“The Challenge”
DLO Cross-Cultural Competence Symposium
Patrick AFB, Florida

30 Jun-1 Jul 09

USCENTCOM J5

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About CENTCOM | Our Area of Responsibility

Complex

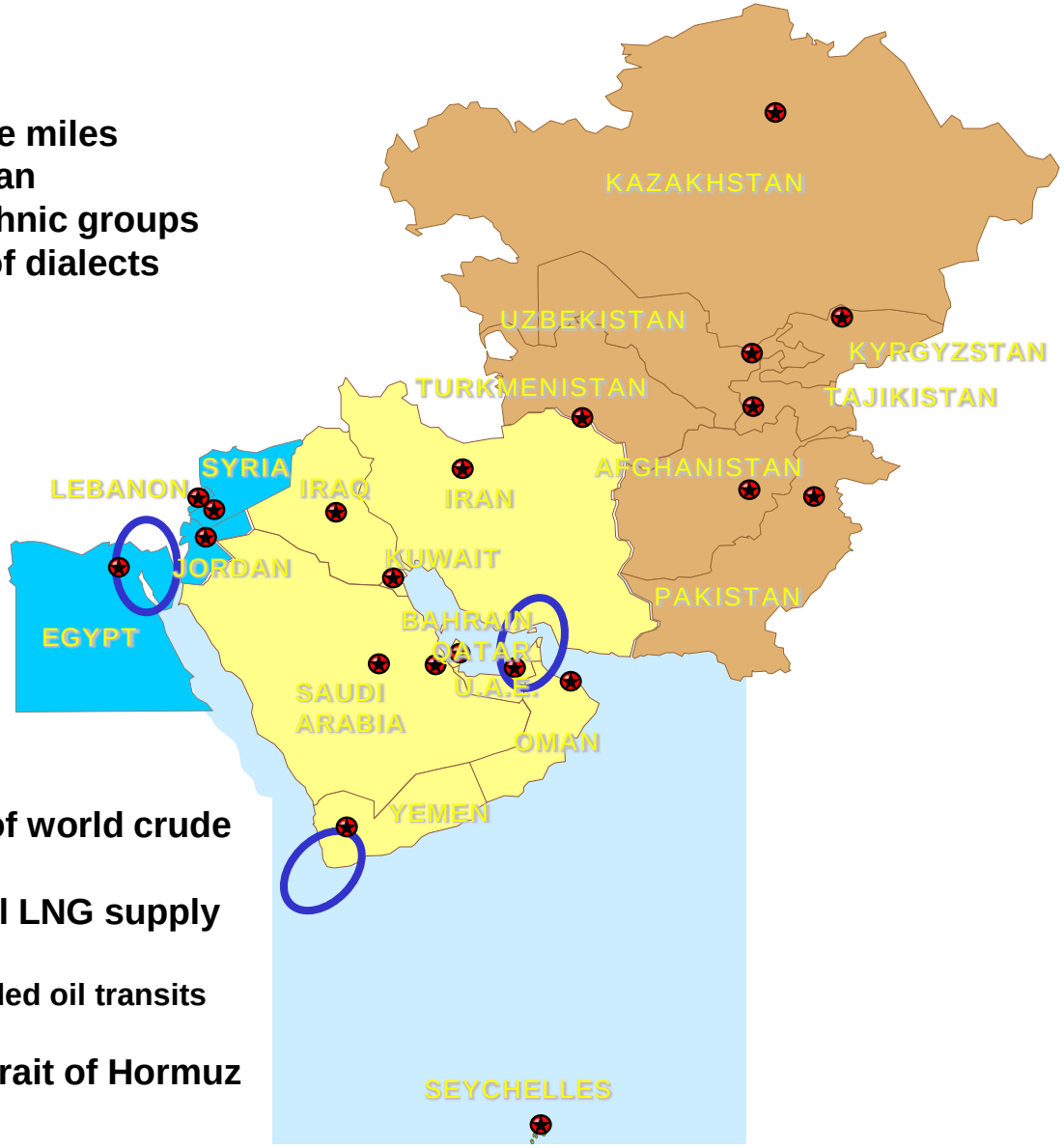
- 20 Countries, 4.5 million square miles
- 1.1 Million square miles of ocean
- 531 Million people, 16 major ethnic groups
- 7 Major languages, hundreds of dialects
- 4 Major religions

Challenging

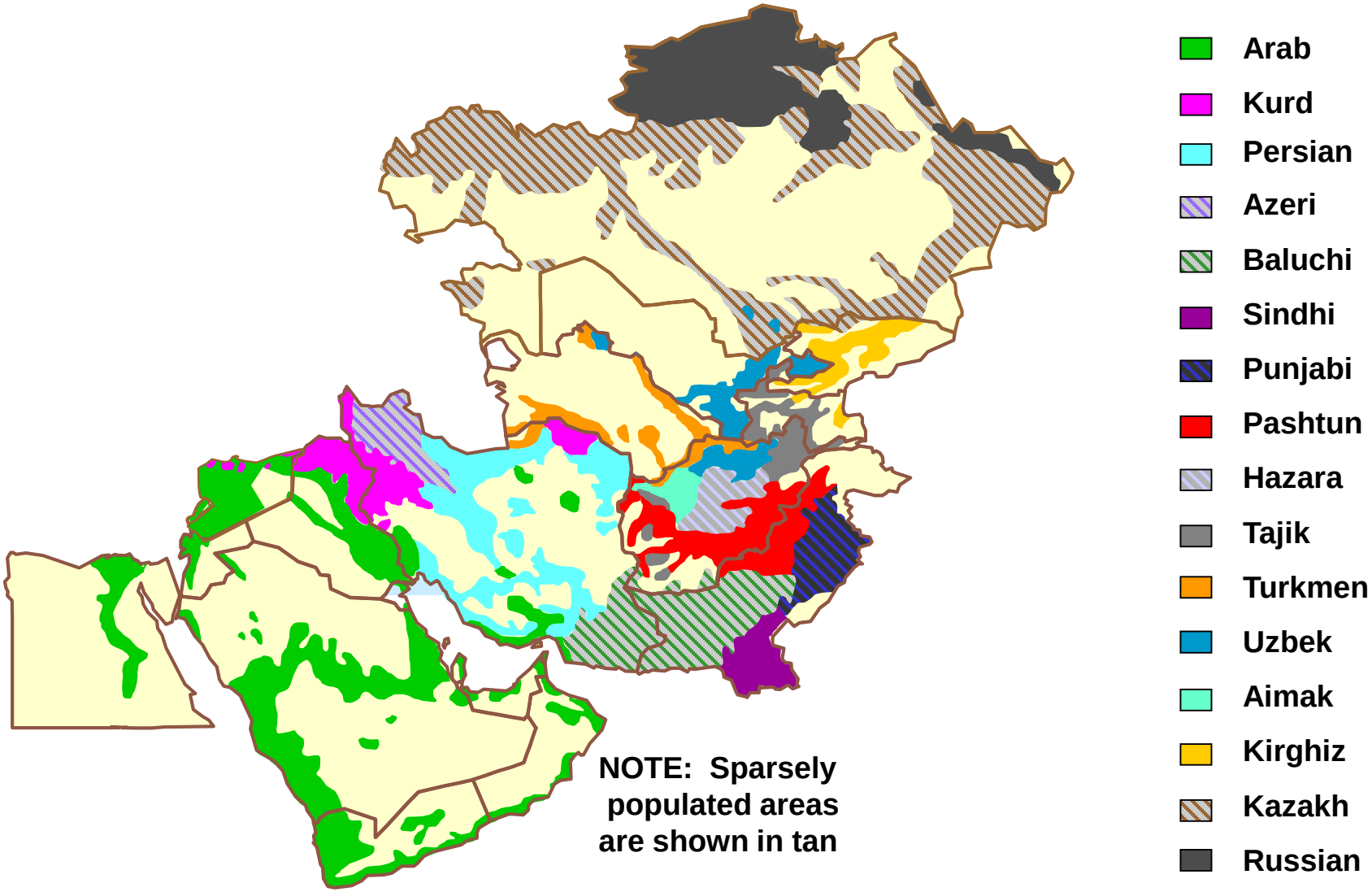
- Income inequality
- Ungoverned Spaces
- Youth Bulge
- Urbanization
- Globalization
- Corruption
- Governance

Global Economic Impact

- Arabian Gulf produces ~ 31% of world crude oil
- Region exports ~ 26% of global LNG supply
- 3 x Strategic Choke Points
  - Appx 40% internationally traded oil transits SoH
  - 21% of LNG goes through Strait of Hormuz



About CENTCOM | Ethnic vs Political Boundaries



NOTE: Sparsely populated areas are shown in tan

OEF / OIF COALITION

Over 67 NATIONS REPRESENTED

The Nature of the Enemy

- A network guided by ideology
- Amorphous worldwide network which operates as a web of cells
- Fueled by militant Islamic zeal
- Anti-Zionist
- No state boundaries
- Powerful virtual element
- "Virtual Caliphate" - All directed toward the eventual establishment of a pan-Islamic state - the "Physical Caliphate"
- Seek safe-havens, physical footholds for recruitment, training, financing, and propaganda initiatives which

4th Generation Warfare

- 1st Generation Warfare…firearms, conscript armies, rigid drill to achieve massed firepower… <u>forced discipline</u>

- 2nd Generation Warfare… industrial, attrition warfare… <u>tactical engagements</u>

- 3rd Generation Warfare… combined arms… precision… <u>maneuver</u>

4th Generation Warfare

Extremists' Objectives

- **Re-establish the Caliphate**
- **Establish Sharia Law**

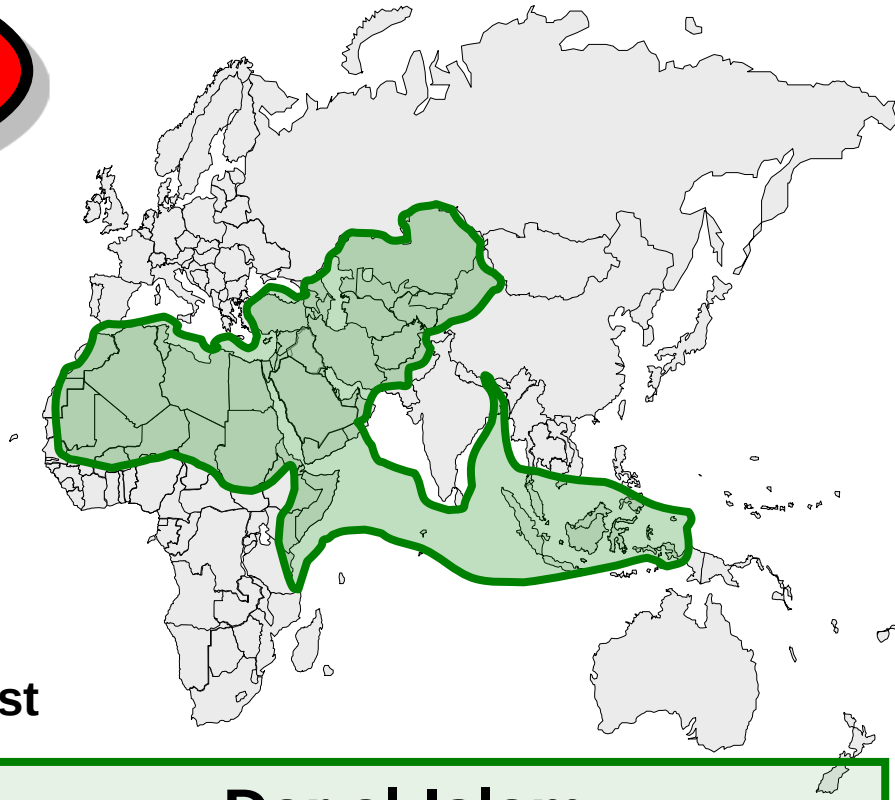
Rid Dar al-Islam of Zionist Presence

Overthrow Apostate Governments

Get U.S./Western Influence out of Mid-East

Advocate Jihad

Source: UBL 1996 & 1998



Dar al-Islam

"Abode of Islam"

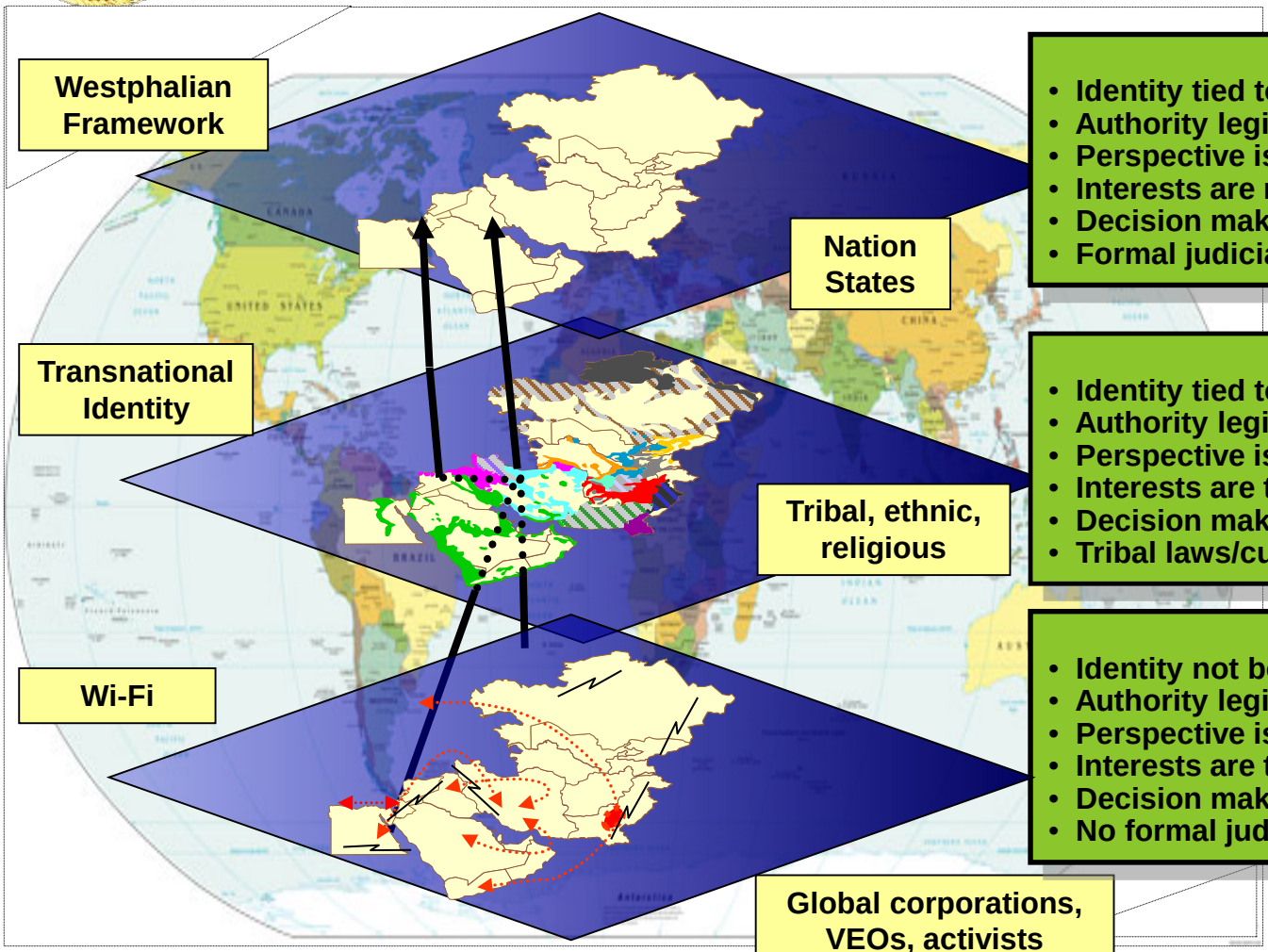
Geographical areas that are under Muslim rule and governed by Islamic law.

2009 Challenges

- Reverse downward cycle in Afghanistan and Pakistan
- Reduce forces in Iraq without jeopardizing gains
- Counter malign Iranian influence and nuclear ambitions
- Bolster Lebanon, Yemen, and the Central Asian States
- Counter piracy, narcotics trafficking, and arms smuggling
- Reduce strain on the force
- Reinforce new policy initiatives
  - Middle East Peace Process
  - Afghanistan/Pakistan envoy
  - Outreach to Syria and/or Iran

CENTCOM Strategic Approach

Strategic Environment: Westphalia to Wi-Fi

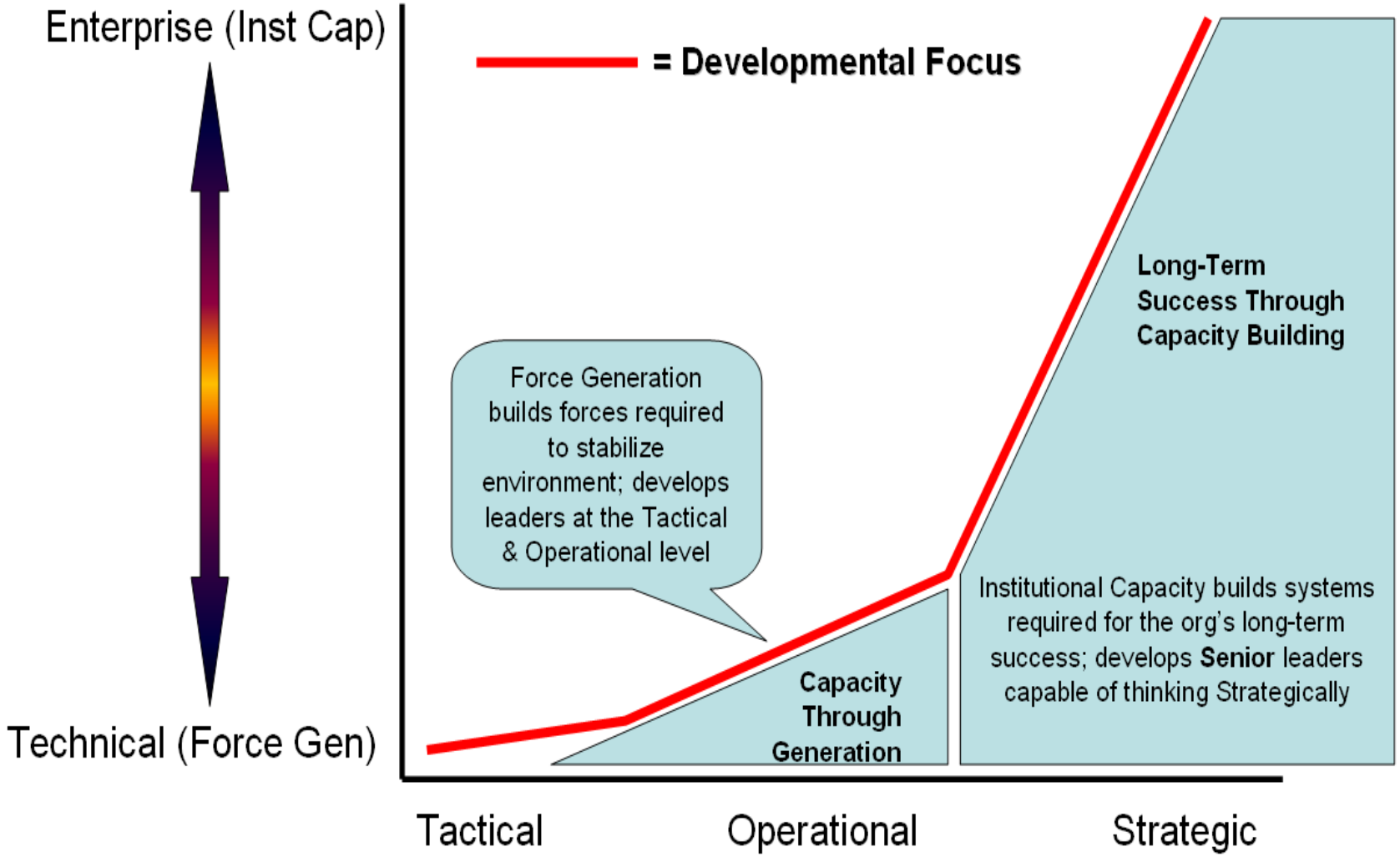


Westphalian
- Identity tied to geographic area
- Authority legitimized externally/internally
- Perspective is "national interests"
- Interests are national or individual/leader
- Decision making is bureaucratic
- Formal judicial process

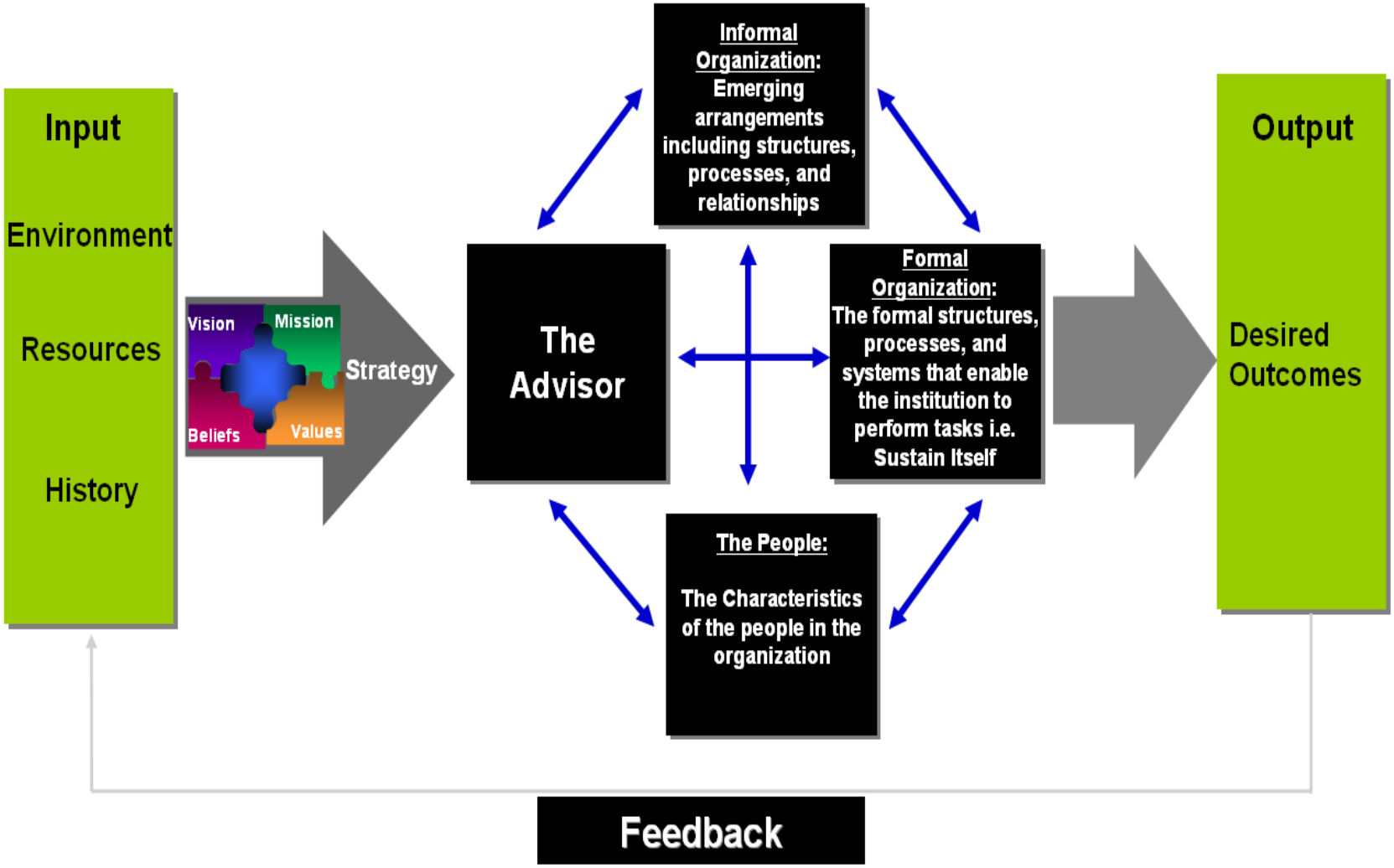
Transnational
- Identity tied to geographic area
- Authority legitimized internally
- Perspective is "tribe before state"
- Interests are tribal well being
- Decision making is consensus oriented
- Tribal laws/customs

Wi-Fi
- Identity not bound by geography
- Authority legitimized internally
- Perspective is the ideology/cause
- Interests are to advance cause
- Decision making is anonymous
- No formal judicial process

Iraq: Dynamic Scope



Iraq: Institutional Challenges



Issue: How are decision made in this culture?

Questions?