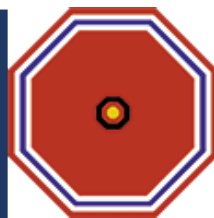


Rational choice and errors in decision-making: Ukraine, Gaza, Nagorno-Karabakh

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Security
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Crisis

Cognitive-institutional approach – Eric Stern, Bernt Sundelius

Neo-institutionalism, cognitive revolution in psychology

Perceptions, communication, image

Factual reality

Crisis decision-making

Thematic analysis – 9 layers

Process tracing - rational choice a condition/axiom for this theory

Rational choice

Technical, bureaucratic, professional, logical motivations.

**Cooperation and conflict political –
bureaucratic/institutional**

**Limits of rational choice - errors, biases,
subjectivism in the evaluation**

Alternative ingredients for decision-making

Emotional. Political driven. Individual options
sic volo

Conflict of values and hierarchy of values
– absolute, moral, legitimate, legal, individual
subjective relativisations

Crisis assessment

Limiting the crisis

Crisis analysis. How we reach the crisis

Tipping points. Points of no return in crisis

Reactions and divisions in decision making

Emotions

Geopolitics of emotions in current study cases

Ukraine, Gaza, Nagorno – Karabakh

Case Study - Russia's War in Ukraine

Russia-Ukraine. Points of view

Starting the war. Russia's decision. Expectations and errors

Continuing the crisis. War of attrition. Objectives assumed and presumed

Ukraine – drones targeting Russia. Kursk incursion

Case Study - 7 October - Gaza

Hamas - 7 October 2023

Reaction in Gaza – political decision. Acceptability

**Attacks on hospitals/collateral victims – politically driven,
human shield**

Moral, legitimate, legal. Complex debate

**Maintaining a long war – individual, political, not rational
choice**

Case Study Nagorno-Karabakh

Azerbaijan – starting the conflict. Returning territorial integrity

Development of the 44 days war

Border tracing

Peace agreement

Rather rational choice. Individual winners:

Pashinyan-Aliev

Conclusion

- **more of the geopolitics of emotions, individual or political rational than errors in the reasoning and judgement of positions adopted by the international actors**
- **all actors are rather rational in those cases even though the arguments and logic is different and sometimes twisted**
- **different values, ideals and models**
- **the utilitarian or effectiveness required in the common-sense general logic.**