

Terrorism, WMDs, and Cyber War

POL 3: Intro to IR

I. Terrorism

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- Terrorism: politically-motivated violence that deliberately targets civilians indiscriminately
 - mechanism is psychological
 - tool of the weak
- Motivations
 - Separatists (e.g. Chechen)
 - Religious (e.g. Al Qaeda)
 - Domestic (e.g. Timothy McVeigh)
- State sponsored terrorism
 - e.g. Libya 1988 Pan Am flight bombing; Israel strike on Sudan (2012)
- Counterterrorism
 - Policies range: 1) development/poverty alleviation; 2) police actions; 3) military intervention



World Trade Center, 2001

ISIS: Islamic State

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- Background:
 - Forged from Iraq War and Syrian Civil War
 - 2014: declared itself a global caliphate
 - Drove Iraqi forces from key areas
- Behavior:
 - War crimes
 - Ethnic cleansing
 - Terrorist tactics
- Methods:
 - State-like behavior
 - Social media
- International coalition against ISIS



Video released Jan. 20, 2015 threatening to kill Japanese hostages unless \$200 million ransom is paid

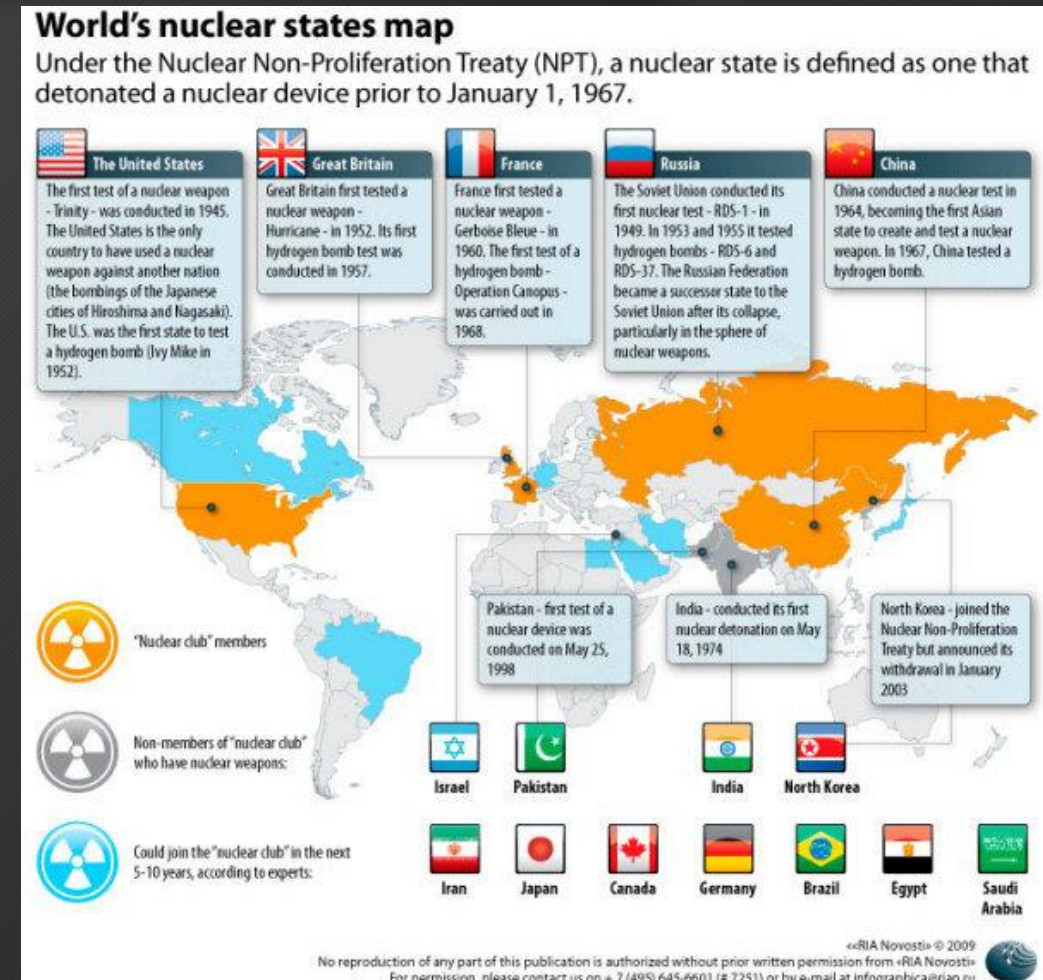
Area controlled by ISIS, July 2014

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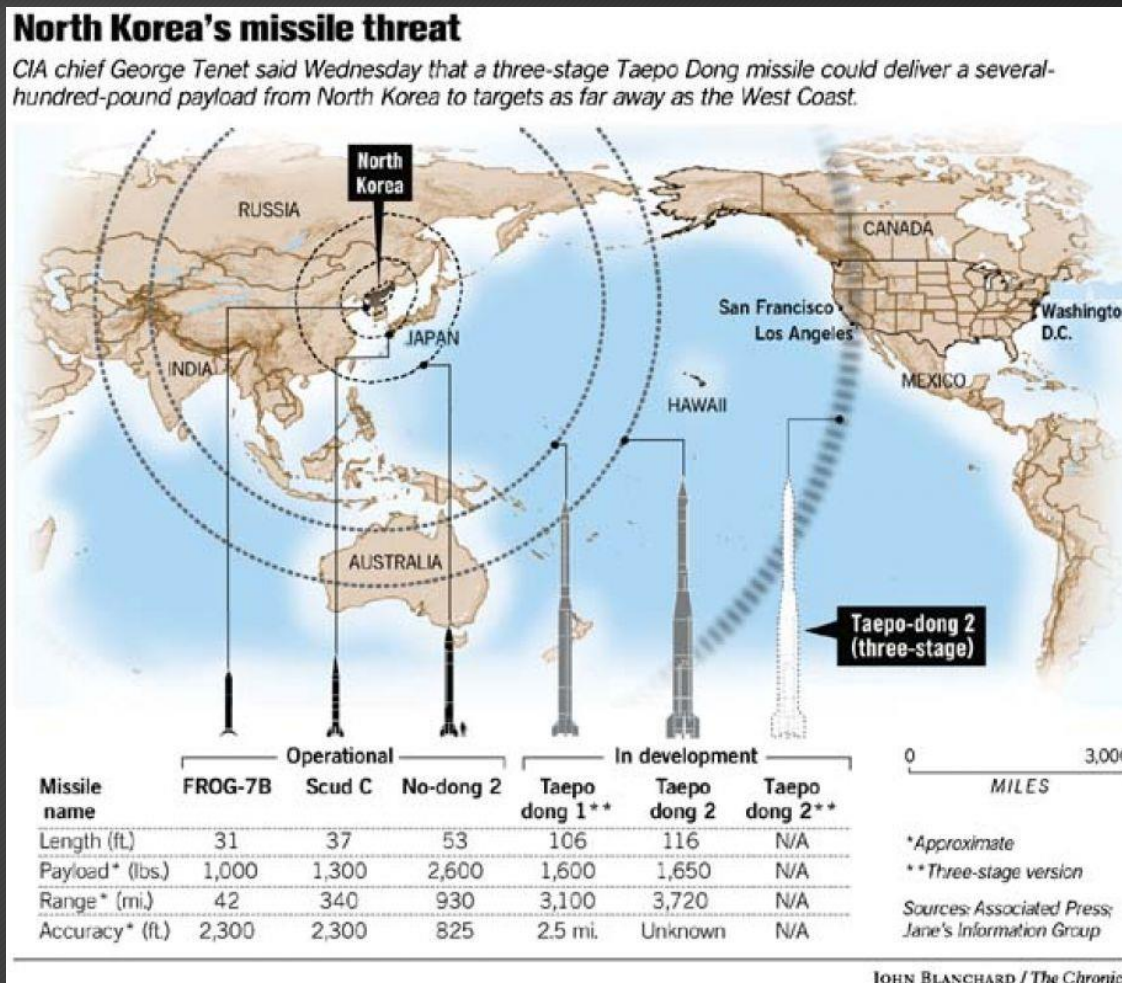


II. Weapons of mass destruction

- Types of WMDs
 - Nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons
- Proliferation
 - State and non-state consequences
- Reasons to proliferate:
 - 1) Security
 - 2) Domestic politics
 - 3) Symbolic
- The “nuclear taboo”
 - A constructivist or realist perspective?



(suspected) Missile Range of North Korea



III. Cyber warfare

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- Politically motivated hacking to conduct sabotage or espionage
- State attacks
 - Weaken/frustrate enemy
 - e.g. Stuxnet and Iranian centrifuges, 2010
 - Espionage
 - e.g. Chinese probes into U.S. defense contractors, 2005
- Non-state attacks
 - Terrorism motivated
 - e.g. ISIS attacks on Pentagon's social media
 - Ideology motivated
 - e.g. WikiLeaks → 2010 release of U.S. diplomatic cables
 - Commercial/financial
 - Attacks on banks/institutions
- Internet and domestic security
 - Promoting perceptions of the state (e.g. China social media)
 - Monitor citizens (e.g. NSA and Snowden, 2013)



US Central Command hacked by ISIS,
Jan. 2015