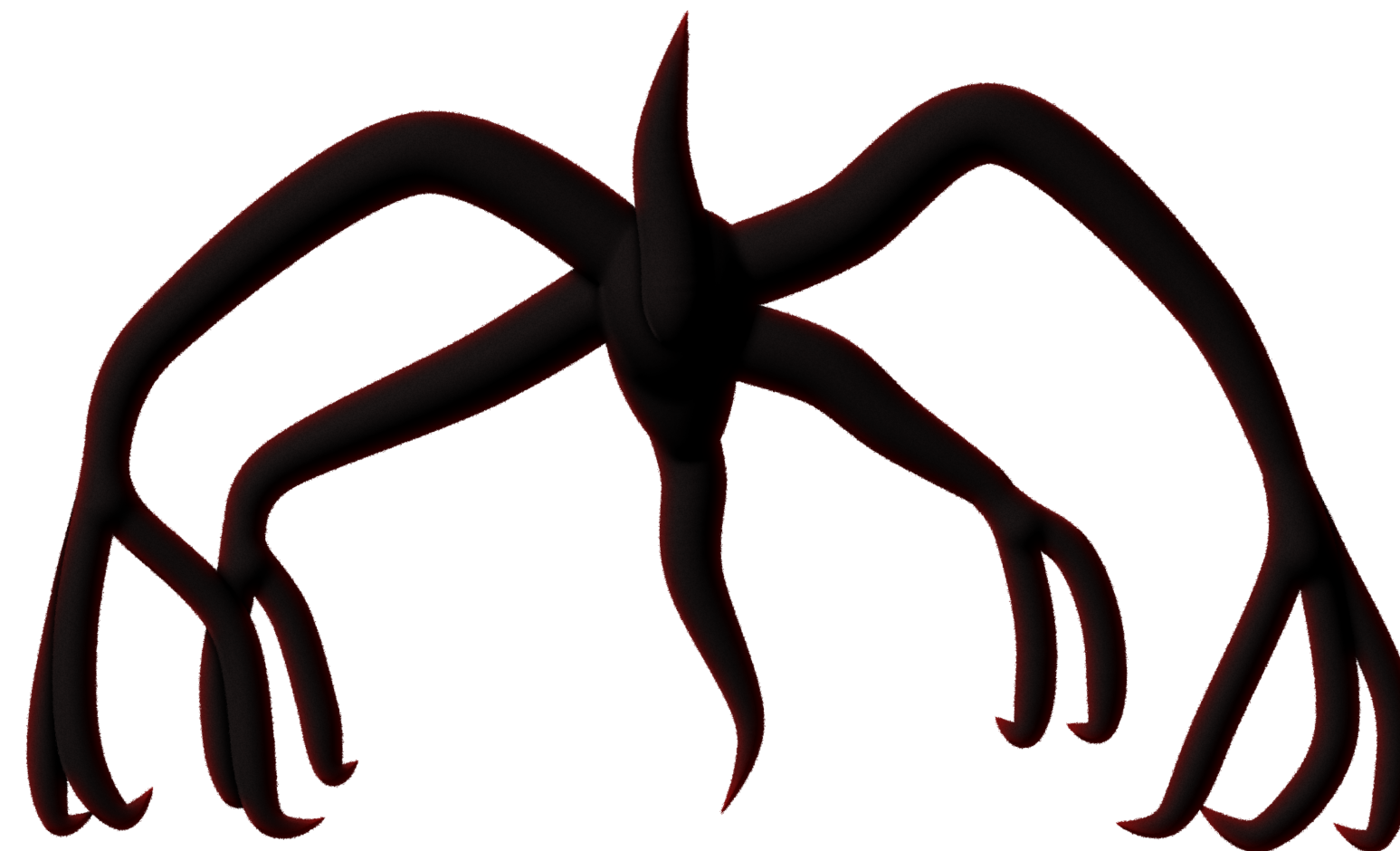
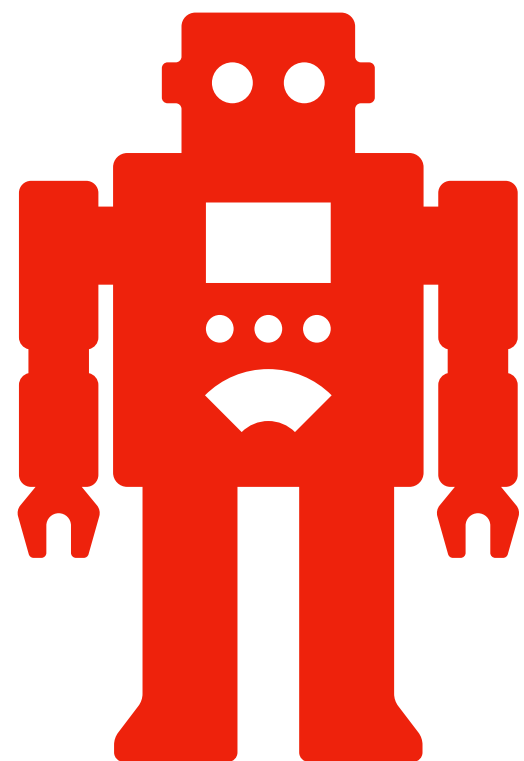


1790 SECTION THINGS

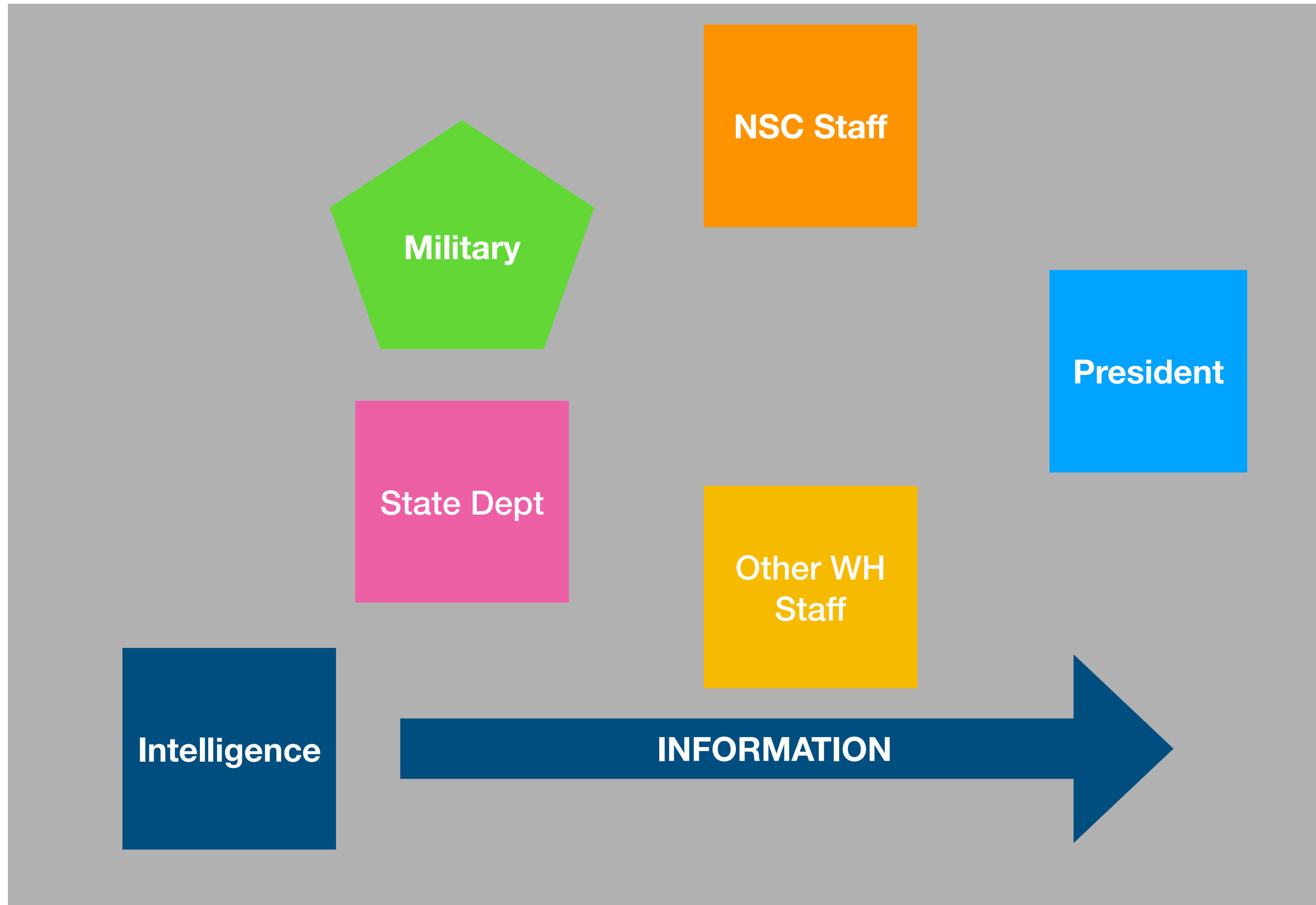
Chapter 4: Bureaucratic Politics

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Model 1: Unitary Actor



Model 3: Bureaucratic Politics



Why do some bureaucratic actors have more influence over foreign policy than others?

Principal-agent models

Interagency
at-large

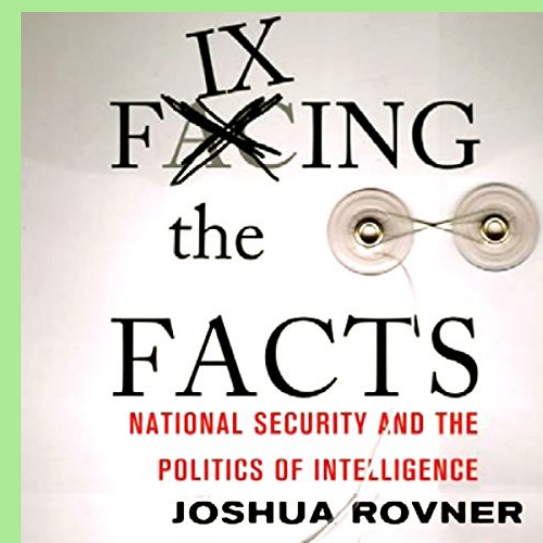
**Obama's Surge: A Bureaucratic Politics
Analysis of the Decision to Order a Troop
Surge in the Afghanistan War**

KEVIN MARSH
Wabash College

**No Substitute for Experience:
Presidents, Advisers, and Information
in Group Decision Making**

Elizabeth N. Saunders

Professional
pathologies



ARE THE RELUCTANT WARRIORS OUT OF CONTROL?
WHY THE U.S. MILITARY IS AVERSE TO RESPONDING
TO POST-COLD WAR LOW-LEVEL THREATS

DEBORAH D. AVANT

Principal-Agent Problem

- Problem 1: So much to do in U.S. foreign policy but scarcity of time and resources for principals (e.g., the president)
- Solution A: Hire professionals (agents) and delegate responsibilities
 - Example: Civilians direct the use of force but delegate the implementation to the military
- Problem 2: The agents may not do everything the principal wants or in the way that they want
- Solution B: Monitoring, punishment, and rewards
 - Nevertheless, there are limits to this solution...

Let's Play a Game

- Each of you will be one version of the president (principal)
 - You will be provided a profile with your “type”
- We will walk through a number of decision points that the principal faces as it relates to their advisers (agents)
 - Write down on a piece of paper what you decide along with the associated point value
 - Adhere to what your “type” would do
- At the end, calculate your risk profile (i.e., the chance of danger associated with policy options during wartime)

Selection



The George W. Bush administration (Vanity Fair)

- Where do you draw your national security advisers from? (Can choose two)
 - Colleagues from the business world = 0.5
 - Your campaign = 0.5
 - Renowned experts from academia = 2
 - Renowned experts from the policy world = 2

Monitoring



Obama and his advisers in the Oval Office

- You learned that ODNI prepared a memo on the future of AI-enabled military capabilities. Do you read it?
 - (No = 0, Yes = 1)
- You requested three policy recommendations from the NSC regarding rising tensions between China and Taiwan. Do you (a) trust your advisers' preferred guidance, or (b) engage in debate with advisers then make a decision?
 - (a) 0 if no policy experts on national security team; 1 if have policy experts or academics
 - (b) 1 if no policy experts; 2 if have policy experts or academics

Delegation

“Over the horizon” strikes against militant groups are continuing in Afghanistan. Regarding the scale, frequency, and scope of these strikes, do you delegate none, some, or all of these decisions to the Pentagon? (All = 0, Some = 1, None = 0.5)



Former Secretary of Defense James Mattis visits U.S. forces in Afghanistan

Risk Profile

[1 - 4]

[4-8]

[8-10]

“Incompetent
risk”

“Excess
risk”

“Centralized
risk”

“Controlled
risk”

Low experience
(principal
& advisers)

Low experience
(principal)
High experience
(advisers)

High experience
(principal)
Low experience
(advisers)

High experience
(principal
& advisers)

Biden and his advisers

Is Biden's Foreign Policy Team the Best of 'the Blob'?

June 2, 2022

Peter Beinart (NYT)

Biden's team of non-rivals

The current president has staffed his national security team differently than past presidents. The strengths and weaknesses of that approach have been on full display.

Daniel Drezner (WaPo)

FOREIGN POLICY

How Biden's team overrode the brass on Afghanistan

After two decades, troops have an end date on America's longest war. But it took a White House ready to pull rank on the military.

Lara Seligman, Andrew Desiderio, Natasha Bertrand, Nahal Toosi (4/14/21 Politico)

Looming Civ-Mil Relations Problems



TO SUPPORT AND DEFEND: PRINCIPLES OF CIVILIAN CONTROL AND BEST PRACTICES OF CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONS

OPEN LETTER

SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

COMMENTARY