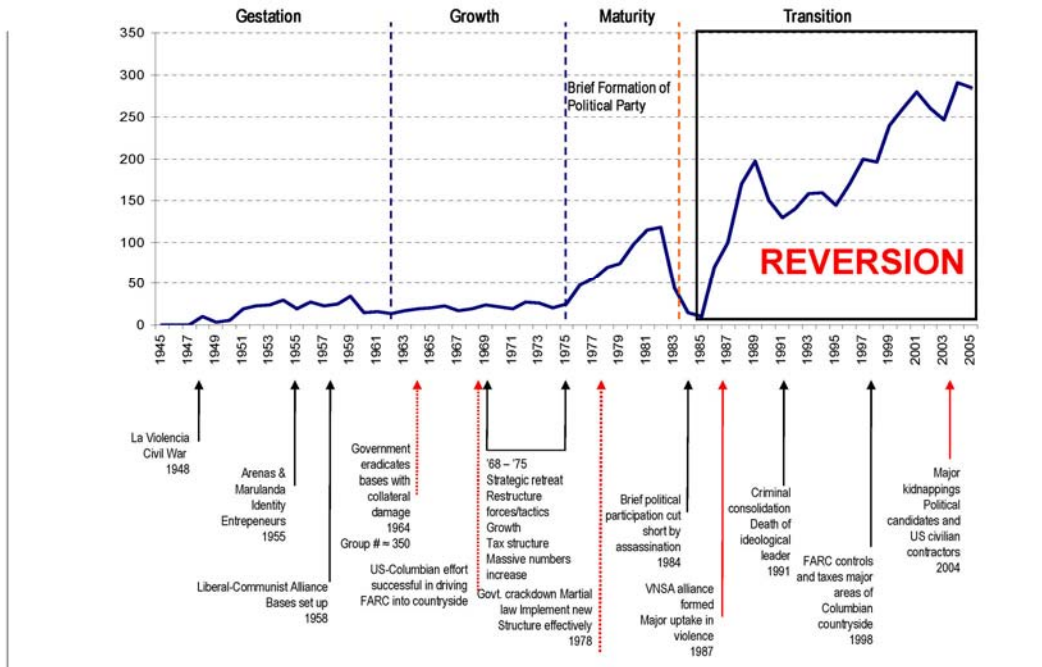


ETA Life Cycle

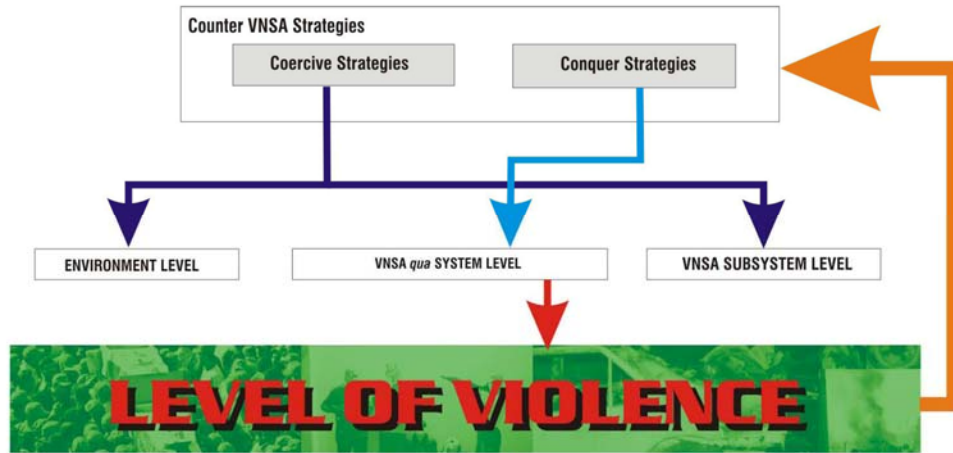




FARC Life Cycle



A way to conceptualize... The power of metaphor



The one size fits all fallacy

The factors mentioned on the previous slides are common among terrorist groups. But they do not necessarily extend to:

Organized Crime

Insurgency

Militias

Civil Wars

...

There is no silver bullet; aggregation breeds inaccuracy.

Non-state violent actors are defined by their acts, not by their intentions.

"Historically, terrorism falls in a category different from crimes that concern a criminal court judge." ~Jurgen Habermas

Tools (bet you don't know who this is)



"Um dem Terrorismus kein weiteres Terrain zu überlassen, ist der Staat von vornherein gezwungen, feste, von keiner Seite überschreitbare Grenzlinien des rechtsstaatlich Möglichen zu ziehen."

"In its effort to leave no free ground for Terrorism, the State is, from the outset, firmly hindered by the impenetrable barriers of its legal system." ~ (translation by mom)

Tools: Group

Descriptive:

Self Similarity

Power Laws

Case studies based upon outputs, not intentions

Fractal Geometry?

See Example Prisoner's Dilemma Game with tit-for-tat strategy

Important Characteristics and Take Aways:

Equilibrium states exist (power laws)

Networks are bounded and constrained (self similarity)

But remember: **DESCRIPTIVE DESCRIPTIVE DESCRIPTIVE**

"My master had power and law on his side; I had a determined will." ~Harriet Ann Jacobs

Tools: Individual

Psychological

Charismatic

Well delimited Identity

Strong perception of injustice

Depression Study

Depression linked to problem solving portion of brain

Excessive problem obsessions linked to depressive feelings

Decisions/Actions relieve depression feelings

Cycle works in both directions

The bright side of being blue: depression as an adaptation for analyzing complex problems, Andrews and Thomson

But remember: **DESCRIPTIVE DESCRIPTIVE DESCRIPTIVE**

"Man is the only animal for whom his own existence is a problem which he has to solve"
~Erich Fromm

Tools: How do we think about the problem?

"Step Back Thinking"

Move backward from the intractable problems until the issues begin to fall within the capacity to act.

Examples:

1. We don't have to worry about predicting whether or not a sub-national group will use an NBC weapon if they can't get one
2. We don't have to predict the supply routes or behaviors of drug runners if there is no demand for the product
3. I don't have to predict where traffic is likely to be difficult if I telecommute

"When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached, don't adjust the goals, adjust the action steps." ~ Confucius

Tools: How do we crack the nut?

1. Ruthlessly track and find our own vulnerabilities
2. Catalog, don't predict
3. Requires:
 1. Discover Identity Entrepreneur as early as possible
 2. Ascertain network structure
 3. Identify strategies that
 1. Attack IE
 2. Disrupt congruence of network
 3. Shape environment

"Our limitations and success will be based, most often, on your own expectations for ourselves. What the mind dwells upon, the body acts upon." ~Denis Waitley

To Predict or Not to Predict:

The Art of Prediction and the Power of Games

"No one could predict 9/11."

"Life imitates art far more than art imitates life." ~ Oscar Wilde

Tools: Wargaming?

Catalog, don't predict means:

1. Large n wargames (MS Flight Simulator)
2. Virtual world or virtual reality
3. Environmental, self adjudication
4. Catalog strong outliers (learn vulnerabilities, ours and theirs)

Second Life with guns!

1. Real world analogs
2. Real world consequences
3. Put skin in the game!

"If some unemployed punk in New Jersey, can get a cassette to make love to Elle McPherson for \$19.95, this virtual reality stuff is going to make crack look like Sanka."
~Dennis Miller

Thank you for your attention.

Comments welcome.

"Quotation is a serviceable substitute for wit." ~Oscar Wilde