

In other areas, the international drug trade is often the product of supply and demand. It exerts a debilitating influence upon millions of individuals, drains societies of their wealth, and builds organizations which may ignore or challenge state authority. Acts of piracy tend to be small-scale enterprises, consisting of individual boats and crews preying on vulnerable people. Smuggling ranges from individual travellers to sophisticated organizations transshipping narcotics or any other commodity which might find a market outside legal channels. High tariffs and taxes on legitimate items may encourage smuggling efforts designed to avoid these costs.

Among non-traditional security threats, these illicit activities *appear* to be the easiest to resolve, because more policing and the low-level use of military forces can make a difference. However, some organizations possess sophisticated structures which penetrate and influence governments up to the highest levels; others are urban-based or enjoy widespread rural support. Such organizational structures make the challenge of removing these threats a difficult proposition.

Population Stability

Nineteenth century social Darwinism viewed population growth as a test of a nation's or race's vitality in the struggle for survival. Imperialism was justified in terms of 'lebensraum', or the pursuit of territory for an expanding population. While today's industrial societies have slowed their levels of population growth, the developing societies are experiencing considerable demographic expansion at levels usually greater than what economic growth can sustain.

Numbers alone do not precipitate crises. Demographic bulges among the very young or very old represent victories of public health services. They indicate that infants are surviving into adolescence, and that people are living longer. However, these groups also represent the pre-productive and post-productive sectors of society, demographic groups which must be nurtured at the expense of the working population. In the GNP ledger, the low and high-end age cohorts are greater consumers than producers of goods and services. As China and India have discovered, a large population is not necessarily a positive resource in terms of economic development. Optimists claim that people are a