DETERMINANTS OF SOUTH AFRICA'S FOREIGN POLICY STRATEGY IN CYBER SPACE

LAURENCE CAROMBA, MONASH SOUTH AFRICA

9 MAY, 2009: SOUTH AFRICA



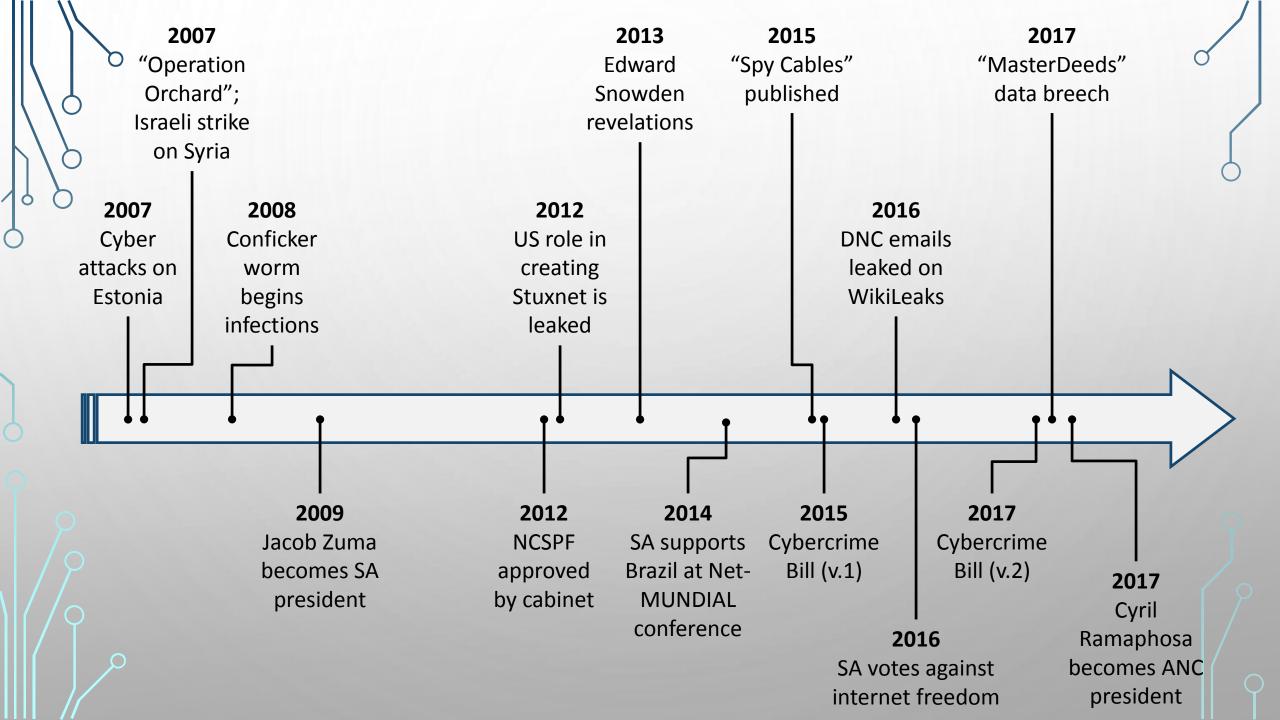
Jacob Zuma is inaugurated as the new president of South Africa

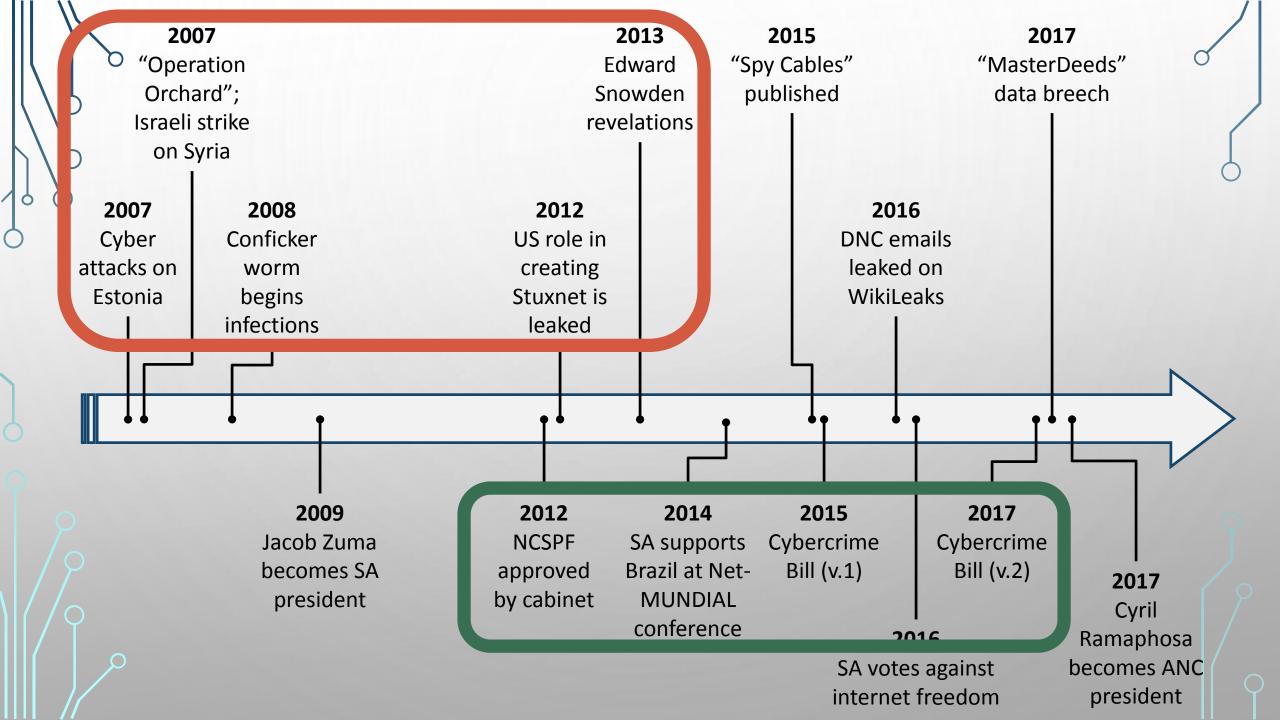
1 APRIL, 2009: IRAN

The computer worm

Stuxnet is deployed and begins to silently penetrate the Iranian nuclear programme







WHAT I'D LIKE TO DO TODAY

- 1. Provide a <u>framework</u> for understanding the issue
- 2. <u>Describe</u> South Africa's foreign policy in cyber space
- 3. Explain why South Africa has made the choices it has



1. PROVIDING A FRAMEWORK

IN SOME RESPECTS, ALL STATES WANT TO ACHIEVE THE SAME THINGS...

- 1. Benefit from the economic potential of the internet
- 2. Spread their own political messages in cyberspace
- 3. Defend the integrity of their own networks
- 4. Collect intelligence on adversaries



HOWEVER, THERE ARE TWO IMPORTANT QUESTIONS THAT STATES NEED TO ANSWER

1. Is the <u>open flow of information</u> across the world beneficial to the national interest?

2. Should the state prioritise the <u>defence</u> of its own networks, or its ability to <u>attack</u> the networks of other states?

LIBERAL VS. ILLIBERAL VIEWS ON THE FLOW OF INFORMATION

"OPEN INTERNET" VIEW

- Worries about cyber security as a technical problem
- Supports multi-stakeholder governance of the internet
- More prevalent in liberal democracies

"DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY" VIEW

- Worries about subversive potential of "information warfare"
- Supports multilateral governance of the internet
- More prevalent in authoritarian states

PRIORITISING OFFENSE VS. DEFENSE

- The most effective exploits are "zero day" vulnerabilities
- After one is used, it is quickly patched
- <u>Defence</u> requires **cooperation** and **disclosure** to patch vulnerabilities
- Offence requires states to research and hoard vulnerabilities in secret



FOUR IDEAL TYPES OF FOREIGN POLICY IN CYBERSPACE

LIBERAL-OFFENSIVE

Open internet
Cyber attacks are a force multiplier

USA, Israel, Britain

ILLIBERAL-OFFENSIVE

Digital sovereignty
Cyber attacks are a balancing tool
China, Russia, Iran, North Korea

LIBERAL-DEFENSIVE

Open internet
Cyber security through cooperation

Brazil, Estonia, Germany

ILLIBERAL-DEFENSIVE

Digital sovereignty
Cyber security through self-help

*Belarus**



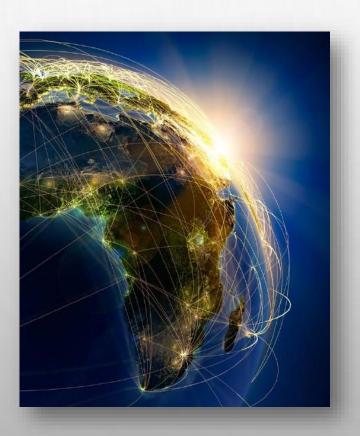
2. WHAT IS SOUTH AFRICA'S FOREIGN POLICY IN CYBER SPACE?

IS SOUTH AFRICA AN "OFFENSIVE" OR "DEFENSIVE" ACTOR?



- No evidence that SA has ever considered a cyber attack on another state
- Has not yet invested in offensive capability,
 even for deterrence
- Policies documents are focused on defence through self-help
- View cyber security mostly through the lens of crime & intelligence

IS SOUTH AFRICA A "LIBERAL" OR "ILLIBERAL" ACTOR?



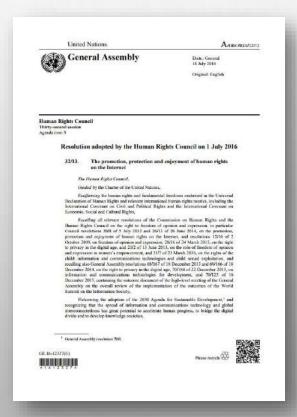
- South Africa's domestic policy:
 - Does not block social media apps
 - Does not restrict online political discussion
 - Does not arrest or punish people for online political speech
- Freedom House gives an internet freedom score of 25/100 (where 0 = completely free)

THIS IS (MOSTLY) REFLECTED IN SOUTH AFRICA'S FOREIGN POLICY

- Defines cyber security threats as attacks on networks,
 rather than "information warfare"
- Signed the 2001 Budapest Convention on cyber crime
- Supported the concept of multi-stakeholder at the NETmundial conference in Brazil in 2014
 - With Argentina, Brazil, France, Ghana, Germany, India,
 Indonesia, South Korea, Tunisia, Turkey, USA



THE GROWING ILLIBERAL TENDENCY IN SOUTH AFRICAN CYBER POLICY



- The Film and Publications Amendment Bill introduced (2015) was seen as a creating an online censorship system
- Has never ratified the Budapest Convention
- Didn't sign the AU Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection (2014)
- Voted against online freedom at the UNHRC in 2016



3. EXPLAINING SOUTH AFRICA'S FOREIGN POLICY

2009: DRAFT POLICY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS



CYBERSECURITY POLICY

OF

SOUTH AFRICA

August 2009

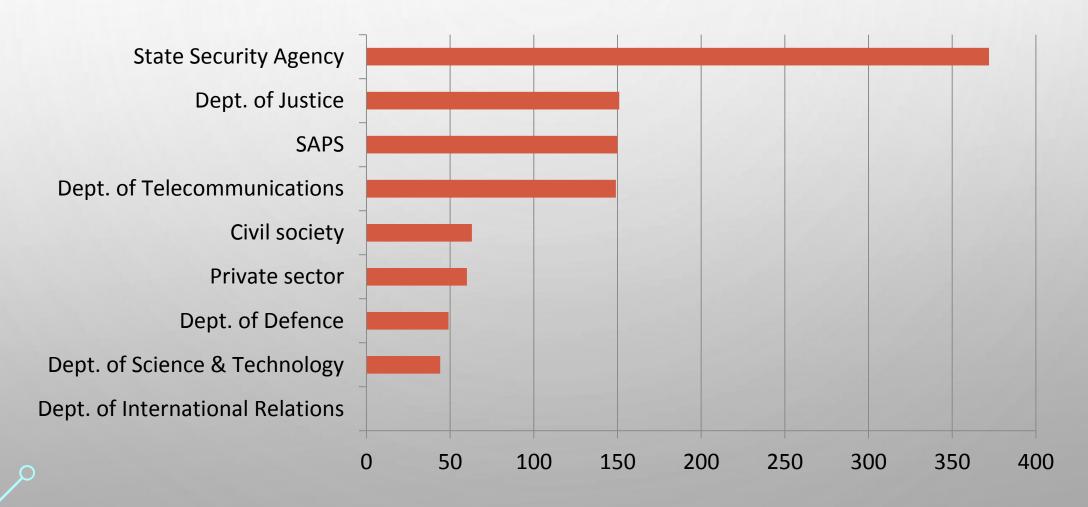
- This document gives us a sense of the Mbeki-era stance towards cyber security
- Focus is on co-operation:
 - Between South Africa and other states
 - Between state and non-state actors (civil society, business)
- Limited role given to intelligence or the military
- Leadership role given to Dept. of Communications

2012: NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY POLICY FRAMEWORK

- Calls for a two-track approach:
 - "Cyber Response Committee" (state security driven)
 - "Cybersecurity Hub" (civilian, public-private partnership)
- Citing the Russian cyber attacks on Estonia; views the problem as a national security threat
- Very limited focus on international co-operation
- Accords leadership role to the State Security Agency



HOW MUCH TEXT DOES THE N.C.P.F. DEVOTE TO EACH ACTOR?



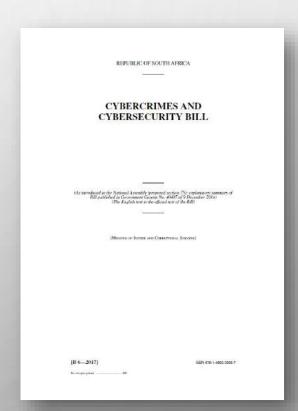
2012: RESEARCH ESSAY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE



- Evidence that the military was giving serious thought to the possibility of a cyber attack
- Heavy focus on national security and defence
- Sophisticated analysis of problems of attribution, deterrence, and jus in bello
- Implicitly considers whether SA should develop offensive capability (even if as a deterrent)

2015 & 2017: CYBERCRIME & CYBERSECURITY BILLS

- Once again, SSA is given a leadership role
- In addition, there are four other tracks:
 - 1. SSA to collect electronic signals intelligence
 - 2. SAPS to fight cyber crime
 - 3. Dept. of Telecommunications to co-ordinate with the private sector
 - 4. DoD to create a military Cyber Command



FAILURE OF THE CYBERCRIMES BILL

- The Cybercrimes Bill has been stuck in legislative hell for the past five years
- Bill in its current form is probably unconstitutional; will probably fail in judicial review



• Certain aspects of the Bill seem to have been written in order to advance the institutional interests of the intelligence community

CONCLUSIONS: THE ROLE OF STRUCTURAL VARIABLES

- During the Zuma Administration, the international system has provided clear signals that computers networks can be used to sabotage & subversion
- However, there were several ways SA could have responded to this
- Why did it choose a strategy focused on **defensive self-help** rather than cooperation (or attack)?



KEY VARIABLE:

The <u>strategic culture</u> of South Africa's intelligence agencies

CONCLUSIONS: THE ROLE OF INTERVENING VARIABLES

- Institutional power over cyber security policy has clearly shifted from other agencies towards intelligence (SSA)
- Part of broader trend towards "securitisation" under Zuma Administration
- Informed by strategic culture of self-help, secrecy, and state-centrism
- Will the change in ANC leadership usher in a new strategic culture?

USE OF CYBER POWER IN THE CONTEXT OF INTRA-A.N.C. POLITICS



#RamaphosaLeaks: Leaked Emails Revealed Cyril Ramaphosa's Love Affairs (wmcscams.com)



Ramaphosa tries to collapse ANC elective conference in a Desperate move

Amidst the twists and turns going on in the ANC Elective Conference, reports are coming that the Cyril Ramaphosa (CR) faction is trying to collapse the 54th African National Congress...



Ramaphosa Bought Delegates Staying in Hotel Sponsored by Bidvest O Dec 17, 2017



#ANC54 - ANC Conference Day 1 Projections Show Competitive Edge O Dec 16, 2017



Dintle Schoeman - 2 days ago

This man has no stand in his life ... he is not only fake to country's people but also with his own wife .. Poor @RobyneClare .. incredible trustworthy person he is II Round of Applase for him II

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