

# "A Broad Definition of National Security: Tradeoffs and Implications"

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# Timeline: What does climate change have to do with national security?

- ▶ **January 2007** - the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* moved the minute hand of the 'Doomsday Clock' two minutes closer to midnight.
- ▶ **April 2007** - The United Nations Security Council holds its first-ever debate on the impact of climate change on security.
- ▶ **April 2007** - the Center for Naval Analysis (CNA) released a report titled National Security and the Threat of Climate Change.
- ▶ **January 2008** - Congress defined global climate change as a national security issue in the Defense Authorization Act of 2008.
- ▶ **June 2008** - the National Defense Strategy mentions climate change twice at the end of a section on the "strategic environment."



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# Timeline: What does climate change have to do with national security?

- ▶ **October 2008** - Congress requires DoD to establish an energy efficiency Key Performance Parameter (KPP) in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2009.
- ▶ **November 2008** - Joint Forces Command issues its Joint Operating Environment document.
- ▶ **November 2008** - National Intelligence Council (NIC) issues a report titled "Global Trends 2025: A Transformed World."
- ▶ **February 2010** - the Quadrennial Defense Review stated that Climate change and energy will play a significant role in shaping the future security environment.
- ▶ **May 2010** - the National Security Strategy states that "the danger from climate change is real, urgent, and severe."

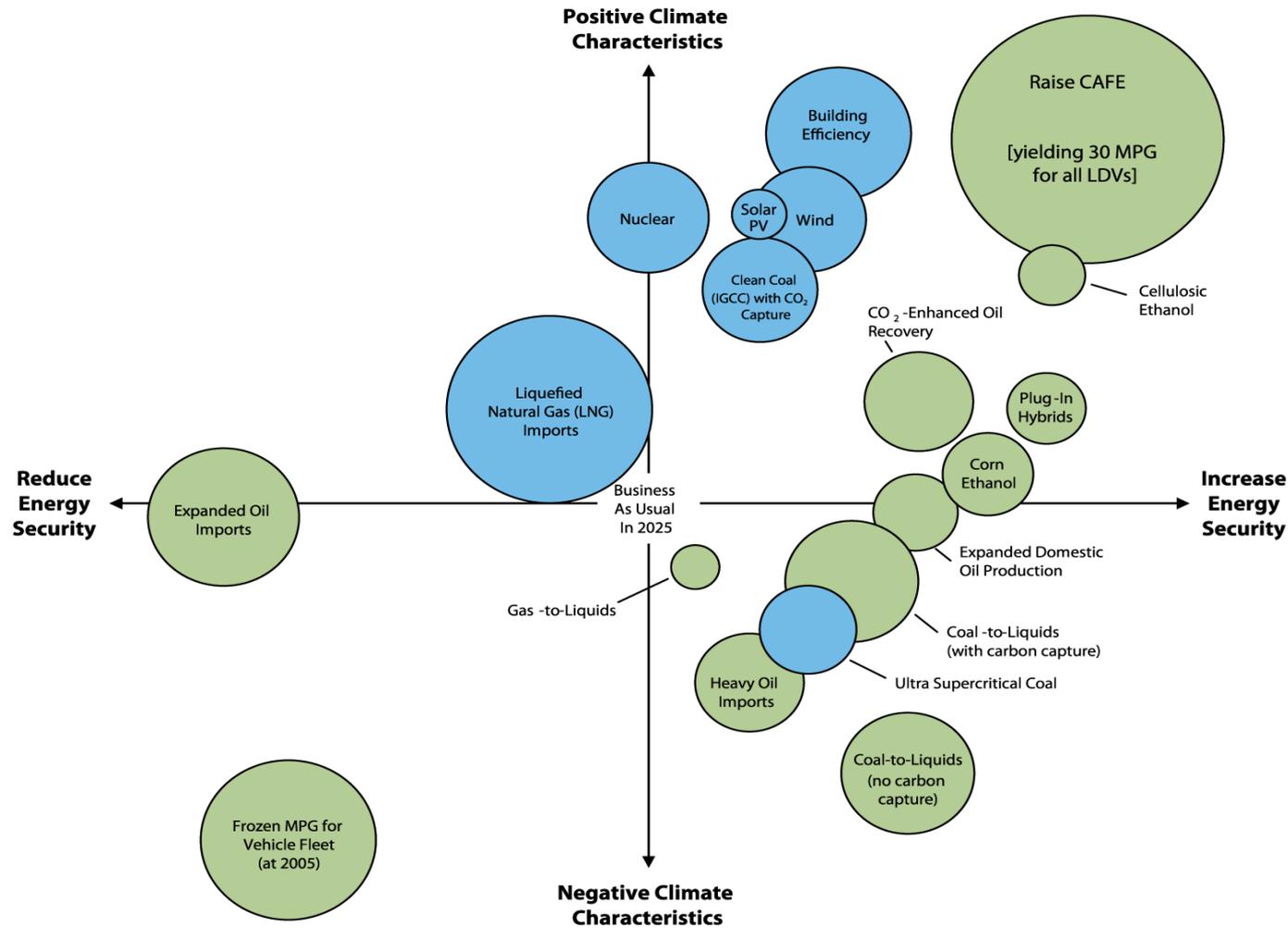


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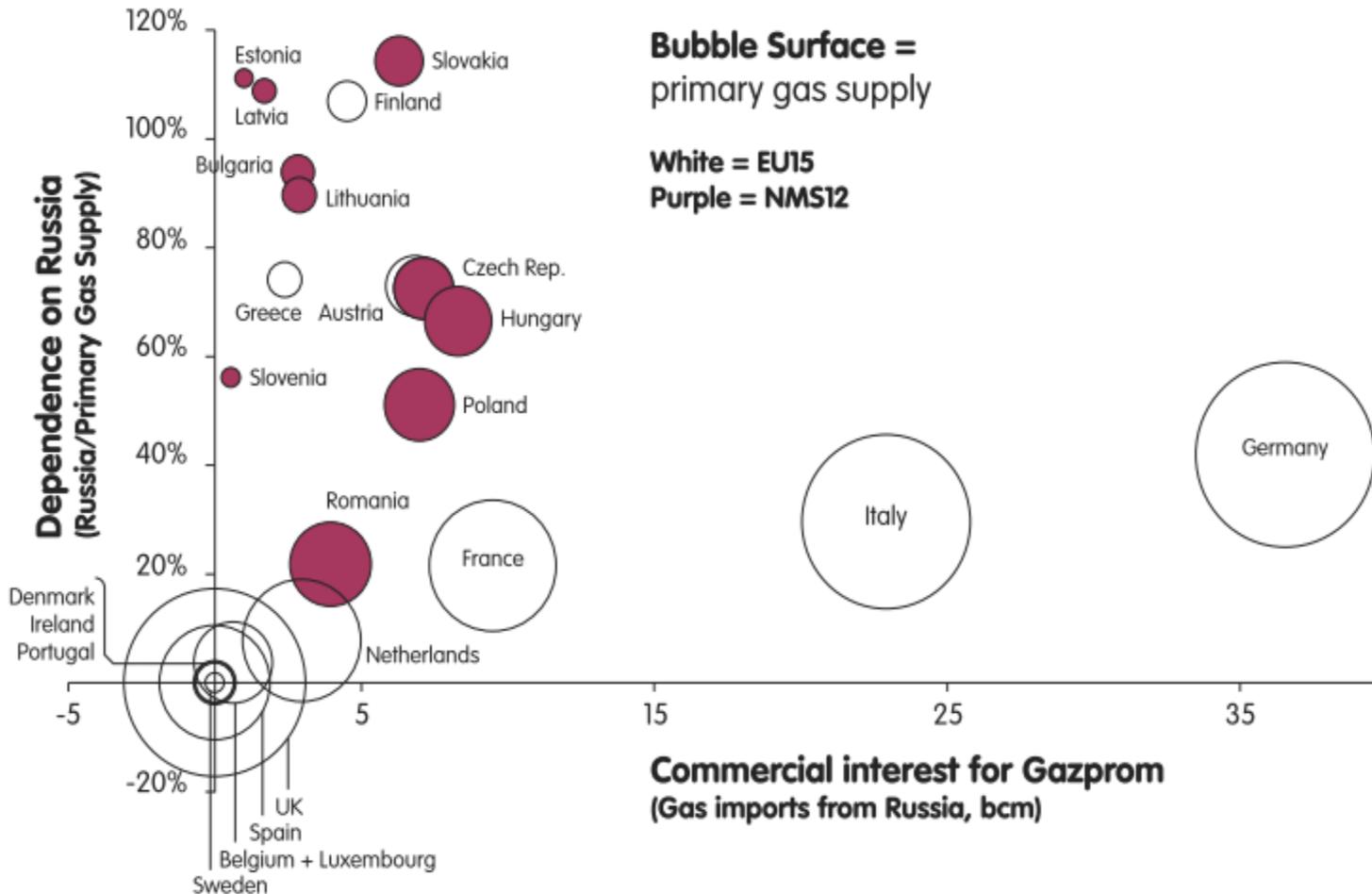
# Trade-offs: Energy & Climate

- Power Sector (this size corresponds to 20 billion kWh)
- Transport Sector (this size corresponds to 100 thousand barrels of oil per day)



- Trade-offs and unintended consequences
- “Win-win” scenarios
- Good for one, but not the other?

# Trade-offs: Energy & Security?



- Imports of Russian gas - rate of “dependence” on Russia and size of the gas market (2006)

# Trade-offs: linking climate, water and energy with national security?

- ▶ What does it mean to “securitize” these issues?
- ▶ Principles of “unconditionality” and “impartiality”
- ▶ Budgetary trade-offs
  - Within the security establishment
  - Between government agencies
- ▶ Resource Wars (oil, water, etc.)



*A soldier hands a meal to a girl in Samarra, Iraq, March 31, 2009. U.S. Army photo by Ian M. Terry*



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# Trade-offs: linking climate, water and energy with national security?

- ▶ The United States' future security threats:
  - resource conflicts and oil, water wars
  - OR –
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> order effects caused by domestic and international policy decisions?
  
- ▶ What to do about competing claims?
  - U.S. dependence on oil weakens our international leverage, undermines both U.S. foreign policy objectives and economic stability, and entangles America with unstable or hostile regimes
  - OR -
  - The policies associated with “energy independence” and “getting off foreign oil” are seriously misguided and can lead to poor national security and economic choices. Not only is inter-dependence a better frame for understanding energy security than independence, but dependence itself is not necessarily a bad thing

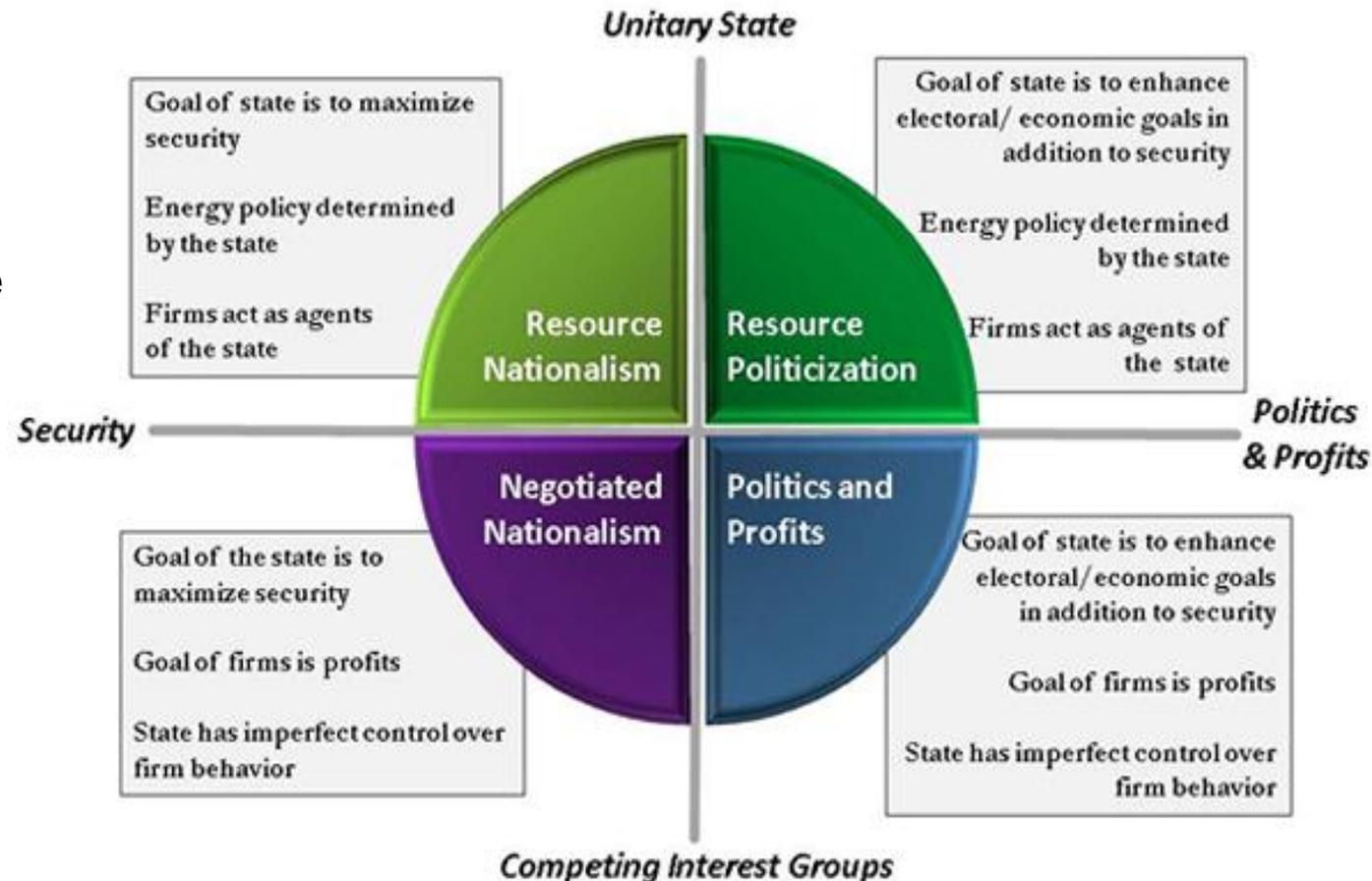


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# A Framework for Policy Analysis

- Are there ways that we might account for these actions, other than national security?
- A framework to consider



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# Conclusions

- ▶ Security is not an absolute, there are relative levels of for each type (energy, water, climate, national)
- ▶ Explanations based solely on national security are often inadequate for understanding policy preferences
- ▶ From the national security perspective, we should be aware of the sources of instability.
- ▶ From the climate change perspective, we should beware of militarizing human vulnerability and responses.



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# Questions?

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