

The New Administration's National Security Challenges

Threats & Uncertainties

Keith Hansen
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Introduction

- **Focus on National Security threats & uncertainties**
- **Trump's stated priorities & early moves**
- **Trump's national security team & possible policies**
- **No crystal ball, but there are indications!**
- **Questions (*now & later*)**

Helpful Sources

- **Director of National Intelligence - “Annual World Wide Testimony”** before House and Senate armed services & intelligence committees
- **Great Again - How to Fix Our Crippled America, Donald Trump**
- **Trump Revealed - An American Journey of Ambition, Ego, Money and Power, Michael Kranish & Marc Fisher**

Policies of New Administration?

- **Uncertain!**
- **We know what Trump & others have said**
- **We are beginning to witness movement**
- **Realities will likely affect policy decisions once in office**
- **Will largely be driven & constrained by events beyond his control**

History of Presidential Surprises

- Truman - Soviet Cold War threats & Korean war
- Eisenhower - U-2 & Paris Peace Summit
- Kennedy - Bay of Pigs & Cuban Missile Crisis
- Johnson - Vietnam War
- Nixon - China, SALT I & Watergate
- Carter - Iran, Afghanistan & SALT II
- Reagan - Iran-Contra & Gorbachev/INF Treaty
- GHW Bush - Gulf War & post Cold War economic decline
- Clinton - Monica & CTBT failure
- GW Bush - 9/11 & Iraq
- Obama - Arab Spring, ISIS, Libya & Iran
- Trump -- ?

Trump's Domestic Priorities

- Dismantle Obamacare
- Curb illegal immigration
- Establish law & order
- Rebuild physical infrastructure
- Federal court nominations
- Energy issues (*e.g. Keystone pipeline & Yucca mountain?*)

Trump's Foreign Priorities

- **America First -- rebuild intelligence & military capabilities**
- **Defeat ISIS**
- **Deal with China, Russia, & North Korea**
- **Rebalance trade issues (*e.g. China, NAFTA & TPP*)**
- **Kill nuclear agreement with Iran**
- **NATO's future?**

DNI Testimony on National Security Threats (*Feb 2016*)

- **Cyber warfare**
- **Radical Islamic movements & terrorism**
- **Proliferation of nuclear weapons**
- **Counterintelligence**
- **Space & counter-space**
- **Regional instabilities**
- **Russia, China, North Korea, Iran, Middle East, etc.**

Cyber Warfare

- **Increasing threat from countries & individuals**
- **Russia, China & Iran are biggest country threats**
- **Technology race (*governments vs. individuals*)**
- **Russia's election meddling & worse**

Radical Islamic Terrorists

- **ISIS - can it be defeated; if so, how?**
- **What would follow a potential military defeat of ISIS?**
 - **How do you defeat a “cause/ism”?**
- **Al-Qaeda - still a factor**
- **Home-grown/radicalized individuals & groups**

Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

- International concern (*9 countries have them*)
- Iran & other potential country proliferators
- US-Russian efforts to reduce stockpiles
- Pakistan & North Korea (*two unstable countries*)
- Prospect of terrorists obtaining nuclear weapons

Countering Intelligence Threats

- **No let up after Cold War by Russia, China, etc.**
- **US remains a key target (*weapons, technology, economy, etc.*)**
- **Uncompromised, objective intelligence still first line of defense**
 - **Essential for good policymaking!**
- **Possible restructuring?**
 - **Trump's visit to CIA headquarters**

Space & Counter-space

- **Dependence on space assets continues to increase**
- **Growing number of countries able to access space**
- **Russia has advanced anti-satellite capabilities**
- **China is developing anti-satellite capabilities**
- **Future threats from North Korea & Iran?**

Risks from Regional Instabilities

- **Breeding ground for terrorists & haven for terrorist groups**
- **Middle East, Horn of Africa, South Asia, North Korea, etc.**
- **Threat to trade routes & access to resources**
- **Increased threat of regional military conflicts, esp. Middle East**
 - Importance of US-Israeli relationship?**

Russian Federation

- **Putin & resurgence of Russian nationalism**
- **Regain international status & regional influence**
- **Counter US influence & unilateral actions**
- **Russian-Chinese anti-US axis**
- **Better relations possible w/Trump?**

China

- Continued economic stranglehold (*debt*) & unfair trade practices
- Flexing military muscles in region (*South China Sea*)
- Seeking global resources to fuel economy (*Africa, Iran, etc.*)
- Chinese-Russian anti-US axis
- Key to restraining North Korea?

North Korea

- **Unstable, unpredictable & dangerous**
- **Nuclear weapon arsenal & source of nuclear proliferation**
- **Developing longer-range missiles vs. US**
- **Threat to US allies in region (*S. Korea, Japan, Taiwan*) & beyond**

Iran

- **Remains declared enemy of US & Israel**
- **Desires regional power & ability to deter US**
- **Receives support from Russia & China**
- **Seeks nuclear weapons (*status & deterrence*)**
Trump opposes 2015 JCPOA nuclear agreement!

Trump vs. Iran Nuclear Deal

- **Iran's reaction?**
- **EU reactions?**
- **Russia & China reactions?**
- **Are there better alternatives?**

So, how will Trump deal with these Issues?

- **Uncertain; time will tell!**
What unanticipated factors may come into play?
- **“America First” - what will that actually mean?**
- **Already seeing initiatives by administration (*e.g. trade*)**
- **What do we know about the new National Security team?**

New National Security Team

- **National Security Advisor** - Michael Flynn, ret LTG USA
- **Secretary of State** - Rex Tillerson, fmr ExxonMobil CEO
- **Secretary of Defense** - James Mattis, ret Gen USMC
- **Secretary of Homeland Security** - John Kelly, ret Gen USMC
- **Secretary of Energy** - Rick Perry, fmr Governor (TX)
- **Attorney General** - Jeff Sessions, fmr US Senator
- **Director of National Intelligence** - Dan Coats, fmr US Senator
- **Director of CIA** - Mike Pompeo, fmr US Representative
- **US Amb to UN** - Nikki Haley, fmr Governor (SC)

Are there differences with Trump?

- **3 military, 1 businessman, 2 senators, 1 congressman & 2 governors**
- **All are conservative, but ...**
Differences have emerged on specific issues (*e.g. Russia, NATO, etc.*)
- **Will NSC principals/advisers speak their minds to Trump?**
- **Will Trump listen to intelligence & policy advice?**
Looks like considerable uncertainty in policymaking!

What is required for good policies?

- **Courageous, honest & effective leadership (*strong Nat Sec team*)**
- **Strong economy and clear, consistent priorities & policies**
- **Effective intelligence, strong military, & effective soft power**
- **Strong alliances & international cooperation**
- **Parallel between Trump & Reagan's initial hardline approaches?**

Conclusions

- **Mexican border wall - domestic & international negative consequences**
- **Iran nuclear deal - negative international reactions; what then?**
- **Defeating ISIS - perhaps some additional containment**
- **ME/Syria - not much improvement (we lost our chance!)**
- **Russia - fear on part of NATO allies; maybe some improvement**

Conclusions (con't)

- **China - not much improvement; maybe some help with N. Korea?**

We need each other economically & in region!

- **North Korea - will require a stronger missile defense effort?**
- **Israel - how will this affect relations with moderate Arab states?**
- **U.S. intelligence - more paramilitary & difficult coordination?**
- **Policymaking - clear policy decisions or bureaucratic confusion?**

What are your thoughts?