



**STRATEGY
RESEARCH
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**XXI CENTURY: VEILED THREATS TOWARDS THE
NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY**

BY

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XXI CENTURY: Veiled Threats towards the National Security
Strategy

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ABSTRACT

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The National Security has already been affected by low priority threats. The strategy will likely depend on the ability of the strategists to identify and frame long term threats. This study explores the long term consequences of social threats. They may have little immediate import and low priority. There are simply not enough resources, time and energy to expend on a threat that is slowly developing over time with a long-lasting cumulative effect.

Introduction

As we are about to enter a new millennium, devising a broad national security strategy can have a profound effect on the outcome of future conflicts. A national security strategy defines national interests and objectives, identifies resources and suggests ways of employing those resources to accomplish objectives. It also includes a detailed analysis of threats towards national interests and available resources that can be mobilized to defend against them. Thus, a principal part of a national security strategy is to define and frame threats. However, much of the time threats are uncertain and diffuse and the process of selecting and framing them is highly complex.

In an age of ever decreasing resources, nations must prioritize threats against national interests and low priority threats are frequently ignored. Threats may be considered low priority for many reasons. Most often they may have only long term consequences of little immediate import and there are simply not enough resources, time, and energy to expend on a threat that is slowly developing over time with a far future cumulative effect.

There is no better example than the Greek civilization. The people of Greece were the first to develop a democratic way of life. They were far more advanced than any other society or civilization that had come before. They were the first to study botany, geometry, medicine, physics and zoology on a scientific basis. They held the first competitive athletic games. It developed a powerful political and military infrastructure. Although Greece fought many wars against foreign foes that presented an immediate threat to the national security, it ultimately fell to a slowly developing internal threat. Although Greek generals and strategists were quite capable of planning against external threats, they proved inadequate in devoting sufficient importance to internal threats, a shortcoming that proved to be their undoing.

The slow decay of strong social values resulted in Greece's decline. Moral disorder accompanied the growth of luxury and leisure. The individual freed himself more and more from traditional moral restraints - the son from parental authority, the male from marriage, the woman from motherhood, the citizen from political responsibility. Sexual and political morality continued to decline. Free unions gained ground on legal marriage. About 366 BC, Isocrates wrote: "The rich have become

so unsociable, that those who own property had rather throw their possessions into the sea than lend aid to the needy."

The life of comfort and domesticity, of business and scholarship, gradually replaced the Periclean life of exercise, martial discipline and public office. The supply of citizens for military service suffered a corresponding decrease. Soldiers shed their blood not for the fatherland, but for the best paymaster that they could find.

What kind of threats were able to overcome the Greek people? How did these threats go undetected by the "strategists" of that period of time in Ancient Greece? What can be done today to avoid repeating the tragic example of the Greek debacle?

The scope of this paper is to focus on long term, slowly developing internal threats to national security. The aim is to identify dormant social threats showing how they can undermine national interests. It will also seek to explain the role of information age technologies as powerful social value multipliers, setting, for better or for worse, new worldwide social standards. Finally, this analysis will postulate possible ways to find a new strategic model to avert the future noxious social paradigm.

Framing the Current Scenario

The minority is sometimes right; the majority always wrong.

George Bernard Shaw, The Road to 2015

Human behavior is directly related with a social value shift model. There is no doubt that the present social paradigm has changed. Traditionalists and progressives are in open conflict for the mind of society today. The question is how to affect the shift process? It seems that the majority is always right and going far from the idea that the Deity not only approves righteous behavior but has laid down a moral law to govern the relations of men in society.

It isn't easy to explain how values are established in society. However, it seems clear that in human affairs some forms of behavior are considered always wrong by the majority. Ethical relativity may exist in some degree, but some basic standards or code of morality are universally accepted in most societies.

History has pointed out the tragic consequences when a nation gradually departs from the basic universal ethical code. This frequently happens when a nation depreciates the institution responsible to transmit values to the oncoming generations: the family.

The family is the institution that most fundamentally shapes and nurtures personal values. Children historically have gained their sense of self worth and positioned themselves in the greater society through the implicit and explicit teachings of their parents and extended family. This social unity and continuity has always provided the basic equipment-the stability-that allowed citizens to deal more or less effectively with the major changes in history.¹

Drawing the Reality

Present social parameters reflect how quickly changes are taking place in human society. Benefiting from available social data in the United States, the extension of those modifications can be projected to a global scale. Rapid social change doesn't only occur in the United States. It is a worldwide phenomena, particularly because modern technological advances are allowing unprecedented free movement of goods, people and ideas.² The following data, extracted from the American Almanac, demonstrates

considerable social change during the past decade in the United States.

Table 1. Social Values Change Indicatives ³

	1980	1985	1990	1991
BIRTH TO UNMARRIED WOMEN-PERCENT OF TOTAL	18%	-	28%	30%
FEDERAL PROSECUTION OF PUBLIC CORRUPTION (INDICTED)	721	1182	1176	1452
DELINQUENCY CASES DISPOSED BY JUVENILE COURT	-	1112	1274	1338
DRUG ARREST RATE FOR DRUG ABUSE VIOLATION RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION	256	346	435	400
PRISONERS UNDER JURISDICTION OF STATE AND FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL AUTHORITIES	329,821	-	773,919	825,619
TOTAL VIOLENT CRIME-RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION	-	557	732	758

The future has already been affected by today's changes. It isn't simply a question of historic cycle or natural paradigm shift. The focus should be addressed to the feasibility of the new social paradigm for human society. Some new parameters have been formed beyond the permissible social limit. It entails a future dangerous environment for social relationship survival.

The problem starts with the relationship at birth between the child and its parents. Demographer Peter Morrison suggests that one reason why children's families are changing is that more women having children are not married. Nationwide, in 1988,

unmarried women bore 1 million children, or 26 percent of all births that year, the highest proportion ever. In the past 30 years, the divorce rate has tripled. Of every 100 children born today, only 41 will reach the age of 18 living continuously with both parents.⁴ This is a very significant statistic because, as Bonnie L. Barber and Jacqueline S. Eccles reported in a 1992 article published in *Psychological Bulletin*, children from divorced families are more likely to engage in deviant behavior.⁵

Instability in the family also causes problems in the schools. Children have more trouble with learning and getting along with their classmates. At the same time, they are more likely to have behavioral problems acting as a bad examples among their peers. Thus, the process has a strong likelihood of generating negative reactions against the school as an institution.

As a consequence, the schools are losing the capability to play a major role in character education. They have been transformed into a fertile environment for transferring and nurturing negative values. At the same time, the schools have abandoned the Bible as a public school's source for moral instruction. New theories have been introduced. They include social Darwinism, positivism, personalism, and pluralism.

Positivism advocates morality as relative and private, a personal value judgment. Pluralism raises the question of whose values should be taught.⁶ Therefore, schools are no longer able to transmit and teach values that could assure a better society.

Second Order Effects

The schools, as they are organized presently, have played a role as a great moral values leveler. It can be understood as a dynamic market where values are transmitted and exchanged. Youth spend more time with peers than with their family. Peers can influence positively or negatively. However, the negative side is frequently reinforced by the effect of the electronic media. Thus, the school is just a physical component of the equation, unable to act as a positive values booster, and services as global effects multiplier.

Consequently, peers, anchored at school, have a powerful influence in the process of transferring values. It goes well beyond dressing alike. Peers influence educational aspiration and also the use of drugs such as alcohol, marijuana, and other illicit substances.⁷

Besides the drug problem, maladjusted children have more propensity to get involved in juvenile delinquency. A new study has found that while the number of adults arrested for murder has

declined since 1985, there has been a stunning increase in the number of boys under 18 charged with homicide.⁸

The Technological factor

Technology is encouraging the unchecked flow of ideas and concepts. Social values are passed from one culture to another without regard for previous geographical boundaries. Satellite Systems are spreading cable TV channels, telephonic connections, and instantaneous computer access throughout the world. The countries of the world have been tied together into a "global village". As a result, movie-makers and the television network are powerful instruments in setting new social standards based on present social changes. The world is absorbing what has been transmitted by films, music, dance, clips, newspapers and magazines. The mass media, basically television and radio, play formative roles in the value system of youth. A typical teen is likely to see over one hundred films per year either via television, movie theater, or movie rentals.⁹ On an average, adolescents spend approximately eight hours per day with some form of mass media.¹⁰ Crime and violence on television have been one of the most important factors in the increase of aggressiveness of youth.

Therefore, technological advances are accelerating social changes in the world. They are also acting as a negative values booster when showing low level programming or transmitting violent content. Telecommunications have endowed the dominant mass media, with a powerful multiplier effect. Indirectly and directly, they influence people world-wide to shape their social values.

Prospective Scenario - New Century

The four most fundamental drivers of the future are information availability, technology, the physical environment and social values.

John L. Petersen, The Road to 2015

Social values will play a fundamental role in shaping the future. Unfortunately, the present changing social environment doesn't imply a safe and promising future. The changes which are taking place today haven't been treated as a potential danger to National Security. There is no survival interest or an imminent threat of massive destruction at stake. Such crises are easy to detect. They are dramatic. Internal social threats are more subtle unobtrusive, promulgate long term effects. They possess

potentially high destructive power which is transmitted onto the next generation.

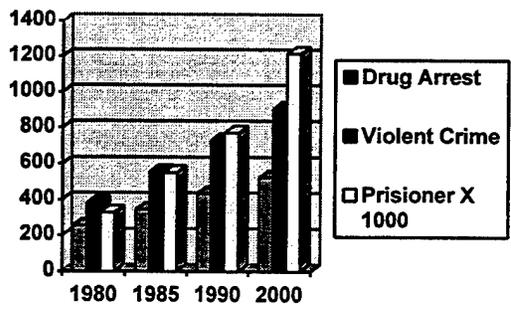
A serious change in priorities is required to project a feasible future. World population is growing by 92 million people annually; 88 million of these people are born in the developing world. It's time for the wealthier nations to think beyond their borders and the present generation. Social problems are becoming global in nature. More people in the world aspire to reach the living standards of the richest countries. The population of the South will reach 1 billion in about 10-15 years. With largely unfulfilled economic expectations in the South, the countries of the North will become greatly concerned about large-scale migration.

The problems will consequently become quite different. The massive migration from the south will aggravate social fragmentation which is already happening in the North. People from the South, most of them unemployed, will compete with the local labor force. As illegal immigrants, they can be easily recruited by organized crime in big cities. As a background, they will bring with them the "new social values" learned from the mass media in their former countries.

The refugee flow is another concern to the North. In 1960, there were about 1.4 million refugees. The number hit the 10 million mark in 1982 and now has grown from 17 to 23 million refugees who have crossed international borders in the last decade.¹¹ The refugees frequently must depend on the generosity of neighboring countries. However, they represent a huge social onus for the host country.

Internal social pressure will continue for the foreseeable future. It can be seen in Table 2, the present tendency for increased criminal activity. The breakdown of the family plus the external populational pressures can create internal chaos in some nations of the world and require authorities to use additional measures, perhaps even the armed forces, to assure internal order and the permanency and stability of institutions.

Table no. 2 - Tendency of Drug Arrest, Violent Crime and Number of prisoners.



Remark: Drug Arrest and Violent Crime (rate per 100,000 population)

Therefore, social fragmentation along with eroding moral values will set the stage for the scenarios of the next century:

- The increasing number of people raised outside of a family will result in the loss of national cohesion. Selfishness and loneliness will direct the new way of life. Population unrest will approach the breaking point. Society will not enjoy the cohesive effect of shared spiritual/moral beliefs.

-Life will be extremely complex. The lack of values will increase the propensity to commit violent crimes. Robbery and burglary will become logical counter-alternatives for massive unemployment. The courts will be overloaded with cases to be disposed of. An ineffective justice system won't be able to enforce the law.

- In such a social climate, desperate inner-city minorities who have nothing to lose may organize and carry out urban guerrilla activity against established authorities and commercial interests. This is not something set in the future, it is a latent state that already exists in many of hard-core inner-city areas.¹²

-Without restrictions in civilian weapons trade, militias will come to represent a more viable internal threat. In a desperate search for improving quality of life conditions, many

unsatisfied people will gravitate to militias, increasing the urban and rural terrorism.

-The demand for illicit drugs will increase. Individuals will be looking for something to artificially alleviate the sadness and loneliness. Additionally, the drug market will represent the key activity for organized crime and also a major source of employment.

-The loss of moral principles will leave citizens more aggressive, violent, and floundering around without a group identity or sense of community.

Implications for the Armed Forces

Internal security missions may prevail over external defense issues. Drug trafficking, illegal immigration, crime, and urban terrorism will become more significant national security issues. Due the internal social chaos, the following implications for the Armed Forces can be projected:

- Enlistment within armed services will become extremely difficult as a result of low level social values and character.

- Extensive educational programs will be required to prepare new recruits. It will take longer to build individual self

confidence and achieve unit loyalty. Promoting military values may require specialized schooling or training.

- The scenario will keep the armed forces in the role of "nation-builder."

- Fighting organized crime and militias will require special training in urban environment. At the same time, the potential for corruption among the military personnel will be always a major concern.

Changing the Future

Waiting for a crisis to force us to act globally runs the risk of making us wait too long.

Isaac Asimov

The industrial age brought the belief that happiness and satisfaction could be gained from material wealth. Our economic, social and political systems are based that way. That is how we keep score. But we live in a time when we must change the incentives. We must add new elements to the equation on which we establish and have our lives - things like our environment, families, education, cities, the list is endless.¹⁵

Common sense dictates that something needs to be done. But the real question is how to offset, and change the direction of current trends? Obviously, political will is necessary. However, society also plays an important role. A national aspiration for change should be the driving force. Once more, mass media can help to build such will in the society, but in this case in a positive direction.

A successful strategy will require actions in specific areas like: family, education, mass media, community, international relations.

As an example of practical solutions, this analysis will focus into some of those areas where the strategist may translate society aspirations into concrete steps. There is no intention to cover the whole spectrum of ways which can be used to achieve the ends. It merely reviews some feasible courses of action that a government could utilize to avert the degradation of social values.

It is important to say that the expected results may take a long time to be measurable. Many experts suggest at least one generation. At the governmental level, the strategy to avert the breakup of the social values, certainly, will require actions which may involve the steps in table no. 3.

Table no. 3 - Suggested actions- (example)

Ends	Ways	Means
-Mothers back to home	-national campaign -lower tax and higher wave for families where the wife is at home -educational programs for new couples	-mass media -federal law -organized by local communities
-Making divorce more restricted	-creating legal mechanisms -imputing additional responsibility to divorced parents toward the community	-federal law -enforced by local communities
-Teaching families	-National Family program -Social workers visiting program	-federal law -mass media -federal government.
-Teaching values at schools	-back to the Bible -Creating small schools to limit dissemination and standardization of negative values	-national campaign -federal government initiative
-Nation-build mass media	-Working along with the TV networks to reduce violence	-federal government -local community
-Reducing crimes	-Restricting trade of civilian weapons and ammunition -general civilian disarmament	-federal law -using Armed Forces -national campaign
-Reducing illegal immigration	-Using Armed forces-(borders) -Strengthen the economy in neighbor countries	-federal government -better distribution of the world's wealth

Empowered by information age technologies, most developed nations play the main role on setting the world's moral agenda. Major networks and telecommunication nodes can make the difference in the war against social fragmentation. At the same time, it will be a heavy political onus for the governments due the following reasons:

- long time to achieve the results;
- hard to accomplish;
- big amount of resources are necessary;
- absence of any immediate political dividends;

Another aspect focuses on the idea that moral decline will never become a top priority, as a survival national interest. The natural tendency is to postpone the question. There will be time enough in the future. Thus, at some future point, when the situation has become desperate, governments may realize the seriousness of the problem. Governments may try to mobilize all instruments of power. However, at this point in the future it may be too late to start the process.

Conclusion

The existing social scenario reveals a robust dynamic and profound changes in basic values. Family fragmentation has altered the "social tissue", with negative implications for the future. Sharply rising rates of divorce and single mothers are composing a new social picture. The remaining families are not playing the primordial role of instilling traits such as discipline, ambition, respect for law and respect for others.

Children are liberally exposed to potentially harmful contents of the mass media. As a consequence, national security may be threatened at its most fundamental level.

The magnitude of these trends has been amplified by the powerful multiplier effect of the mass media. Television, radio, magazines, films and video are replacing parental influence at home. As an industry where money has higher priority than values, media has forged the human prototype of violence, sex and aggressiveness. As a consequence juvenile delinquency, is growing in geometric progression.

The phenomenon has worldwide dimensions. Technological dominion has resulted in most developed countries also having a dominant media and a bigger influence in setting the global social agenda. Thus, the world, as a "global village", is witnessing a globalization of new moral standards transmitted by the big networks. At the same time, mass media also creates unfilled expectatives and stimulates illegal immigration by displaying the living standards of the richest countries.

Family break up has brought about significant changes in human behavior. Depression and loneliness increase the propensity for drugs, crime and lack of personal responsibility. The established social institutions may lose the control over

society. Courts will become more overloaded and unable to deal with thousands of cases simultaneously. Inevitable negative social consequences portend an eventual break down of the state itself with serious consequences for National Security.

Social fragmentation is likely to persist unless the whole society can be mobilized to exert pressure over the political process. The armed forces will eventually play the main role in the internal defense against such pernicious threats. It implies that the government needs to prepare troops to operate in an urban environment.

Finally, a feasible strategy requires a serious commitment with the future. The solution involves a change of attitude - the renewal of faith and rededication to the moral principles. The changes that are made in response to today's pressure should not be allowed to destroy values that will be important, even critical to future generations.

ENDNOTES

¹ John L. Petersen, "The Road to 2015", ed. Scott Calamar (Emeryville: Waite Group Press, 1994), 130.

² "Regional Strategic Appraisals", ed. Institute for National Strategic Studies (Carlisle: U.S. Army War College, 1996), 7.

³ American Almanac 1996

⁴ Petersen, p. 131.

⁵ Bonnie L. Barber and Jacquelynne S Eccles, " Long Term influence of Divorce and Single parenting on Adolescent Family and Work Related Values, Behaviors, and Aspirations", Psychological Bulletin, III, no. 1, 1992: 110.

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⁷ Michael Josephson, Ethical Values, Attitudes, and Behavior in American Schools, (Marina del Rey, CA: Josephine Institute of Ethics, 1992), 35.

⁸ Petersen, p. 138.

⁹ Roberto Bezilla, ed., America's Youth in the 1990s (Princeton): The George Gallup International Institute, 1993, 30.

¹⁰ Shirley S. Feldman and Glen R. Elliot, eds., At the Threshold: The Developing Adolescent (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1990), 296.

¹¹ Amy Kaslow and George Moffet, "Refugees without a Refuge," (Christian Science Monitor, 1 March 1995), 1,10.

¹² Petersen, p.336.

¹⁵ Petersen, p.341.

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