

Panel: Bolstering Counter-proliferation Regime (Regency Room)

Date/Time: Wednesday, February 20, 2013 / 15:30-16:45

Talking Points for: Matthew Kroenig, Assistant Professor, Department of Government, Georgetown University

- I. *To bolster counterproliferation, we must developed a shared international norm and set of principals based on the idea that the international community has a responsibility to intervene to prevent nuclear proliferation, using coercive measures, such as economic sanctions, and military force as a last resort.*
 - a. The primary roadblock to effective counterproliferation is not capabilities, but interests and norms.
 - b. Interests: Many states put their short-term interests in maintaining trade and diplomatic relations with proliferators over their long term interest in preventing nuclear proliferation and nuclear war.
 - c. Norms: At present, many people consider coercive measures to prevent proliferation, especially preventive strikes on nuclear facilities, as illegitimate.
- II. An analogy: In the realm of human rights, we have seen norms on intervention evolve over time.
 - a. In the past, powerful states failed to intervene to prevent mass atrocities because they did not have an interest in doing so and because norms of human rights clashed with norms of sovereignty.
 - b. R2P, the Responsibility to Protect, is an emerging norm based on the idea that the international community has a responsibility to intervene to prevent mass atrocities.
- III. If we truly believe that the spread of nuclear weapons poses a grave threat to international peace and security, we need an equivalent norm, R2PP, a responsibility to prevent proliferation.
 - a. The international community not only has the right to intervene to prevent proliferation, it has a responsibility to do so.
 - b. The burden of proof should be on those who stand idly by as the world's most dangerous weapons spread.

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