

SMALL STATES IN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

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POLITICAL SCIENCE

MY BACKGROUND

- Just moved to Faroes at the beginning of this year and I am teaching and researching involving a ‘comparative small states in the international system’ focus
- Worked in Finland prior to moving here (2015-2023)
- Fellowship in Canada at University of Victoria (2022-2023)
- Australia: University of Newcastle 2008-2015, and University of Notre Dame Australia in Fremantle, Western Australia (2000-2008)
- Hungary: teaching from 1998-2000, multiple guest lecturing and teaching exchanges
- Germany: University of Regensburg teaching fellow (2014 and 2015)
- B.A. (Queens University, Canada), M.A. (Uni Victoria, Canada), PhD (Queensland Uni, Brisbane, Australia)

HYBRID THREATS: SECURITY IN THE NORDICS

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THE PROBLEM: HYBRID THREATS

- The defn of what the problem is is still being debated
- In general it means some specific things in the disciplines of political science and international relations
- My focus is on things that are called ‘non-traditional security problems’
- This means that (via negativa) it is **not** about militaries, **not** about military equipment, **not** about how much military gear any of the various states may or may not have
- It is **not** about bombs and guns, and not about the ‘realist’ positions of analysts looking at comparative strengths of militaries in terms of scenarios of conflict
- **And from my point of view I try not to engage in the ‘securitization’ of these problems, I am very critical of ‘security solutions’ for these hybrid threats**

HYBRID THREATS

- The problem with hybrid threats involves a lot of everyday life issues
- I list here some of the main questions and then people can ask more in-depth questions about this either here or catch me later on during the event or send me questions about this via email as well
- Much of the hybrid threat discussion revolves around the digital nature of everyday life
- So knocking out an internet access system would mean that banking systems and transport systems can be knocked out as well
- Stopping access to cell phone infrastructure means that people will have great difficulty in communicating, which develops some obvious consequences
- Some of the non-digital problems also includes supply chain disruptions, food/water supply disruption, energy supply disruptions, and so on



SOLUTIONS?

- Well this is the argument that we are in the middle of....
- Some researchers want security solutions - Securitizing entry and exit points to buildings, borders, etc.

- Some of the better solutions involve going analog: making communication networks that are set up without the use of mobile phones or social media, some communities are using 'radio' (actually some militaries do this too) like an old 'CB or citizens band radio' radio system
- Small/Nordic states need to have more extensive conversations around linking communities and ensuring non-digital solutions to the problem of 'bad neighbours' - and this needs to be supported by state initiatives – this involves strengthening civil society beyond the digital
- Ensuring supply chains of energy, food, and water are not dependent on digital systems, and are manipulable by local actors in the system – again, facilitated by the state through local or national govts – and through basic things like local garden markets, libraries, kids sport/hobby clubs

THANKS!

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