

Section #4

Stereotypes

February 23, 2023

A stereotype is a set of beliefs about the characteristics of a group of people.

Stereotype content model

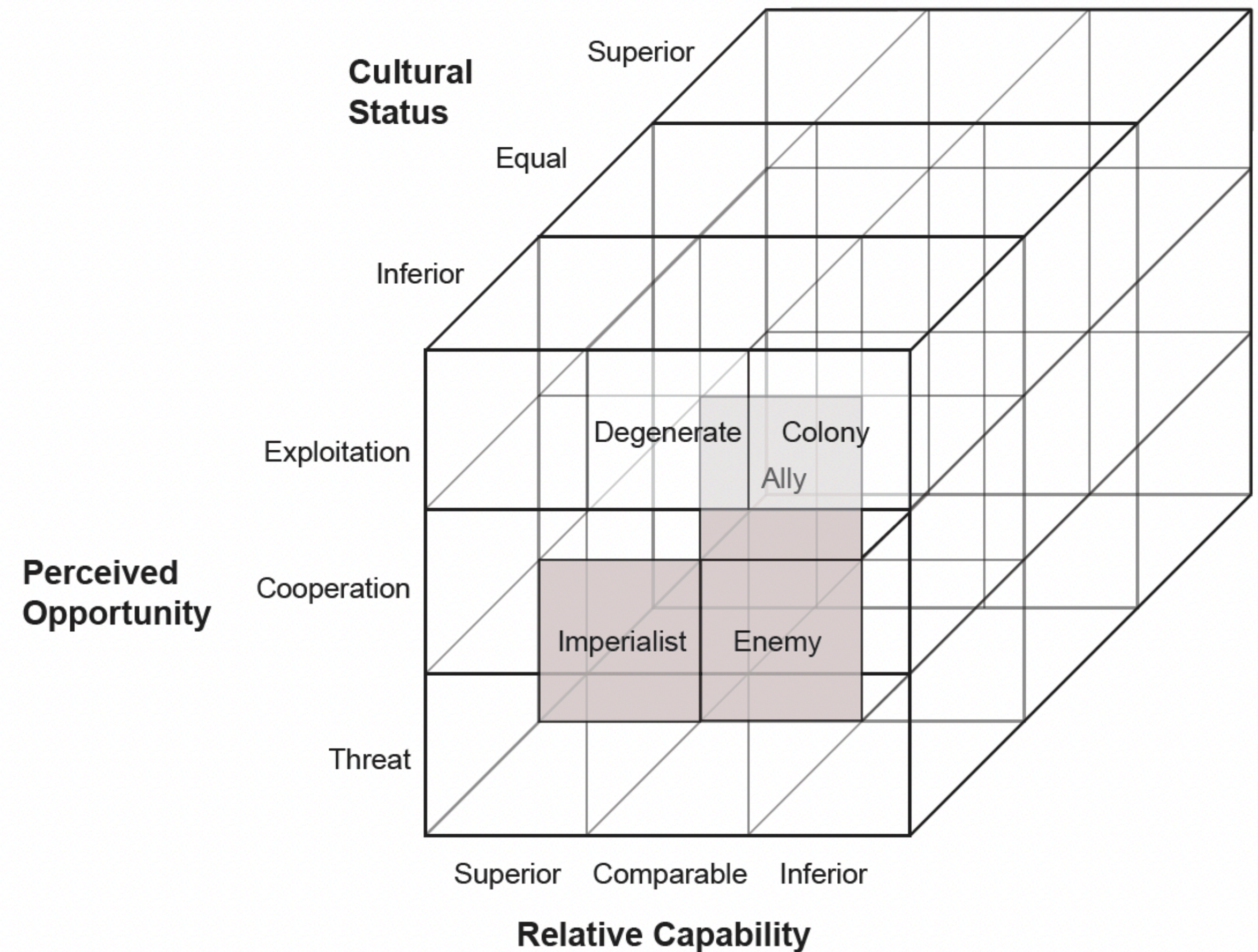
Stereotype dimensions & sources

1. Competence: perceived status
 - Source: system justification theory
2. Warmth: perceived threat
 - Source: in- vs. out-group phenomenon

Image theory

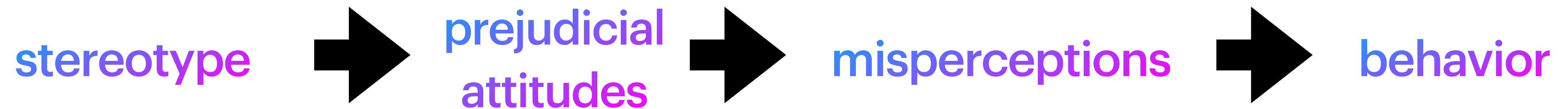
What is a strategic image?

- *“A subject’s cognitive construction or mental representation of another actor in the political world”* (Hermann & Fischerkeller 1995, 415)



Source: Kertzer 2021

Why do stereotypes matter to IR?



Stereotypes manages the uncertainty of IR by “type-casting,” which can lead to misperceptions & potentially conflict.

Stereotypes & the misperception models

Spiral model

- The world is full of security-seeking (status quo) states.
- Conflict spirals when states misperceive one another's intentions.
- Point: reassure, don't threaten.

Deterrence model

- The world is full of greedy (revisionist) states.
- Conflict occurs when a greedy state exploits appeasement.
- Point: threaten, don't reassure.

How might stereotypes lead to conflict under these two models?

Stereotypes & crisis bargaining

- Hand-tying is a costly signal b/c it generates public opinion costs:
 1. Inconsistency costs (not following through)
 2. Belligerence costs (reckless threats)

How might stereotypes impact a leader's ability to leverage hand-tying?

Indo-Pakistani War of 1971

Premise: Conflict between India & Pakistan since 1948; Indian involvement in East Pakistan amid Bangladesh Liberation War

Flashpoint: Pakistan's Operation Chengiz Khan; India responded with force

Puzzle: Why did Pakistan launch an offensive, despite a military disadvantage of 1:3?

Objective: Use case studies from Post and Sen (2020, pp. 18-20) and Fischerkeller (1998, pp. 36-39) to explore the role of gender stereotypes and cultural judgments, respectively

