Subject: 180. New Cloud Computing/Rapid Learning Applications for Scholars and Analysts: Comparative Post-Victory Forecasts/Planning: WWII (Japan, Germany, Italy), Iraq, Afghanistan, Philippine-American War, the Panama Invasion, etc. The CASCON Model.

Dear Dr. Fischhoff and Colleagues:

   Now that 400,000 additional documents are online re the failed post-victory planning for the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars, it should be possible to develop online data systems for cumulative analysis and learning about the recurring challenge of post-victory forecasts and planning that could face the US and other countries in the future.

   The Iraq and Afghanistan wars will be studied at colleges and universities throughout the Islamic world for many years. These online systems can help scholars in the US and other countries, and also CIA and DoD analysts, the faculties at West Point and the National Defense University, etc.

   - At the time it did not seem inherently stupid, to senior US officials, to learn from history by using post WWII analogies. Or to use US templates/archetypes of the overthrow of evil dictators with the US/Western gift of freedom and democracy to a grateful, liberated population. What - now - could be known in advance?

The Rapid Learning + IT Paradigm: Applications

   The Rapid Learning + IT paradigm, which is beginning to shape thinking across a range of

fields, might be helpful to apply. There could be a Scholar's Workstation (# 8) about the problem with all relevant source material and curated databases (e.g., the new 400,000 Wikileaks and other documents) online (with analysis tools to assist this cloud computing innovation) at the fingertips of scholars/analysts/students in all countries. Sub-controversies, like the US decision to disband the Iraq Army [reviewed in the Wikipedia entry for Paul Bremer], could be structured (with all of the relevant material online) for the efficient use of an analyst's time - i.e., which, now, often is spent merely assembling materials and getting ready to think.

One of the most useful investments might be to include a maximum discrepancy range of cases, that can challenge future CIA/ DNI/DoD analysts, planners, and decision makers. For example, in addition to the post WWII cases, the Philippine-American War (1899-1902) produced (by different estimates) 34,000 - 1,000,000 casualties and caused the outraged Mark Twain to found the Anti-Imperialist League. However Manuel Noriega, a military dictator in Panama from 1983-1989 was overthrown by US forces at the order of President H. W. Bush with a quick and successful post-victory transition. Etc.

An interesting, earlier generation, database system - CASCON - was developed by Lincoln Bloomfield at MIT re 85 post-WWII conflict cases, with codings of up to 571 factors in ten categories: http://web.mit.edu/cascon

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