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.