'Digital Pearl Harbor' or 'Pax Perpetua'? Securitization of Cyberspace in US-Chinese Relationship

Stratcomm (B): Morgan G.

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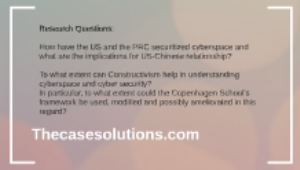

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Research Questions:

How have the US and the PRC securitized cyberspace and what are the implications for US-Chinese relationship?

To what extent can Constructivism help in understanding cyberspace and cyber security?
In particular, to what extent could the Copenhagen School's framework be used, modified and possibly ameliorated in this regard?

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Cyberspace: What is in the Name?

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Construction:
- Physical Dimension
- Social Dimension

3 Dichotomies:
- common vs battlefield
- solidarity/social activism vs terrorism/ hacktivism
- global transparency vs surveillance

Cyber Security

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Threat and Threat Agents:
- Attribution Problem
- Hackers, criminal organizations, political-ideological extremists, state-sponsored actors..

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What is Critical?
- Sensitive Information:
content control; information-gathering (information sharing and data mining); cyber espionage

- Critical Information Infrastructure:
non-state ownership, digitalized, privitized, globalized, deregulated -> cross-border disruption

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" I DON'T THINK YOU UNDERSTAND THE CONCEPT of CYBERSECURITY."

yber Security

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Threat and Threat Agents:

- Attribution Problem
- Hackers, criminal organizations, political-ideological extremists, state-sponsored actors..

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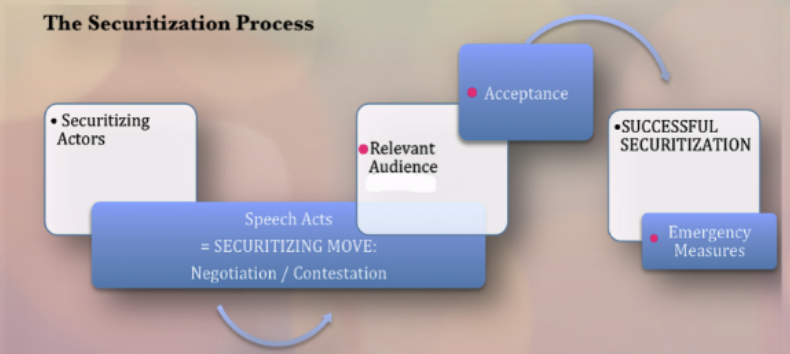
Constructivist Security Studies: The Copenhagen School

Constructivism:
- Socially, inter-subjective construction
- Context-specific
- time-space conditional understanding of reality

Copenhagen School: how is security constructed?



-> speech act, discursive construction of threat and security

-> widens definition of security and threat

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