

All.Net Analyst Report and Newsletter

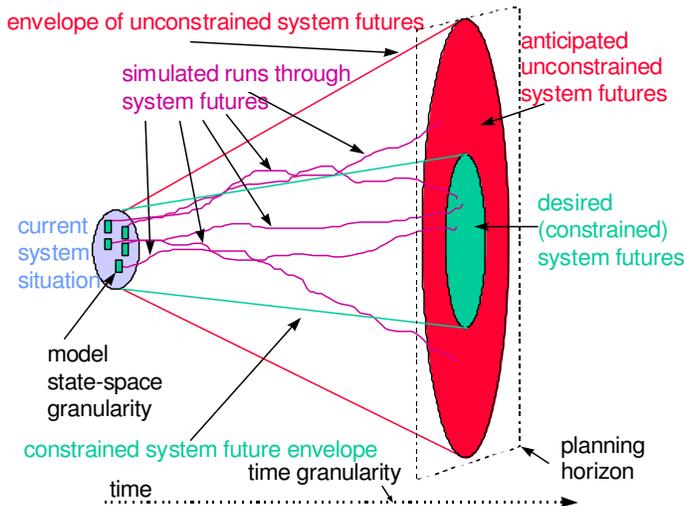
Welcome to our Analyst Report and Newsletter

Exit plan

We hear a lot of opinions about what Trump, Barr, and others might do if they think Trump is losing or has lost the election. I have no idea of what they might or might not actually think of or decide to do, if anything. That's why, in planning for the future in general, and as a case study in the upcoming election and beyond, I use model-based situation anticipation and constraint as an approach to my decision-making.

Model-based situation anticipation and constraint?

OK – not a term or technique you have probably heard a lot about... but I first wrote about it about 20 years ago. The premise is relatively simple, and I think it's how most people think about things, but in a more theoretical framework, it looks like this:



The current situation of the system is modeled to some level of granularity. Based on anticipated event sequences which are generated at a finite level of granularity in time and in the space of possibilities, futures are identified in some future time frame. Since the world gets “moves” and you get “moves”, the object is to identify your moves that will keep the identified futures in the computable time frames within your desired constrained future situations. Sounds simple? Not really. But think about how you think, and maybe this is a sensible way to understand what you do when you think about things.

Using this as a notional basis, an example may be made of thinking about the upcoming political upheaval in the US. Of course it really helps if you take history into account, because that helps generate a range of possibilities that demonstrably have happened before. While the notion that anything can happen is worth considering, if we start with what has happened, we can get a range of possibilities, dimensions of the problem space (which is inherently an infinite dimensional Hilbert space), and be certain that within those bounds, there is historical precedent and therefore more than just possibility.

Would you kill Hitler at this point?

One of the important questions to ask in the current situation is, “At what point do I act?”. If you plan but never act, then what happens to you is out of your control, and while it's easy enough, you will end up in the space of unconstrained futures (including the red parts you would likely seek to avoid). In other words, your planning has to anticipate acts you will undertake and the time (and situation) when those acts will be taken. Wait too long, and you miss the window. Act too soon and you may blow it. And what action should you take?

I won't be solving those problems here...

Or likely anywhere else. As a fundamental problem we make judgments and don't get to try again. Unlike repeatable experiments, we don't get to try again in the real world, or at least not under the same circumstances. "You buys your ticket and you takes your chances". I don't know where that quote comes from, but it's a good one, including the misuse of words that indicate we really don't ever know enough to be sure we're right.

So what does history tell us to think about?

If Trump wins, he will do whatever he has done and more of it in more ways, and the US will likely move forward in the current overall trajectory, likely accelerating. He admires and seeks to emulate dictators, so look at Turkey, Russia, and North Korea as examples. If that means, for you, that you don't want to be here, you should plan your escape now.

- **Escape plan:** Where will you go? When will you go? Who will go and who will stay?
 - When you go likely depends on two things: (1) when it becomes dangerous, and (2) when the border is closed.
 - Ideally you would want whoever is to go to do so before it becomes dangerous and before the borders close. The problem is, how do you tell? The border closure with Canada happened 10 minutes before my friend got there (COVID), and even though the closure wasn't declared yet, they didn't let him in. While he got across a day later (legally), an hour earlier and he would not have had the problem. It was not announced in advance, as it rarely is.
 - If you miss the timing on getting across the border, you can either find a legal way to get there or you can go the "undocumented" route and try to get legal later. It usually works better with family already there legally, so marry someone from somewhere else just in case... Maybe that's a bit too much advanced planning. You can also go on the Soviet plan... get permission on a Tourist visa or a conference or other work-related thing and then escape the minders and ask for political asylum.
- **Stand and fight:** If you are a patriot, you may choose to stand and fight.
 - Strangely, many in the military and government find it ethical and moral to resign from their government position.
 - Unfortunately, if enough public servants do this, the government will be composed of people who support the dictator. At some point, the dictator wins because the opponents run away. The problem with ethics and morality that side with the "company man" approach is clearly seen in the congressional testimony of Robert Mueller. He knew there were many crimes, and he knew that there were places to go in the investigation, but as a company man, he resisted telling the whole truth as he saw it in his testimony. At least until the later part of the day. But at that point, it was too late. And he went silently into that good night, acting for some reason like the differences between the parties had nothing to do with right or wrong, but rather only with right and left. He trusted Barr, and found out he was wrong, but as a company man, he kept quiet and didn't speak up when he had the chance to make a difference. He failed the law.

- As more high integrity people resign, more low integrity people end up in charge and working for them. That means that the technologies and mechanisms in support of the dictator are run by their minions. That's a big problem because the forces that can be used for good or evil are used for the dictator's purposes. Technology is a two-edged sword, and when held entirely by the dictator, the people lose.
- The underground of the modern era is a very different world than WWII in Europe.
 - Because of all the surveillance capabilities of the modern world, direction of these capabilities against the civilian populace for the purposes of the dictator are likely to be determinative in defeating the resistance. Without insiders helping out, or at least not trying hard to catch the underground, the information available makes it very hard to get away with subversive acts undetected.
 - Defeating surveillance, to the point of surviving when you act against the government, or speak against them in a way they really don't like, requires a high level of sophistication. Because of all the video, audio, and electronic surveillance, and in conjunction with the analytical capability and human reporting by your friends, neighbors, and family members, escaping the dictator will require a variety of methods the defeat or redirect the surveillance state to take out their own.

If Trump loses and gives up, won't you look silly? All that planning and imagining things... So if you don't want to look silly, don't tell everyone of your plans. In fact, even if you do want to look silly, don't tell them. Any real escape plan had better be secret at some level, or they will catch you! You're not paranoid if they really are out to get you.

If the outcome is unclear and muddled, all sorts of havoc is likely to take over. Some speculate Trump will stop the counting, send in troops, mess up the postal service, Barr will declare martial law to "count the votes", and so forth. Lots of pressure on the Supreme court to settle things, delays wherever possible, etc. Some think this will happen in any case on election night after Trump declares victory without basis.

- **Havoc leads to anything:** See escape plan above. It's a matter of when, unless...
- **Stay and fight it:** A different point of view is that in case of havoc, fight like hell to get us back from the brink. This is where gun rights come in... depending on how bad it gets. Mass protests in the streets. Trump invokes military and police options to quell the violence (regardless of the reality), etc. - See below under "**Start the revolution**" and above under "**Stand and fight**".

If it never gets there... Yes, it's possible that the election will not even happen, or will be somehow really screwed up. For example:

- **Start the revolution:** The takeover starts with:
 - *Disabling or taking over the communications systems.* That means control over the Internet. Shutdown of the core routers, mass messaging over the cellular system using the emergency systems created for things like child abduction alerts, etc. News stations get invaded or the transmitters and networks disrupted and taken over. International communicates get disrupted.

- **Don't imagine this cannot be done.** It will be, even if not perfectly.
- *Taking over the transportation system.* This includes the Postal Service AND commercial carriers. You don't have to be universal – all you have to do is take over the borders between states and you control food and goods supply in the large sense. As winter comes, you starve or freeze without it.
- *Taking over the financial system.* With the Internet down it will nearly collapse anyway. And international transfers run through the Federal Reserve Bank, which the President can take quickly if desired. When you control the money (relatively little cash exists out there anymore), nobody can do anything but barter, and try to get out of the country without something to barter with. You won't be able to buy enough gas to reach the border.

At this point it is basically game over. Military control, you win. Military refuses and takes over, democracy on hold till they appoint a new President.

Let's assume...

If all these are possibilities, the effective planning starts with **detection**, or more accurately **indications and warnings**. Why? Because if you cannot detect these conditions before they are already fully implemented, you will not likely be able to react in time to mitigate any harm you are seeking to mitigate. And if they are all possible, that means the worst one is possible, so (something about min/max strategy here) plan for the worst and hope for the best.

- **Indications** is a term associated with the things that indicate something is about to happen. For example, if the precursor to subverting an election is defeating the voting process, indicators would be things like, eliminating polling places for voters you don't want to vote, changing the postal service to control mail-in votes, making a pandemic worse rather than better to wreck havoc, sending out false information about voting to confuse the voters, claiming the election is a fraud before hand to pre-load your excuse for a takeover, etc. We see plenty of indications of dictatorial takeover today.
- **Warnings** is a term associated with taking the fused indications and turning them into notifications of situations with associated actions to mitigate the potential harm. We see plenty of warnings in the sense of notifications of the situation. But what we largely lack today is the actions part of warnings. **What can you and I do** to stop this from happening, how should we behave?

The one real action US persons are being heavily encouraged to take is to **vote**. "Plan your vote" is a campaign being run to encourage this, and registration drives are underway to support this. I certainly hope that many more US citizens will vote in the upcoming election, because I believe that democracy works better when more people vote. But that's not how dictators win elections for the most part. To quote Stalin (imperfectly translated):

- "Elections are not won in the voting booth. They are won in the counting room"

Protecting the counting of voted is something that is rarely discussed in much detail, but one reasonable assumption at this point (let's just call it a **warning** for now) is that the counting will be disrupted.

- The Postal Service disruption is not going to stop people from voting, but ballots not yet arrived by deadline or improperly postmarked, or not ever delivered because of a fire caused by a “protector”, or stolen from a carrier en route, etc. will stop the votes from arriving and/or being counted.
- Watch for government-controlled forces “protecting” the ballots and “supervising” the voting. Because of the pandemic, we may have to shut down certain things... watch for the election interference.
- Computers are used for counting. Those computers, in some states, are the product of a company whose CEO has openly supported and indicated a willingness to cheat for a Republican in the past. And we know that these machines can be subverted because of research into voting machine vulnerabilities over a long time frame.
- We also know that cyber attacks are underway against these mechanisms by the Russians, and that the Trump administration is trying to stop Congress from hearing more of the details going forward by stopping in person briefings where there can be questions asked and potentially answered by the intelligence community.

This information is all over the media – at least some of the media. About 35% of the public hears none of this in the US, a tribute to information dominance and a failure of the truth tellers to get the truth of these things out to the rest of the public. And when it does get out, it tends to be shaded as a good thing. Propaganda works. You are warned.

Would you kill Hitler at this point?

Obviously, it's more complicated than this. And if you even start to read history of overthrows you will find lots of details and possibilities. I think that's a great idea (reading about it, not killing what you think might be the next Hitler – I am against killing all one-time painters), because your study will convince you that these scenarios are feasible, and you may even develop ways to anticipate and constrain them.

And of course some folks will be (and apparently have been) nuts enough to try to just assassinate Trump to eliminate him. That might work, of course, but it's more likely to get you thrown in Federal prison for a long time, and Trump is likely to be unaffected by it, because the Secret Service is pretty damned good at what they do. In fact, it might give him popular support and help him win the election. In fact, he might even claim it happened to get the support anyway!

- In fact someone just apparently tried to do this by sending ricin to Trump in the mail. Of course this didn't work because mail to the President is screened, and perhaps more importantly, it's far more likely to kill someone who merely processes mail. An innocent public servant could die if you are stupid enough to try this.
- Was this a trick by Trump to generate more support? Could be. Was it a real attempt? Could be. Can we ever believe what “they” tell us about it? We can, but we might not, and we should certainly question it at this point.

Conclusions

Here's the real point. You don't need to go very far down this path to realize that if you believe this stuff and you figure you could be one of the targets of the new path forward, it's time to start thinking, and you don't have to go that deep to figure out you might need an exit plan.