



Narrative and National Security

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Narrative and Power

- ▶ Narrative is a major tool for interpreting the world
- ▶ Selection, Arrangement, and Emphasis
- ▶ Any Narrative Can be Contested

Adjudicating Narratives in Contest

- ▶ Appeal to Phenomena to be explained
- ▶ Appeal based in part on position/perspective
- ▶ Those in power shape narratives way different from those out of power
- ▶ Importance of the Source/ Track Records
- ▶ Importance of the Audience
- ▶ Importance of Dissemination

Mobilization and Intervention

- ▶ Difference between narrative and statistical reports or arguments
- ▶ The power of mimetic-thematic links.
- ▶ Narrative marshals cognition, affect, and value(s) in the service of idea and positions.

Varying and Clashing Narratives

- ▶ Cultural values underlying narratives will differ and so different groups will tell different stories in support of those values.
- ▶ Cultural value encompasses organizing schemas, ethical beliefs, political positions.
- ▶ Getting at underlying cultural values can help adjudicate differences—or help recognize where adjudication is not possible.