3 Opportunities: Reflections on Strategic Studies & the Contemporary Security Environment

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Brinksmanship & Nuclear Deterrence

Advantage
• academia

Why
• long-dwell scholarship
• amenable to theory

Relevance
• stockpile reduction
• proliferation
• fait accomplis
• wars of others

Caution
• mind the gap
Limited Wars of Compellence

Advantage
• PME

Why
• institutional interests
• personal experience

Relevance
• recoil from messy wars
• historical patterns
• rich range of cases

Caution
• intuition-led
• policy shy
Endemic COIN/CT

Advantage
• split academia/PME

Why
• access to raw data
• larger frameworks
• “strategic narratives”
• link to past

Relevance
• not going away
• rich in recent history

Caution
• jargon laden
• fragmentary
• substantial evolution
• intuition-led & politicized