

# Chapter 6

## Some Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Environmental, Legal, and Other Process Effects on Critical Infrastructures

There are so many political, economic, social, technological, environmental, legal, and other effects on Critical Infrastructures that this Chapter can only highlight a few. A reasonable view would be that everything of this nature affects Critical Infrastructure. The major political driver with regard to Critical Infrastructure and particularly Critical Information Infrastructure in the OECD and, arguably, in the rest of the world is the USA government. Therefore much of this Chapter's political section relates to effects that have an origin in the USA. The economics section looks at some of the actual resilience of Capitalism and some of the dangers marketers face. Social, technological, and environmental sections look at some current issues relevant to Critical Infrastructures. The legal section looks at the USA Patriot Act and the recent Civil Contingencies Act in the UK. Some comments are made about risk management.

The export of democracy as a political ideal has been used by the United States of America since President George W. Bush came to power. It has been used to back the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq and has been suggested as a potential weapon against others states and religions. The export of democracy has had an arguably, important affect on United States of America itself (terrorism in response?) and an obvious effect on the Infrastructures, both physical and information, of others. Rather than target a list of relevant examples the following column in the Washington Times by Ernest W. Lefever<sup>141</sup> gives the current context:

*President Bush in his State of the Union address said: "Our nation is committed to an historic, long-term goal: We seek the end of tyranny in our world."*

*He earlier vowed to devote his second term to this high purpose. He told a recent Kansas rally "our troops" are helping to "change the world by spreading liberty and freedom," acknowledging "Some dismiss that goal as misguided idealism."*

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<sup>141</sup> Lefever, E (2006) Can We Export Democracy. Washington Times. Available at <http://www.washingtontimes.com/commentary/20060311-102356-4785r.htm> (Accessed:7 January 2007).

*On Feb. 15, the Bush administration asked for an additional \$75 million to promote freedom in Iran by funding political dissidents there. In response, Rep. Henry J. Hyde, a staunch Republican, cautioned Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice against efforts to push democracy where it is an alien concept.*

*President Bush's confidence in America's ability to spread democracy and freedom was not shared by most of his White House predecessors. Woodrow Wilson, the notable exception, failed to understand the limits of America's capacity to sponsor democracy abroad. His idealism fed utopian expectations here and abroad. Then reality intruded. The unraveling of history in the wake of his Fourteen Points enunciated in 1918 prompted some critics to say, "He reached for utopia and gave us hell."*

*All our presidents, including the Founders, believed in "American exceptionalism," the idea America had a special mission beyond its borders. The Declaration stated that, "all men," not just Americans, "are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, which among them are Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." The Founders hoped other peoples would follow America's example and enjoy the blessings of liberty. Yet, their world and ours, has been drenched in "wars and rumors of wars," tyranny, conquest and oppression. In the 20th century alone, hundreds of millions have suffered under brutal tyrants or been killed in war. Today, genuine freedom and democracy are the exception for the peoples who live in the 190-plus member states of the United Nations.*

*America remains the major example and promise of freedom and democracy, but these lofty goals can be won only through a long struggle by the peoples who are denied them. We can and should assist those who seek a better way, but these blessings are the fruit of those who earn them. Abraham Lincoln, who understood the heavy price of freedom in a bitterly divided nation, spoke of his "oft-expressed personal wish that all men everywhere could be free," but he recognized the severe limits to promoting democracy abroad.*

*President John Quincy Adams perhaps best understood America's unique but limited role: "Wherever the standard of freedom and independence has been or shall be unfurled, there will be America's heart, her benediction and her prayers. She goes not abroad in search of monsters to destroy. She is the well-wisher to the freedom and independence of all. She is the champion and vindicator only of her own."*

*Ronald Reagan also emphasized this more modest national aspiration when he likened America to "a shining city on a hill," a beacon for all who yearn to be free. His words can serve as a warning to Americans who speak too glibly of exporting democracy or establishing freedom in other countries.*

*Of course, there were times and places when America's role abroad was substantial, even decisive. During the 1940s, we knew Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan had to be defeated. Our intervention was not a crusade, but a just war to protect the Western democratic heritage. By winning that war and occupying two defeated peoples, we were able to impose democratic disciplines on disparate societies that had seen a substantial measure of democracy.*