

Missile Defence - Threats, Responses and Projections - Bradford March 2004

Thinking around Missile Defense

Dr Philip Webber

**Chair, Scientists for Global Responsibility
SGR Arms and Arms control co-ordinator**

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Key issues covered:

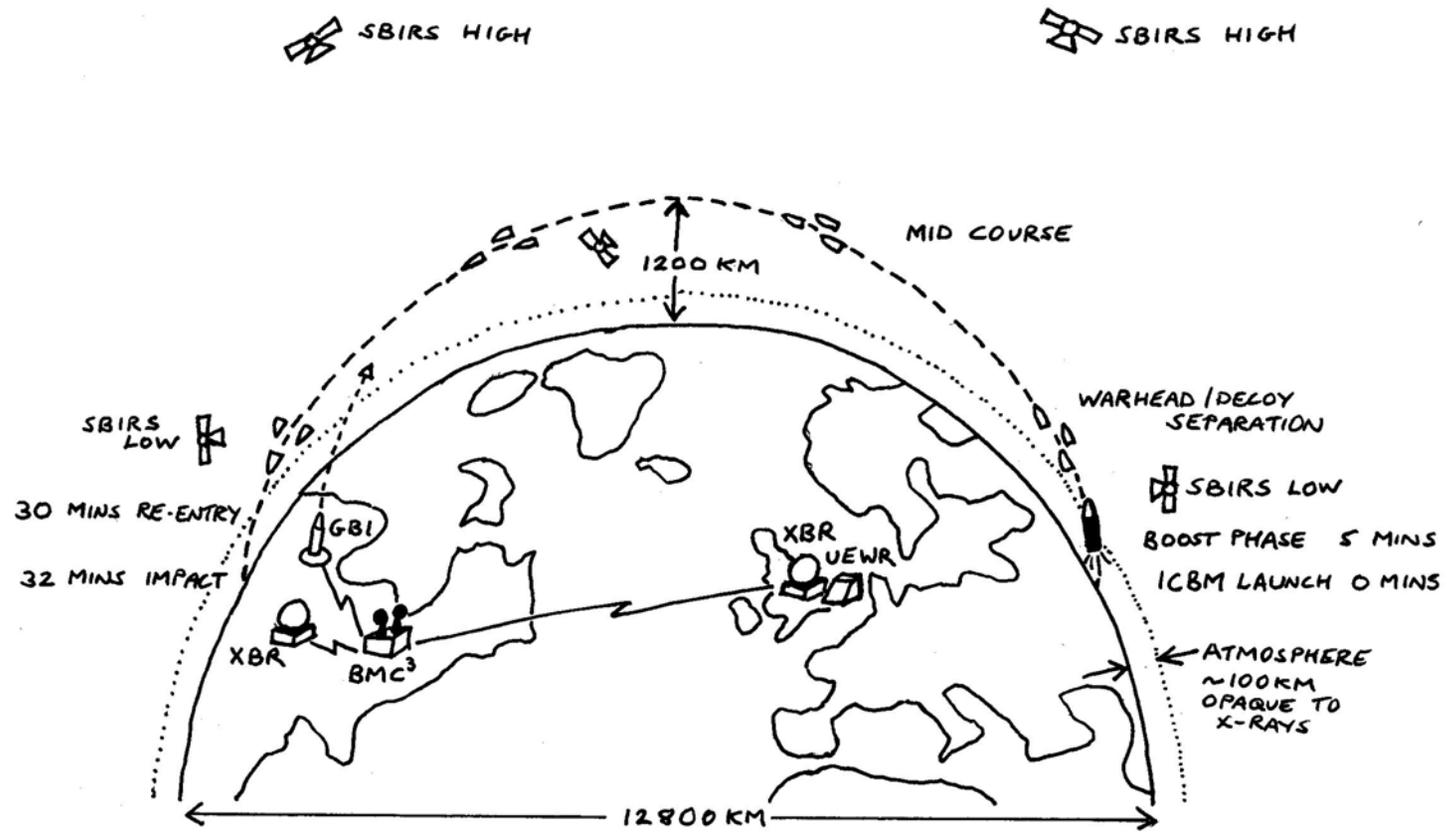
- Missile Defence requires a global military
- How does MD fit into an unbalanced world and asymmetric conflict?
- Other effects of MD
- UK nuclear weapons, MD and the NPT

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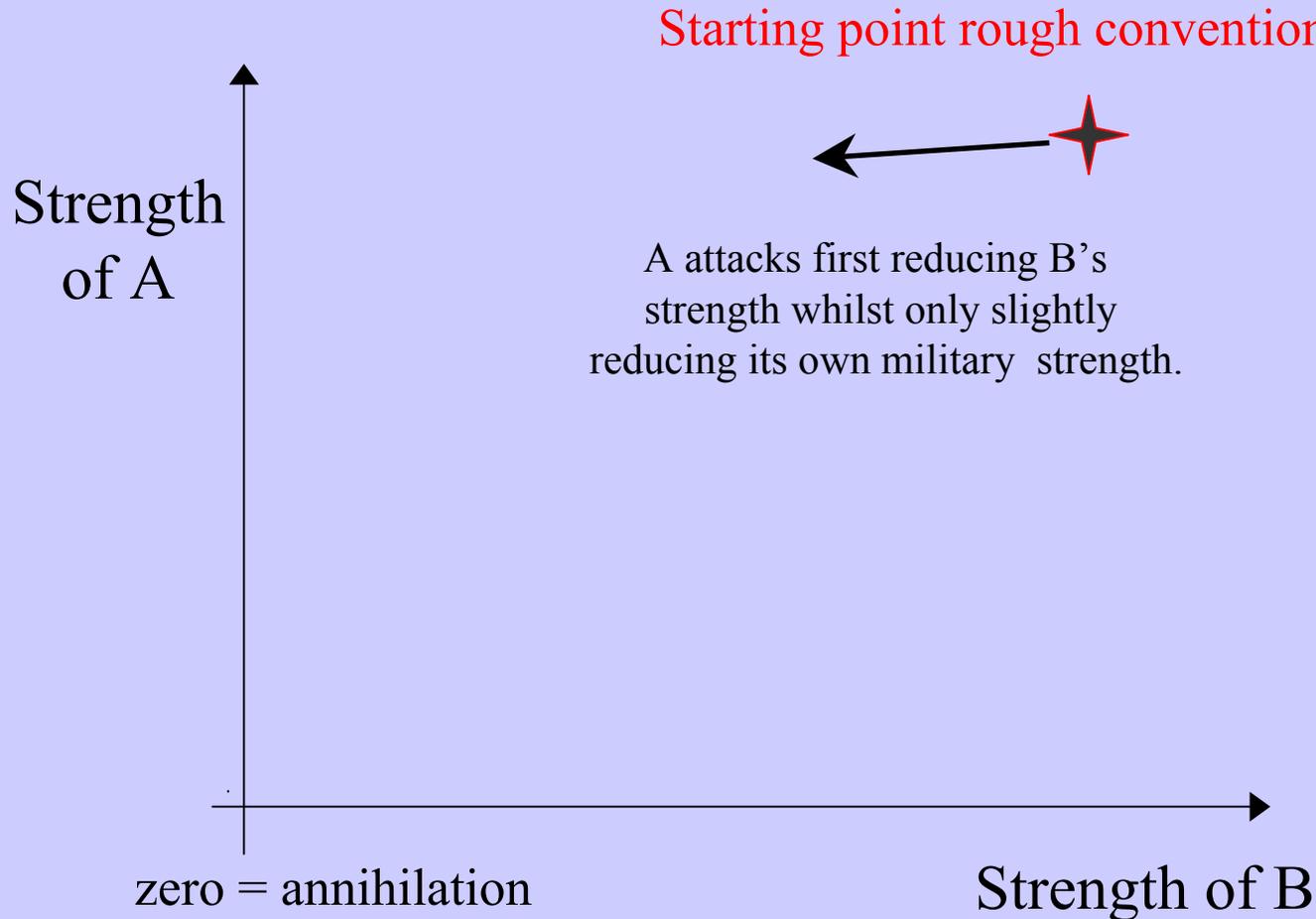
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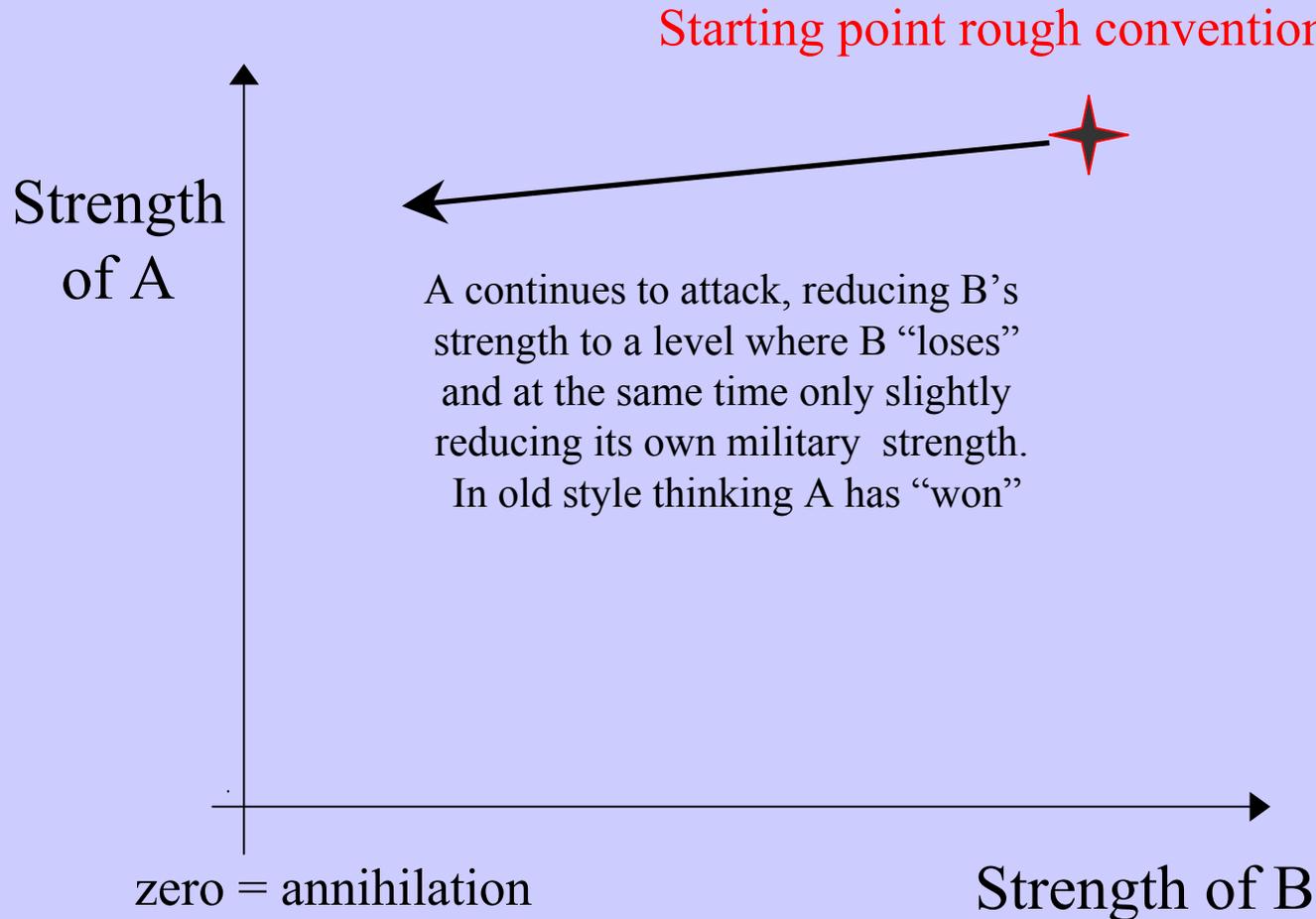
MD demands a global system and 'full spectrum dominance'

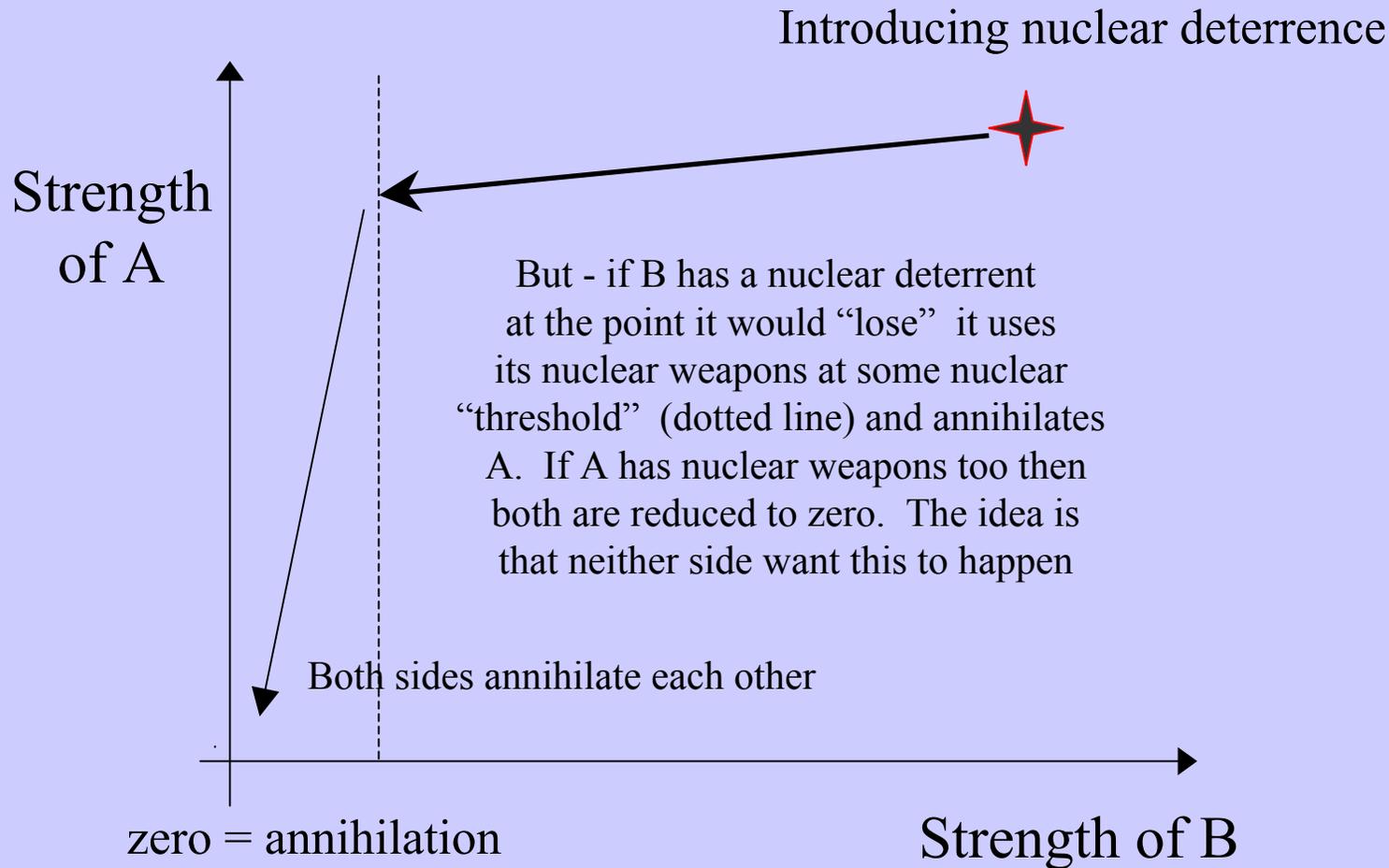


Missile Defense and crisis stability



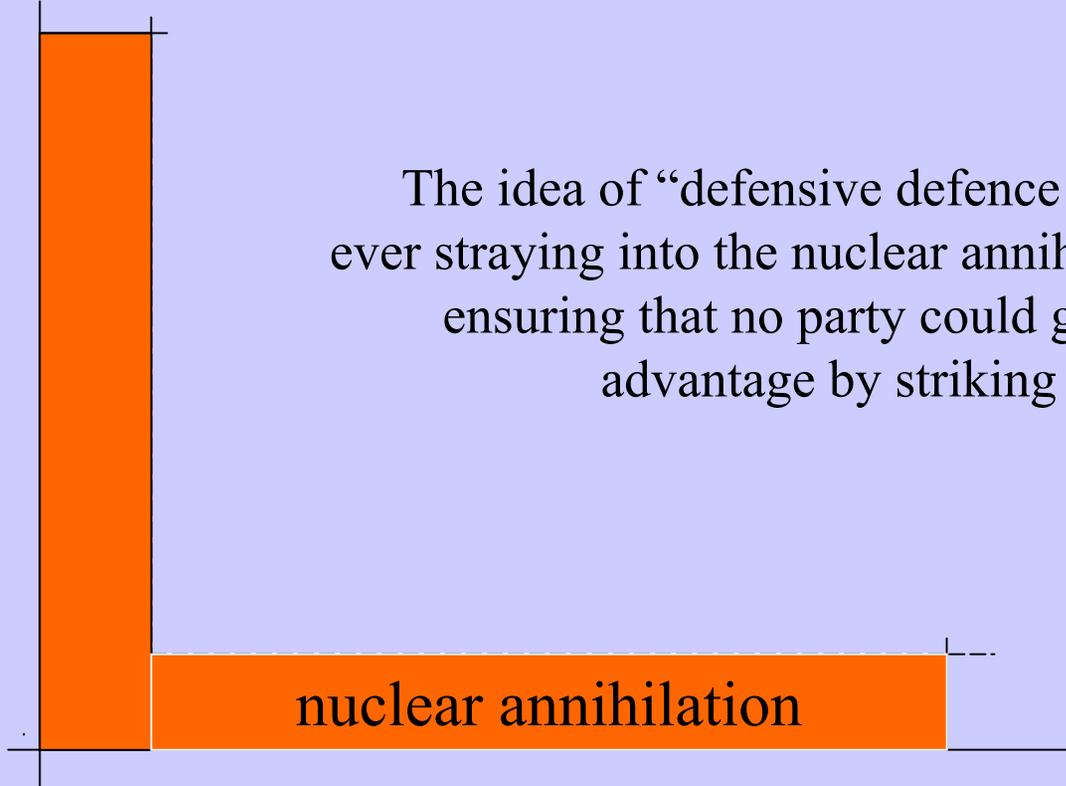
Missile Defense and crisis stability





A

The idea of “defensive defence was to avoid ever straying into the nuclear annihilation zones by ensuring that no party could get a usable advantage by striking first

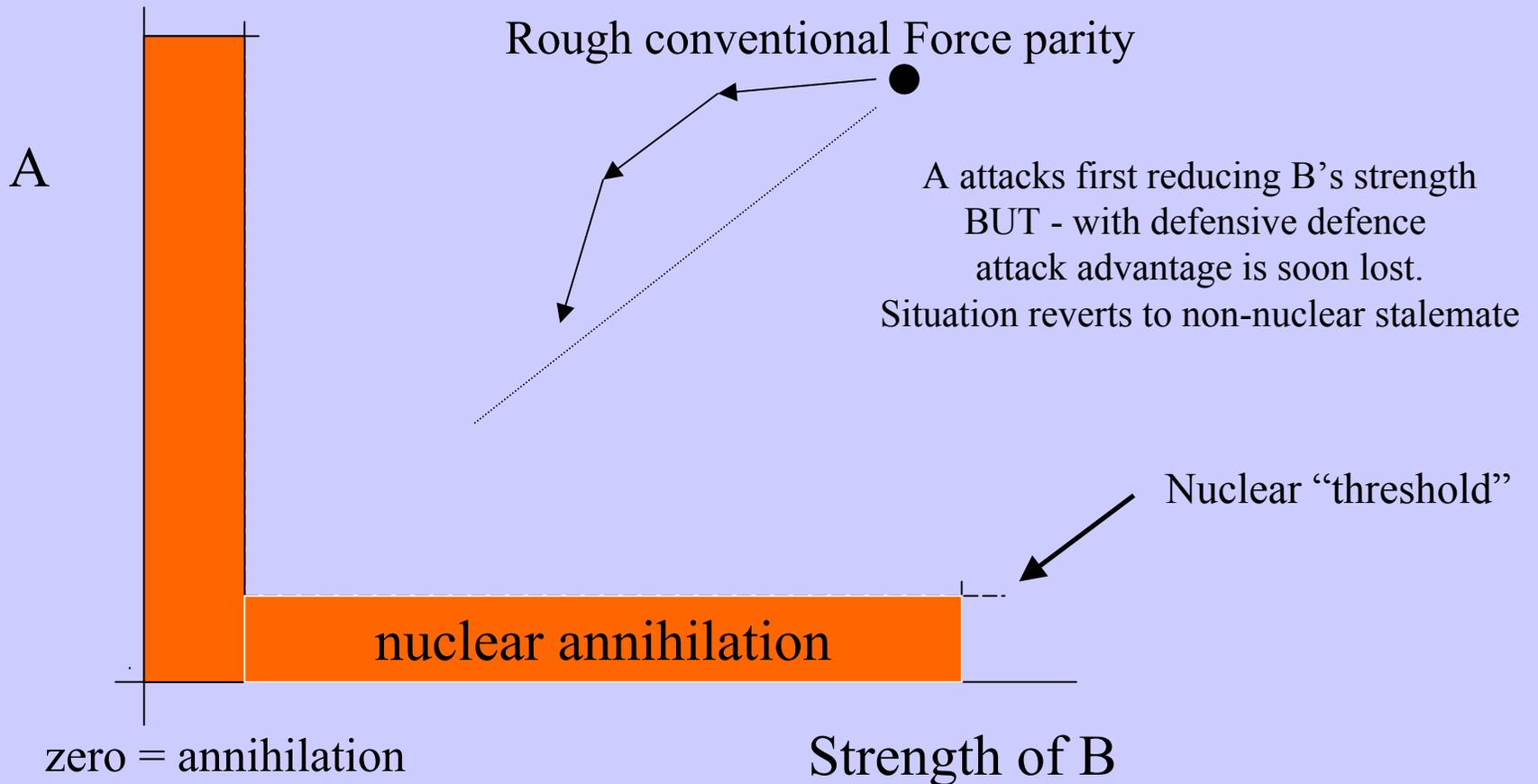


nuclear annihilation

zero = annihilation

Strength of B

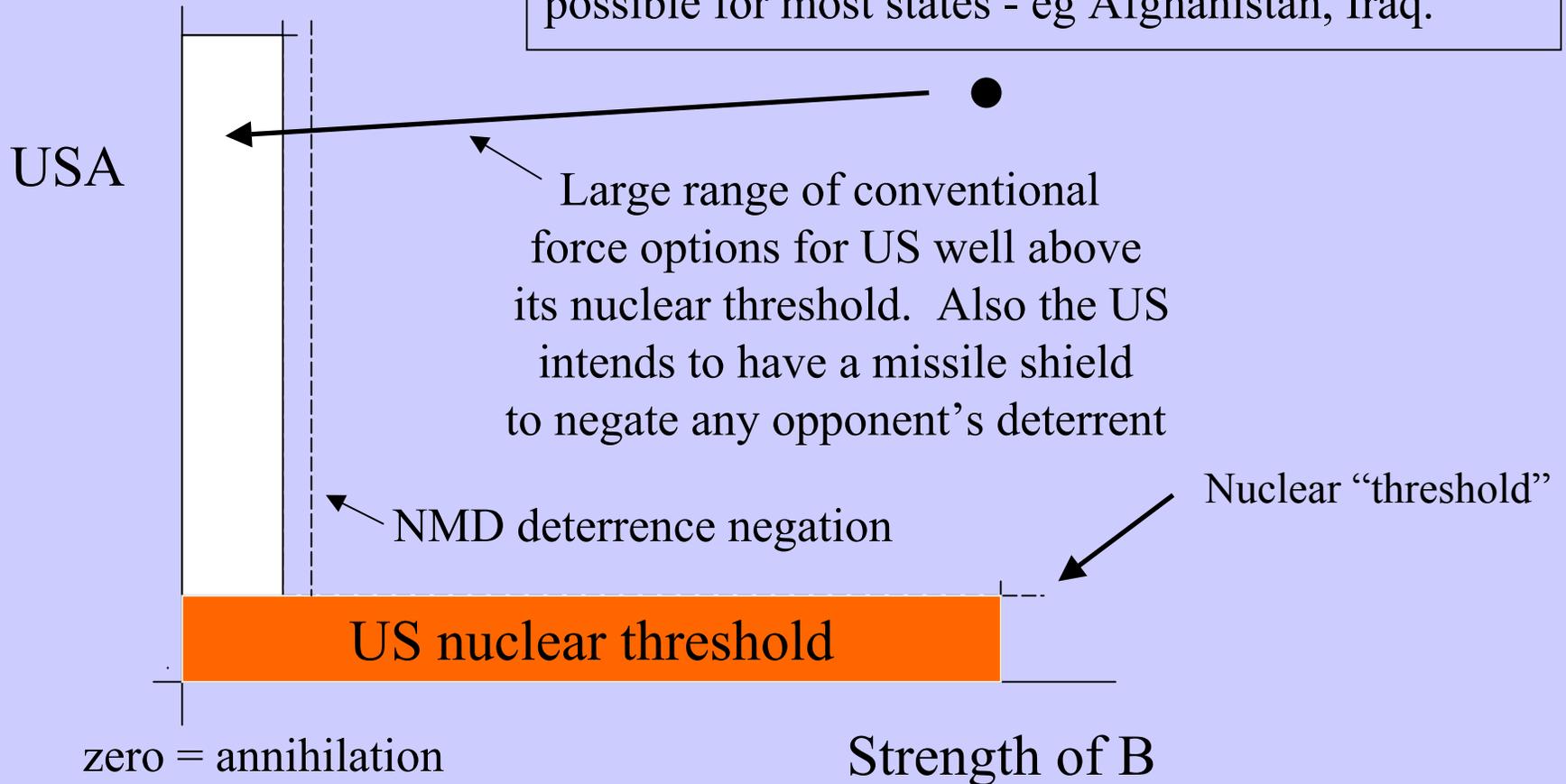
Defensive Defence



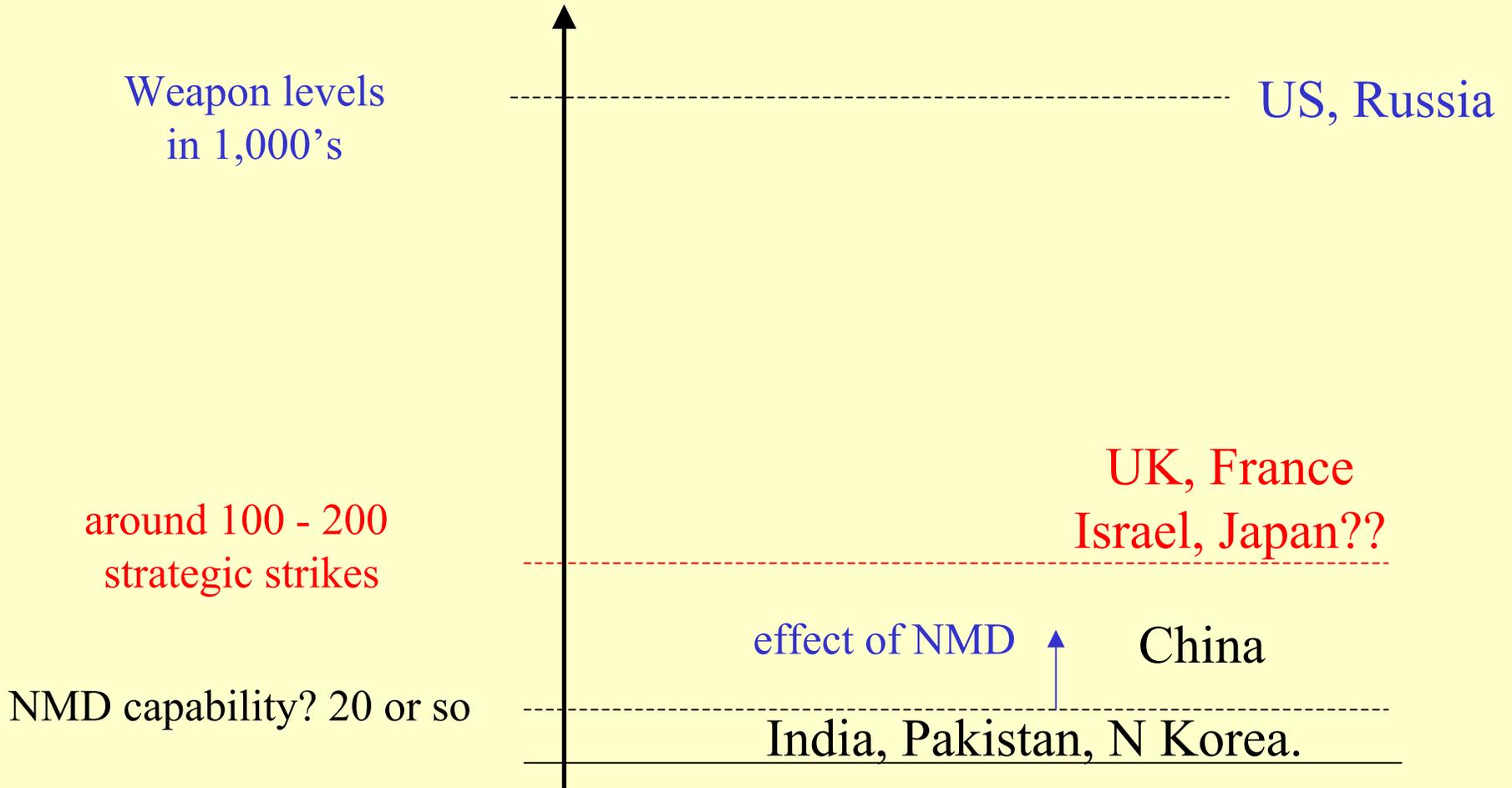
But what is the situation today?

US can attack another state and reduce them to zero without suffering militarily

conventional force asymmetry, US force dominance
- US attack without a threat of nuclear response possible for most states - eg Afghanistan, Iraq.



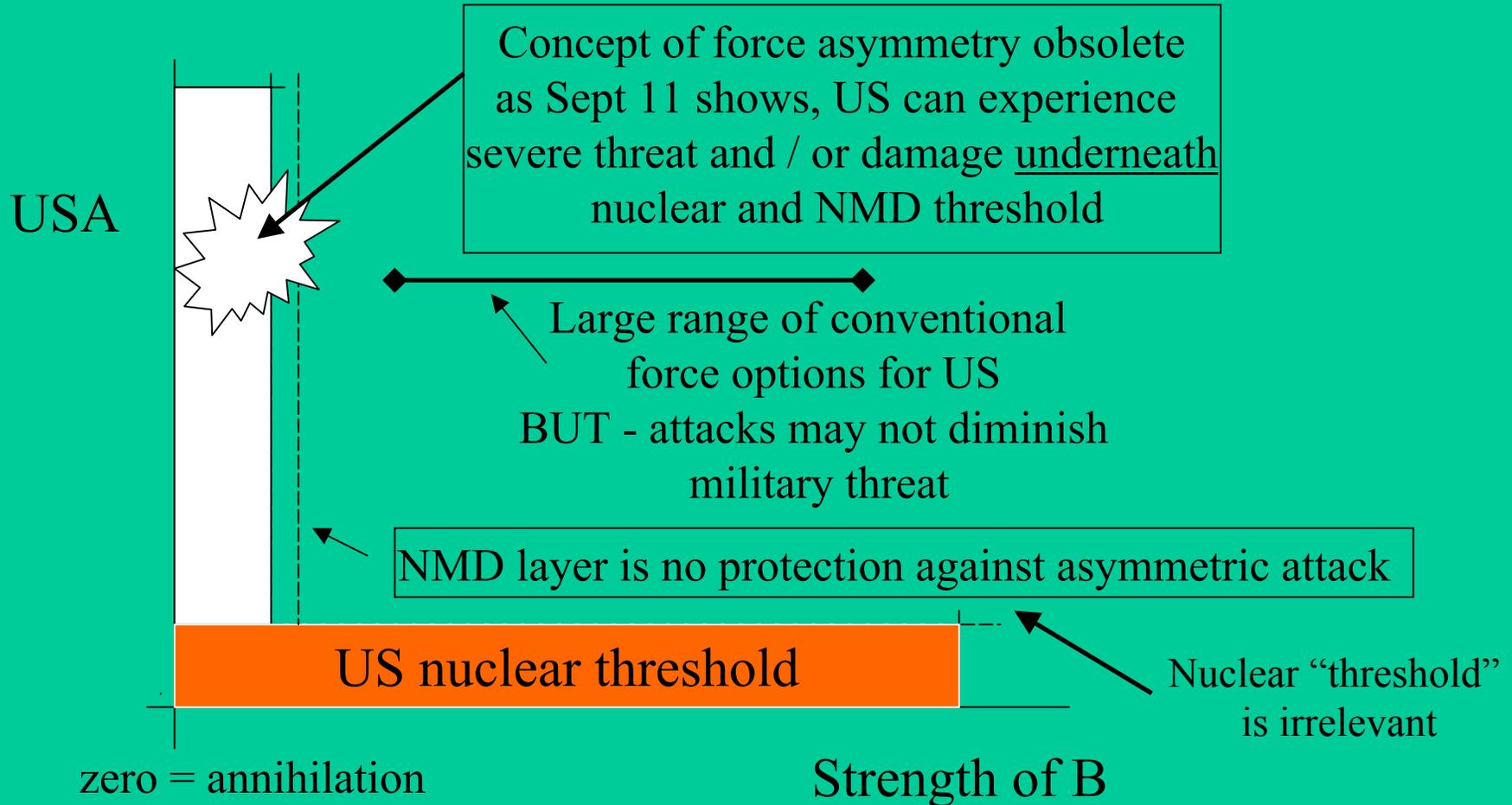
MD and the size of nuclear arsenals



Military effects of MD

- With a shield (MD) a sword is easier to use (and is more likely to be used)
- States with few nuclear weapons will
 - build more
 - develop novel cheap countermeasures
 - use other strategies - perhaps support terrorism
 - MD is completely irrelevant for small groups

Does the US REALLY have the advantage?? (yes & ...No)



What does MD not protect against?

- Cruise missiles
- weapons in ships or in cars - even suitcases
- terrorism
- almost any kind of stealthy attack
- nuclear contamination
- aircraft

Other effects of MD?

- huge waste of resources
- undermines treaties
- reduces strategic security
- **So why does it exist?**
 - provides jobs for Bush's financiers
 - reinforces a climate of fear and high military spending

Other effects of MD?

- a dangerous distraction - distorts foreign policy
- Deals with effects not causes (and even those poorly)
- most military solutions are “end of pipe” solutions (eg adding a catalyst to an exhaust)
- what is needed is systematic solutions - security building
- confidence building, threat reduction.
- Dealing with causes not effects

UK nuclear weapons & MD?

- Where does Trident fit into all this ??
- Would Trident become a potential first strike weapon under a working MD?
- What about French weapons and the US !?
- The UK is about to “renew” its 1958 “Mutual Defence Agreement” with the US for another 10 years - content?
- With Fylingdales upgrade and use of Menwith Hill and other sites, this agreement needs to see some democratic light.
- The UK Trident missiles should be entered into the NPT Review negotiations with a view to their removal

Coming soon from SGR

- new ethical career briefing:
- 'Unscrambling a space career from military forces' - by Dave Webb
- new Research:
- How the military influences R&D work in UK (and some US) Uni's - Chris Langley.

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