

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS LIBRARY · VOLUME 2

Statecraft Portfolio Workbook_____

Compare instruments, test interaction, preserve uncertainty, and plan the off-ramp.

Gaurav Tiwari

Companion to *The Statecraft Handbook*

Use one bounded objective per portfolio. Record what the other side can see and do. Treat an official statement as a claim until the evidence supports a stronger label. Separate an instrument’s direct output from behavioral change, settlement, and strategic consequence.

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Instrument Comparison Matrix

Instrument	Mechanism	Speed	Reversible?	Reply / exit
Diplomacy				
Institution / law				
Trade / finance				
Sanctions				
Aid				
Technology				
Information				
Military presence				

Force				
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Negotiation Preparation Sheet

Objective and deciding actor	
Our interests and positions	
Their interests and positions	
Our alternatives and constraints	
Their alternatives and constraints	
Possible packages and sequence	
Face and domestic authority	

Verification and dispute	
Off-ramp and settlement	

Sanctions and Economic-Statecraft Audit

Objective and target behavior	
Legal authority and jurisdictions	
Transmission through firms and finance	
Target political mechanism	
Coalition and enforcement	
Evasion / substitution risk	

Humanitarian and third-party effects	
Relief, verification, and removal	
Output, behavior, settlement, strategy	

Claims, Confidence, and Intelligence Language

Type	Claim	Source / basis	Confidence / alternative
Fact			
Source report			
Inference			
Assumption			
Assessment			
Dissent			

Warning

Possible event, indicator, time, consequence, decision, and next review:

Statecraft Portfolio Worksheet

Interest and exact ob- jective	
Deciding actor and audiences	
Other side's desk	
Legal, domestic, and coalition conditions	
Instrument cards	
Reinforcement and interference	

Sequence and decision points	
Off-ramp and aftermath	
Output, behavior, settlement, strategy	
Counterfactual and confidence	

Legal and Ethical Questions Before Action

- ☐ What domestic and international authority is asserted?
- ☐ Which facts must be true for that authority to apply?
- ☐ Which authoritative source, procedure, and counterargument exist?
- ☐ Who bears direct and indirect harm?
- ☐ Which civilians, rights, services, and protected objects are exposed?
- ☐ What discrimination, due-process, privacy, or humanitarian issue arises?
- ☐ Which private actors implement the instrument and under what duties?
- ☐ Which partner law and consent matter?
- ☐ What information is uncertain or classified?
- ☐ How will compliance, failure, correction, and remedy be verified?
- ☐ What changes if the action becomes public?
- ☐ What precedent or long-term dependency does it create?
- ☐ Which less harmful instrument could reach the objective?
- ☐ What is the stop condition and off-ramp?

Qualified Review Needed

Decision and Recorded Dissent

After-Action Case File 1

Objective, authority, and deciding actor

Portfolio and sequence

Target and audience reactions

Output, behavior, settlement, and strategy

Rival explanation, counterfactual, and confidence

After-Action Case File 2

Objective, authority, and deciding actor

Portfolio and sequence

Target and audience reactions

Output, behavior, settlement, and strategy

Rival explanation, counterfactual, and confidence

After-Action Case File 3

Objective, authority, and deciding actor

Portfolio and sequence

Target and audience reactions

Output, behavior, settlement, and strategy

Rival explanation, counterfactual, and confidence

An instrument is not a strategy.

The portfolio might become one.