

Missile Defence - Threats, Responses and Projections - Bradford March 2004

Thinking around Missile Defense

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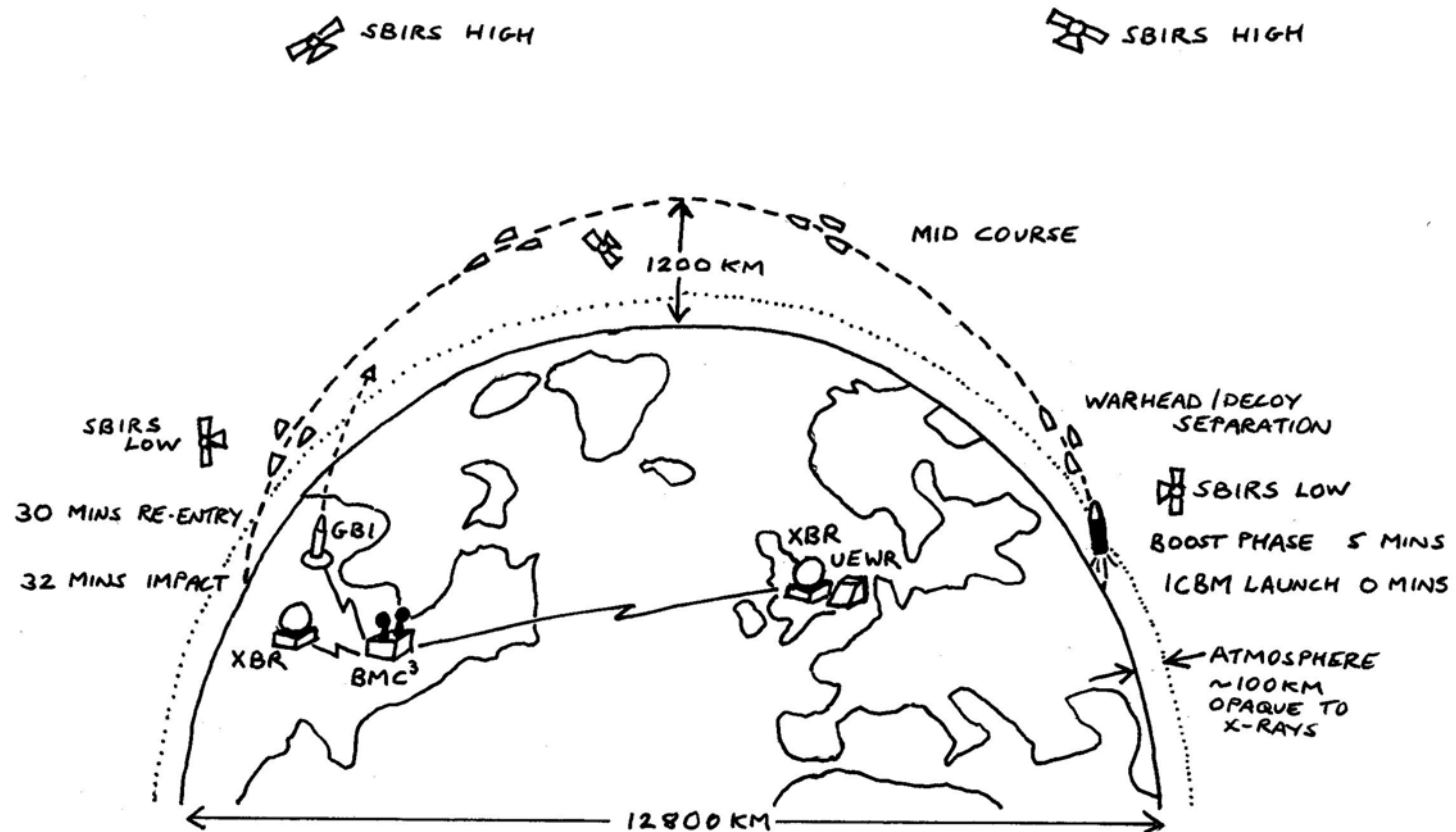
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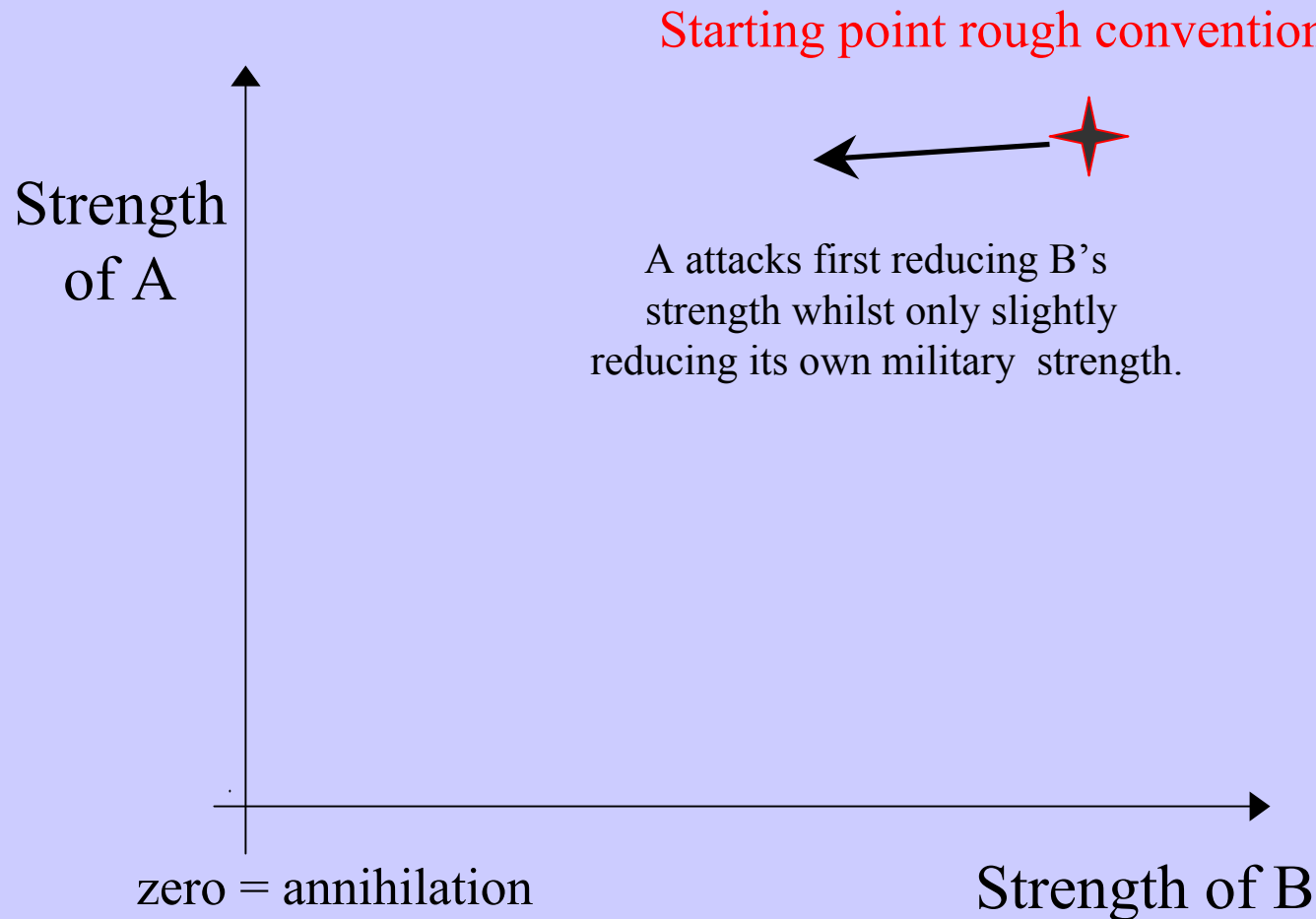
Key issues covered:

- Missile Defence requires a global military
- How does MD fit into an unbalanced world and asymmetric conflict?
- Other effects of MD
- UK nuclear weapons, MD and the NPT

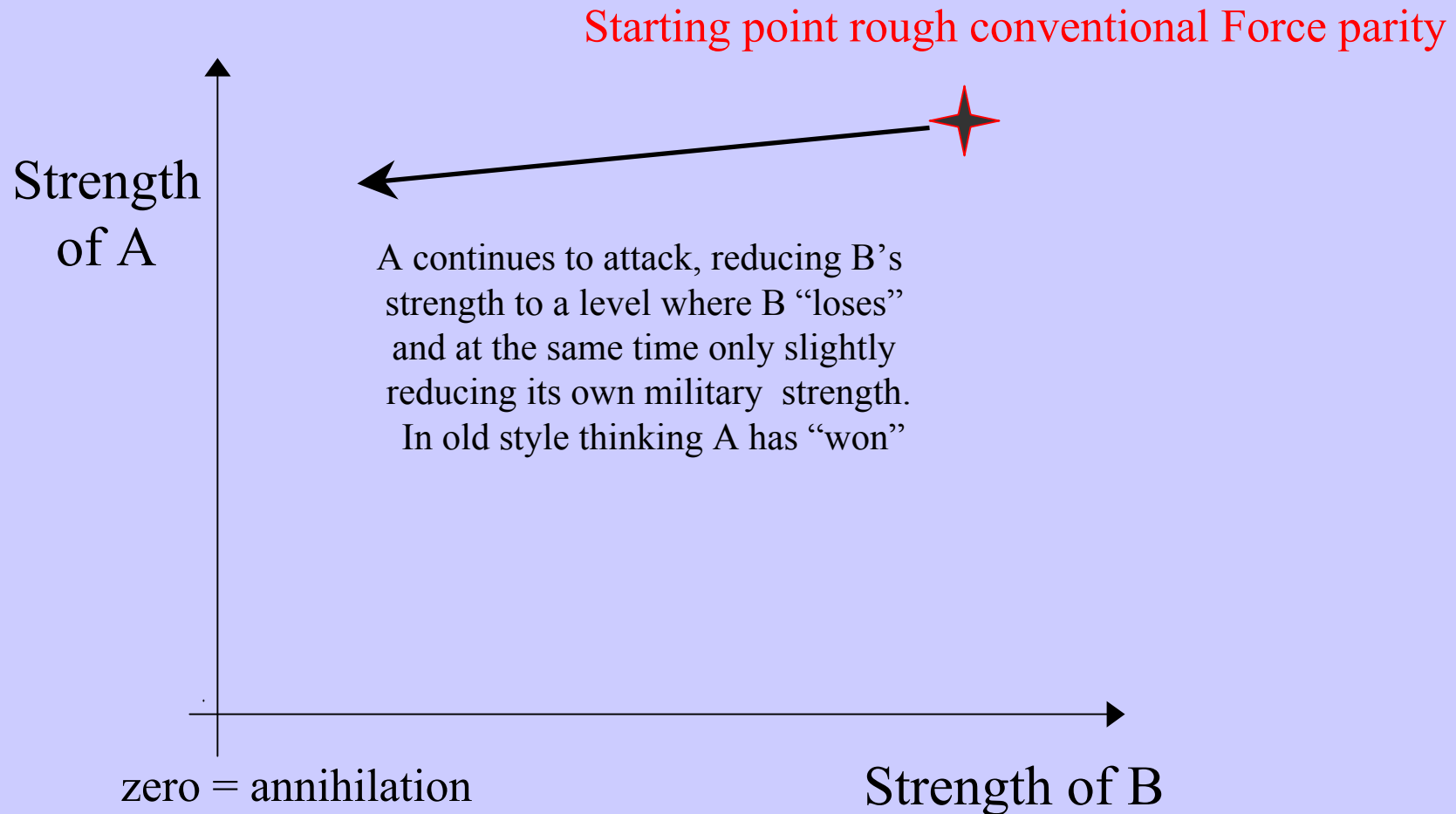
MD demands a global system and 'full spectrum dominance'

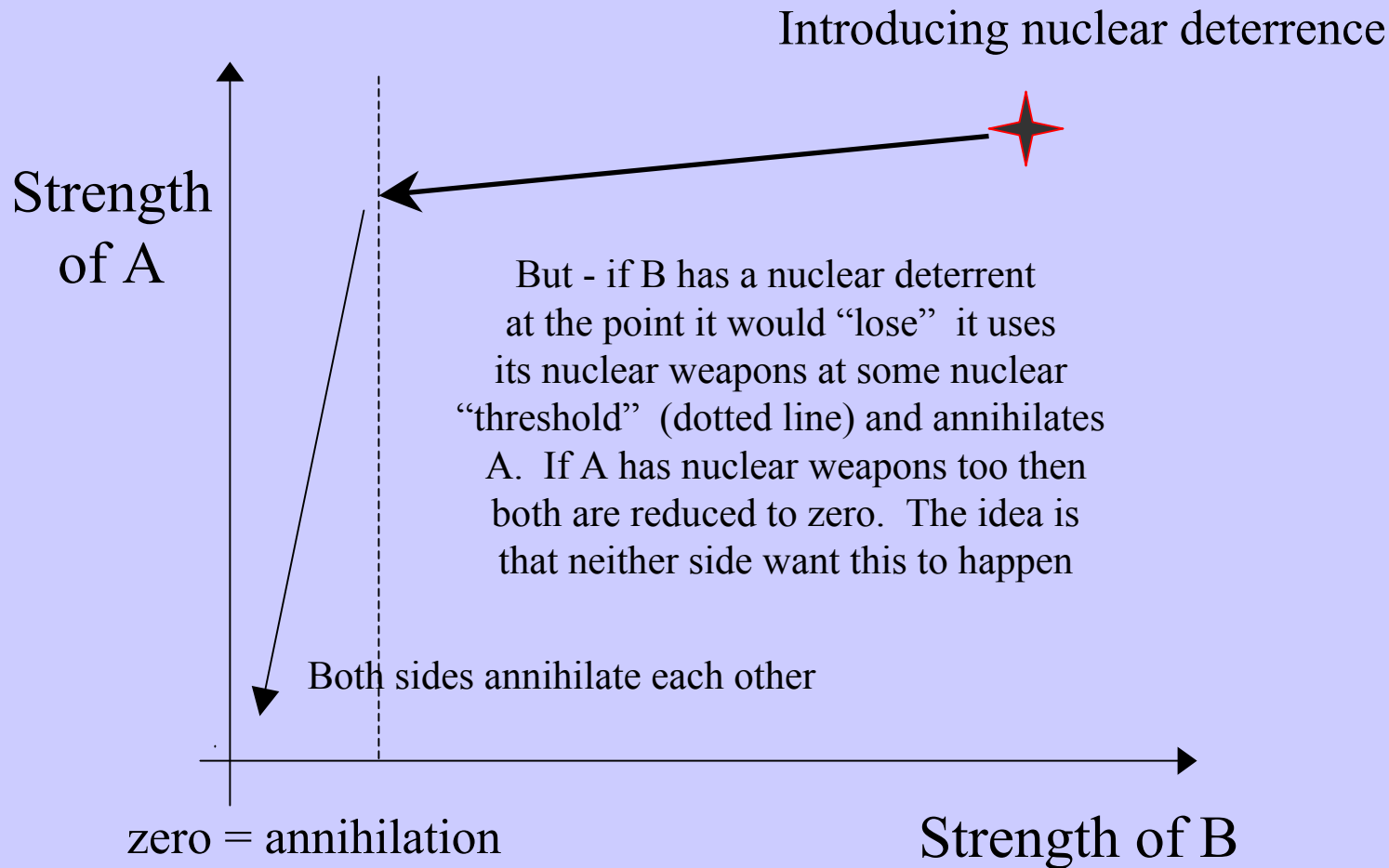


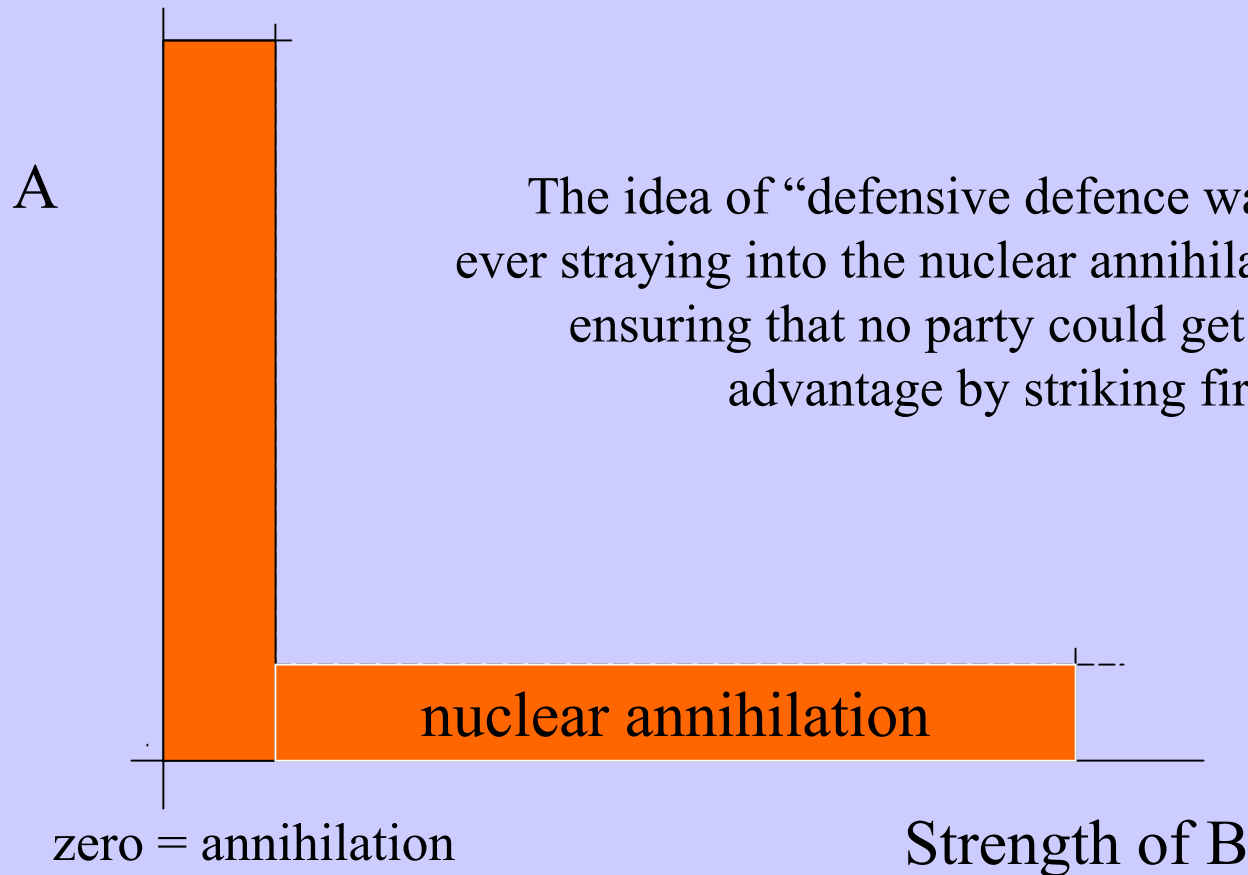
Missile Defense and crisis stability



Missile Defense and crisis stability

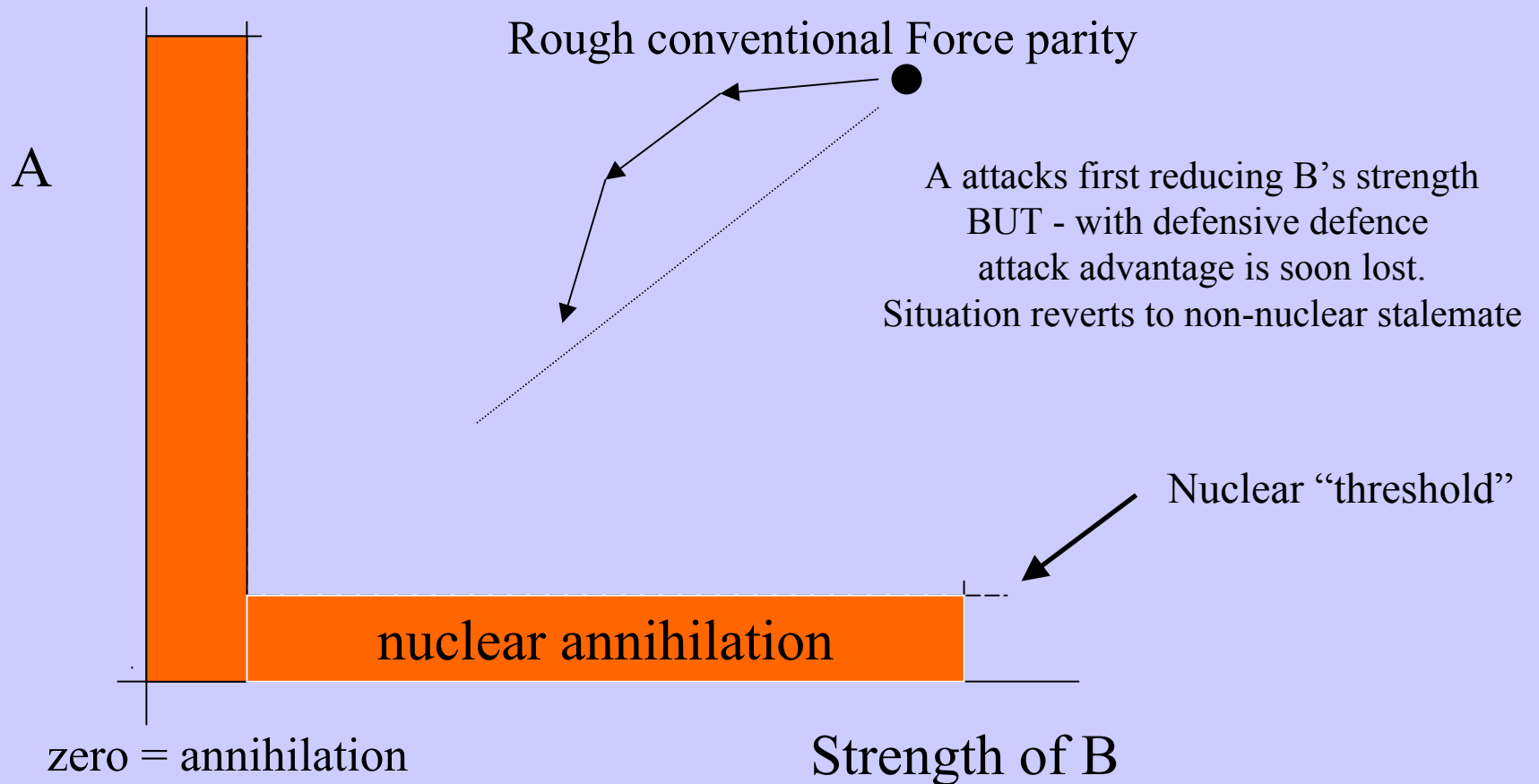






The idea of “defensive defence was to avoid ever straying into the nuclear annihilation zones by ensuring that no party could get a usable advantage by striking first

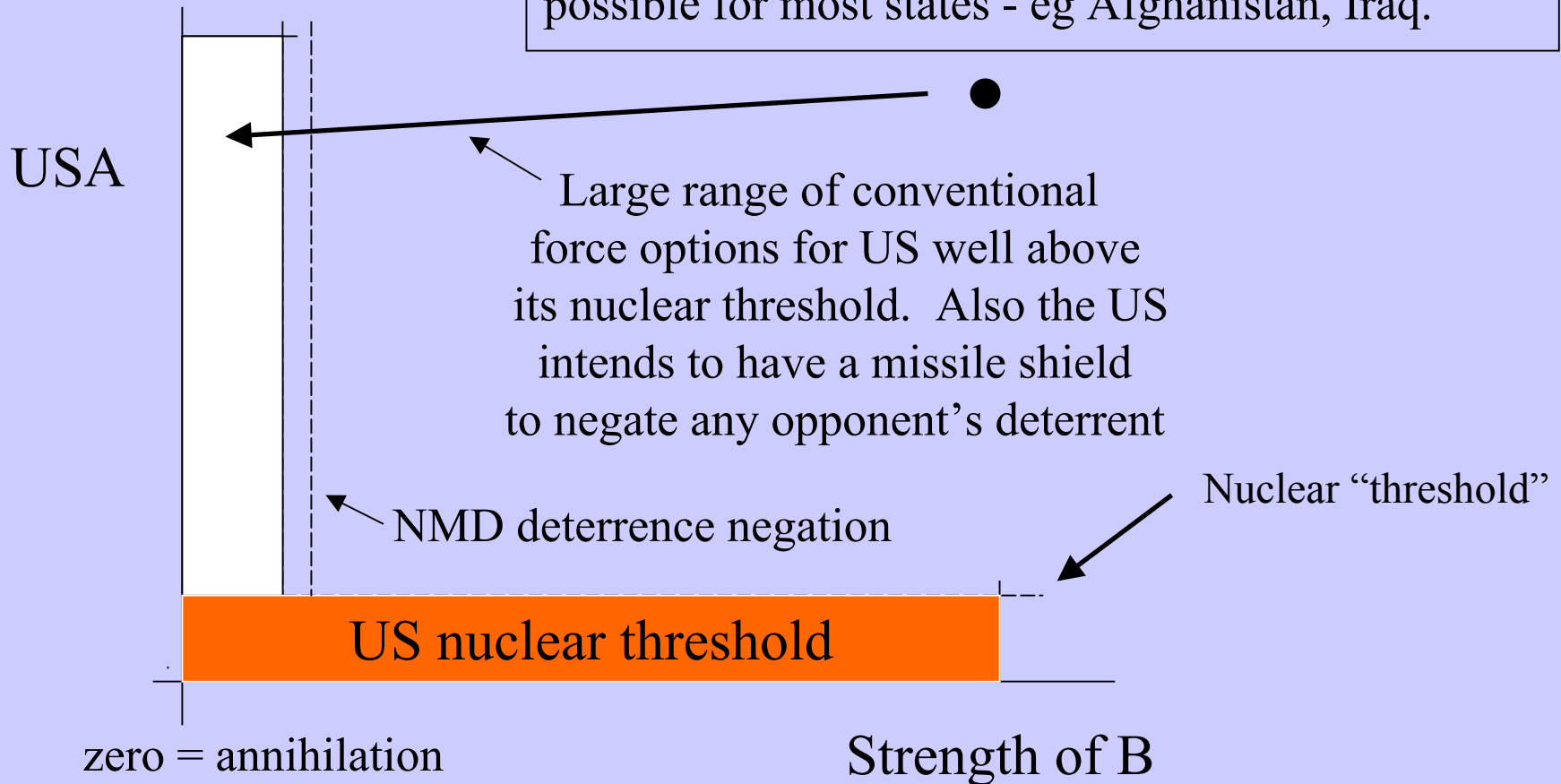
Defensive Defence



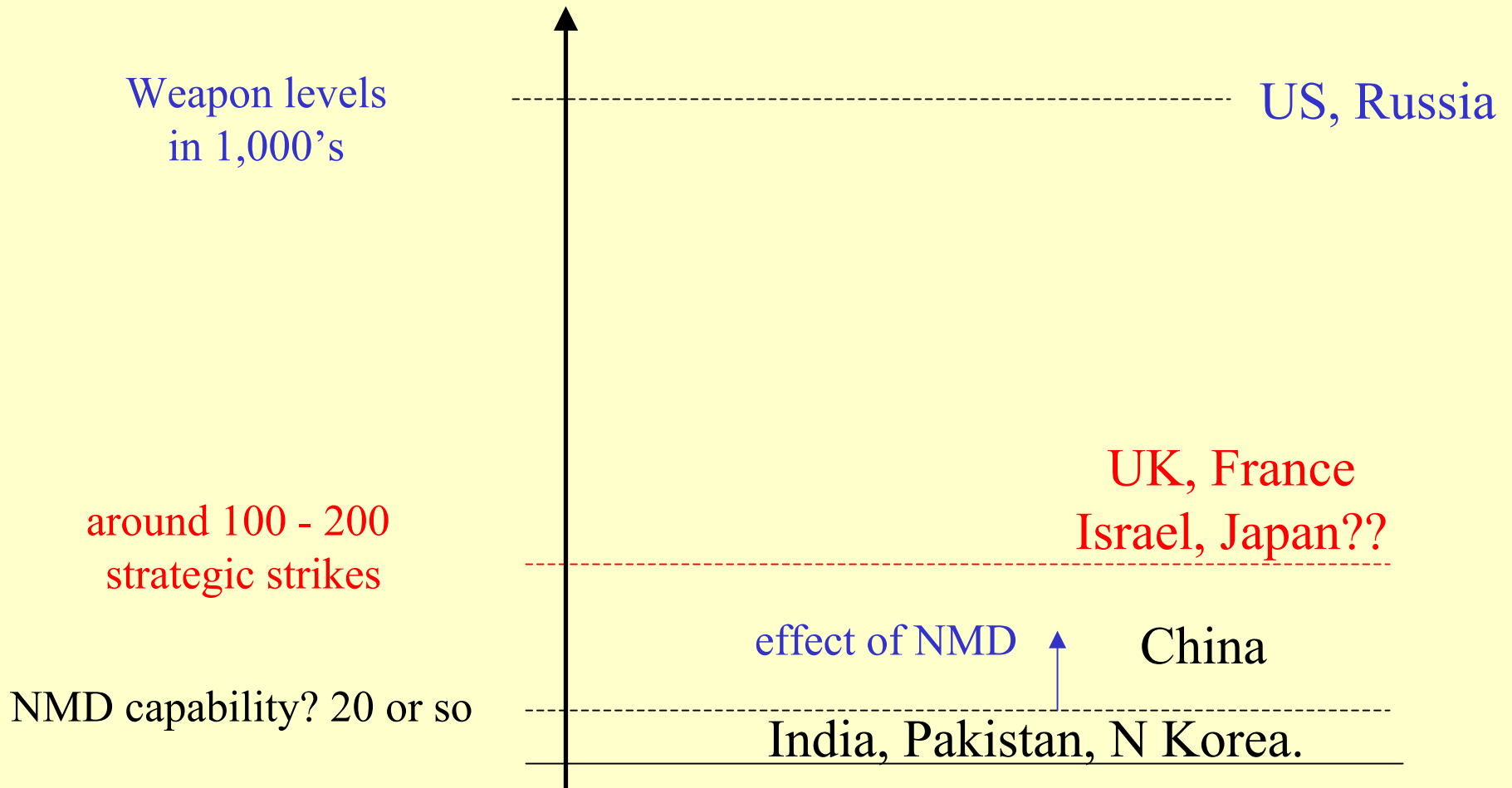
But what is the situation today?

US can attack another state
and reduce them to zero
without suffering militarily

conventional force asymmetry, US force dominance
- US attack without a threat of nuclear response
possible for most states - eg Afghanistan, Iraq.



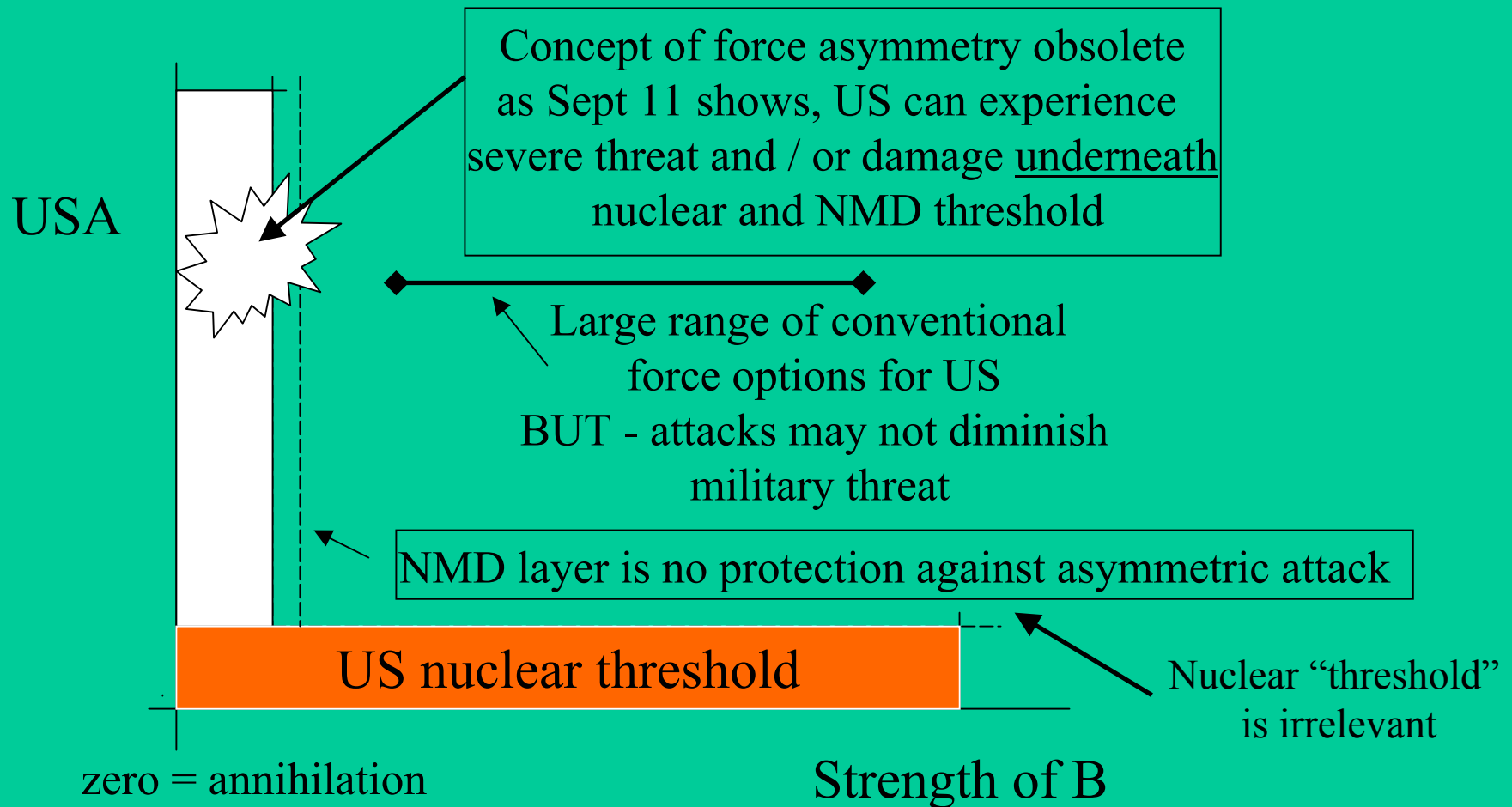
MD and the size of nuclear arsenals



Military effects of MD

- With a shield (MD) a sword is easier to use (and is more likely to be used)
- States with few nuclear weapons will
 - build more
 - develop novel cheap countermeasures
 - use other strategies - perhaps support terrorism
 - MD is completely irrelevant for small groups

Does the US REALLY have the advantage?? (yes & ...No)



What does MD not protect against?

- Cruise missiles
- weapons in ships or in cars - even suitcases
- terrorism
- almost any kind of stealthy attack
- nuclear contamination
- aircraft

Other effects of MD?

- huge waste of resources
- undermines treaties
- reduces strategic security
- **So why does it exist?**
 - provides jobs for Bush's financiers
 - reinforces a climate of fear and high military spending

Other effects of MD?

- a dangerous distraction - distorts foreign policy
- Deals with effects not causes (and even those poorly)
- most military solutions are “end of pipe” solutions (eg adding a catalyst to an exhaust)
- what is needed is systematic solutions - security building
- confidence building, threat reduction.
- Dealing with causes not effects

UK nuclear weapons & MD?

- Where does Trident fit into all this ??
- Would Trident become a potential first strike weapon under a working MD?
- What about French weapons and the US !?
- The UK is about to “renew” its 1958 “Mutual Defence Agreement” with the US for another 10 years - content?
- With Fylingdales upgrade and use of Menwith Hill and other sites, this agreement needs to see some democratic light.
- The UK Trident missiles should be entered into the NPT Review negotiations with a view to their removal

Coming soon from SGR

- new ethical career briefing:
- 'Unscrambling a space career from military forces' - by Dave Webb
- new Research:
- How the military influences R&D work in UK (and some US) Uni's - Chris Langley.

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