

# **National Strategic Capability(NSC): Theory and Practice**

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**ISS, NDU**

# **Three key concepts**

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**National Security Interests**

**National Strategic Goals**

**National Strategic Capability(NSC)**

# **NSC: Theory and Practice**

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**I. Definition of national strategic capability**

**II. Key elements and mechanisms in building national strategic capability**

**III. Domestic and international basis of national strategic capability building**

**IV. Role of military power in national strategic capability**

**V. Building of China's national strategic capability**

## I. Definition of National Strategic capability

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### **1950s-1970s , strategic and tactic nuclear weapons**



# I. Definition of National Strategic Capability

**1990s, overall capability which can be employed to cope with crisis, conflict and war**



## I. Definition of National Strategic Capability

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**End of 2001, Jing Zemin, then chairman of CMC of China, put forward the concept of *national strategic capability* for the 1<sup>st</sup> time.**



## I. Definition of National Strategic Capability

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*National strategic capability* refers to

capability through which to transform national strategic resources into strategic means and employ these means to achieve national security strategic goals by top leaders and organs to prevent and cope with security threats to maintain national interests.

## I. Definition of National Strategic Capability

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### *Three characteristics of NSC*

#### 1. To target on specific security threats





## I. Definition of National Strategic Capability

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### *Three characteristics of NSC*

#### **2. To establish the system of strategic means**



## I. Definition of National Strategic Capability

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### *Three characteristics of NSC*

**3. To be employed by top leaders and their commanding body only.**

## II. Key Elements and Mechanisms in NSC Building

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**Resources**

**Transformation Mechanism**

**Employment Mechanism**

## II. Key Elements and Mechanisms in NSC Building

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### **RESOURCES**

**Geographic Resources**

**Economic Resources**

**Scientific & Technological Resources**

**Human Resource**

**Military Resources**

**Cultural Resources**

## II. Key Elements and Mechanisms in NSC Building

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### **RESOURCES**

- **First is to develop key strategic resources, especially key technologies & industries, and build symmetrical capability to avoid being lagged behind by “generation gap”.**
- **Second is to build asymmetrical advantage of strategic capability over adversary by exploring uniqueness of strategic resources according to the requirements of national security.**

# Rural Area and Peasants : Mao Zedong's strategic resources



## II. Key Elements and Mechanisms in NSC Building

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### **TRANSFORMATION MECHANISM**



**It is often the case that plentiful resources, if used poorly, will lead to no advantage. Obviously, besides resources, we must have the ability to mobilize and employ these resources properly.**

**——Stalin**

## II. Key Elements and Mechanisms in NSC Building

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### **TRANSFORMATION MECHANISM**

Transformation mechanism refers to a series of organizations, laws, regulations and operational procedures to transform national resources into strategic means.



## II. Key Elements and Mechanisms in NSC Building

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### **Mobilization:**

**U.S.** Clark Act, Defense Production Act

**USSR** General Compulsory Service Act  
Mobilization Act

**UK** Emergency and Plenipotentiary National  
Defense Law

**France** National General Mobilization Act

## II. Key Elements and Mechanisms in NSC Building

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**The most fundamental reason for why these countries are successful is that they have established a complete and mature system in all aspects in the past over 200 years.**

**As to a leader, not matter a military leader or a country leader, the most important quality is to make rules, or in another word, to carry out rule by law, thus to establish the order which is conducive to development and strength accumulation.**

## II. Key Elements and Mechanisms in NSC Building

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### **Employment Mechanism**

**refers to strategic decision-making mechanism and strategic commanding mechanism by national leaders to employ strategic means.**

## II. Key Elements and Mechanisms in NSC Building

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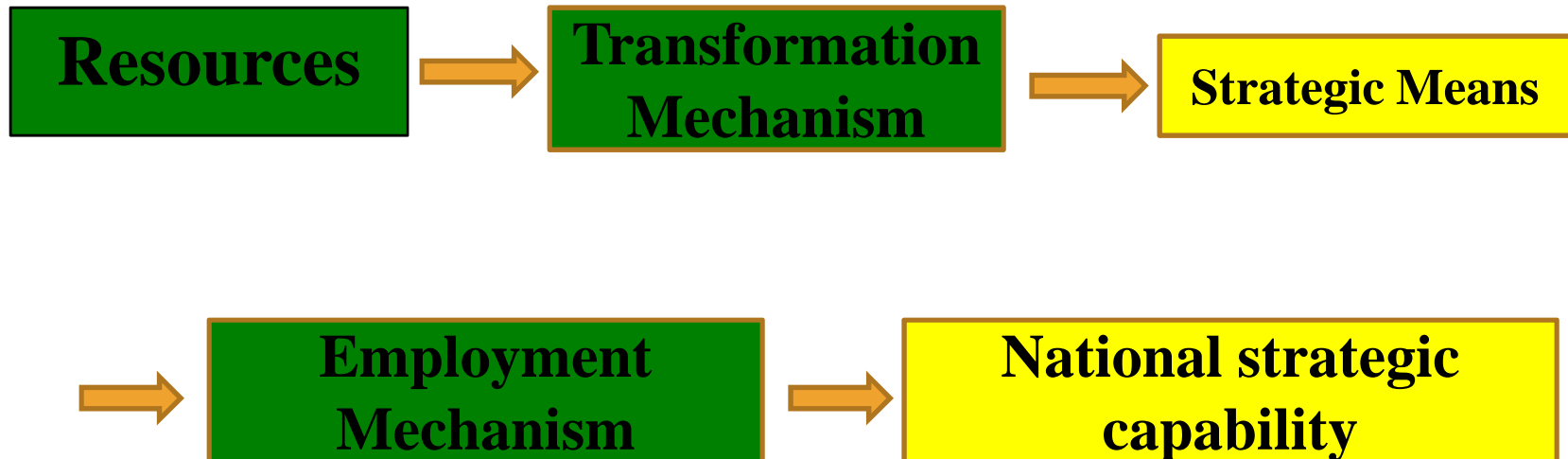
# **Functions of National Security Council**

**security strategy planning**  
**policy coordination**  
**consultation and evaluation**

## II. Key Elements and Mechanisms in NSC Building

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### Relations among key elements of NSC



### III. Domestic and International Basis of NSC Building

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**Internal basis: social cohesion**

**International political basis:  
wise foreign policy**

### III. Domestic and International Basis of NSC Building

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## **Internal Basis: Social Cohesion**

- **Social cohesion is the basis of social mobilization.**
- **Social cohesion is the source of vigor and courage for national leaders in decision-making.**

### III. Domestic and International Basis of NSC Building

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## **International Political Basis:**

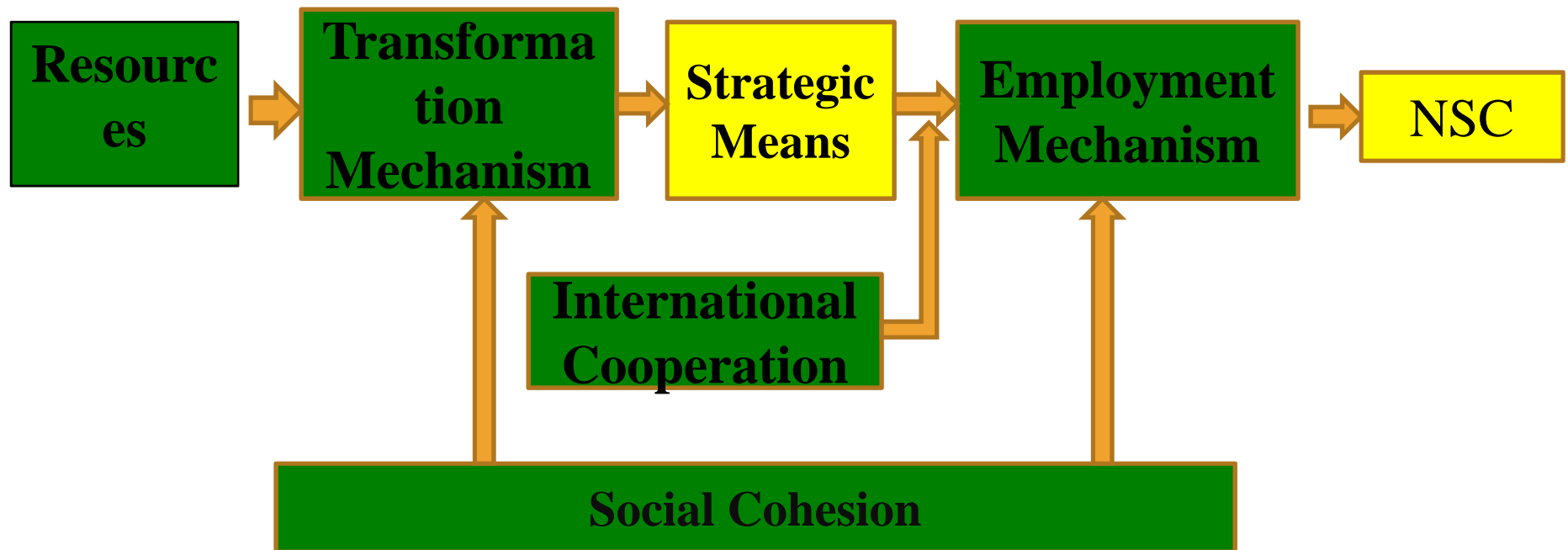
- **Adopt a balanced diplomacy**
- **Be good at making friends**
- **Participate in regional and multilateral organizations**



### III. Domestic and International Basis of NSC Building

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## Relations among key elements of NSC



## IV. Role of Military Capability in NSC

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**World economy works in the international framework provided by military power. Although we cannot feel the significance of military power in daily life as it is on wartime, it really works. It is just like air, we take it for granted when we have it, but we will suffocate and know how important it is once we do not have access to it.**

——Joseph Nye

## IV. Role of Military Capability in NSC

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### **Military Capability**

- **to promote military informationization**
- **to be independent in developing military capability**

## V. Development Direction of China's NSC

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### **China's national interests**

- ◆ **Sovereignty independence, territorial integrity**
- ◆ **National unification**
- ◆ **Development of fundamental political system and core values**
- ◆ **Independent, stable and sustained development of national economy**
- ◆ **Transformation in international and regional order which is not seriously detrimental to china**
- ◆ **More say in the development of international order and institutions**
- ◆ **Political, economic and social stability of neighboring countries**

## V. Development Direction of China's NSC

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### **China's National Interests**

- ◆ **Stable supply of international strategic resources**
- ◆ **Access to the international market**
- ◆ **Security of international lane passage**
- ◆ **Overseas Human and property security**
- ◆ **Outerspace and information security**
- ◆ **Internal national cohesion and social stability**

## V. Development Direction of China's NSC

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### **Characteristics of China's National Interests**

- **Increasing diversification of national interests**
- **Development is increasingly becoming the focus of national interests on the conditions that national survival is guaranteed.**
- **National interests has extended beyond geographical border and become more and more international.**
- **National interests, especially development interests is still fragile to some extend.**

## V. Development Direction of China's NSC

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- **to build military power for peaceful unification**
- **to attach importance to building of capability which contributes to development interests**
- **to build moderate capability of blue-ocean military protection**
- **to develop cooperative capability with foreign forces**

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# Thank You