

# The Cost of the Bomb:

## *Why States Abandon the Pursuit of Nuclear Arms*

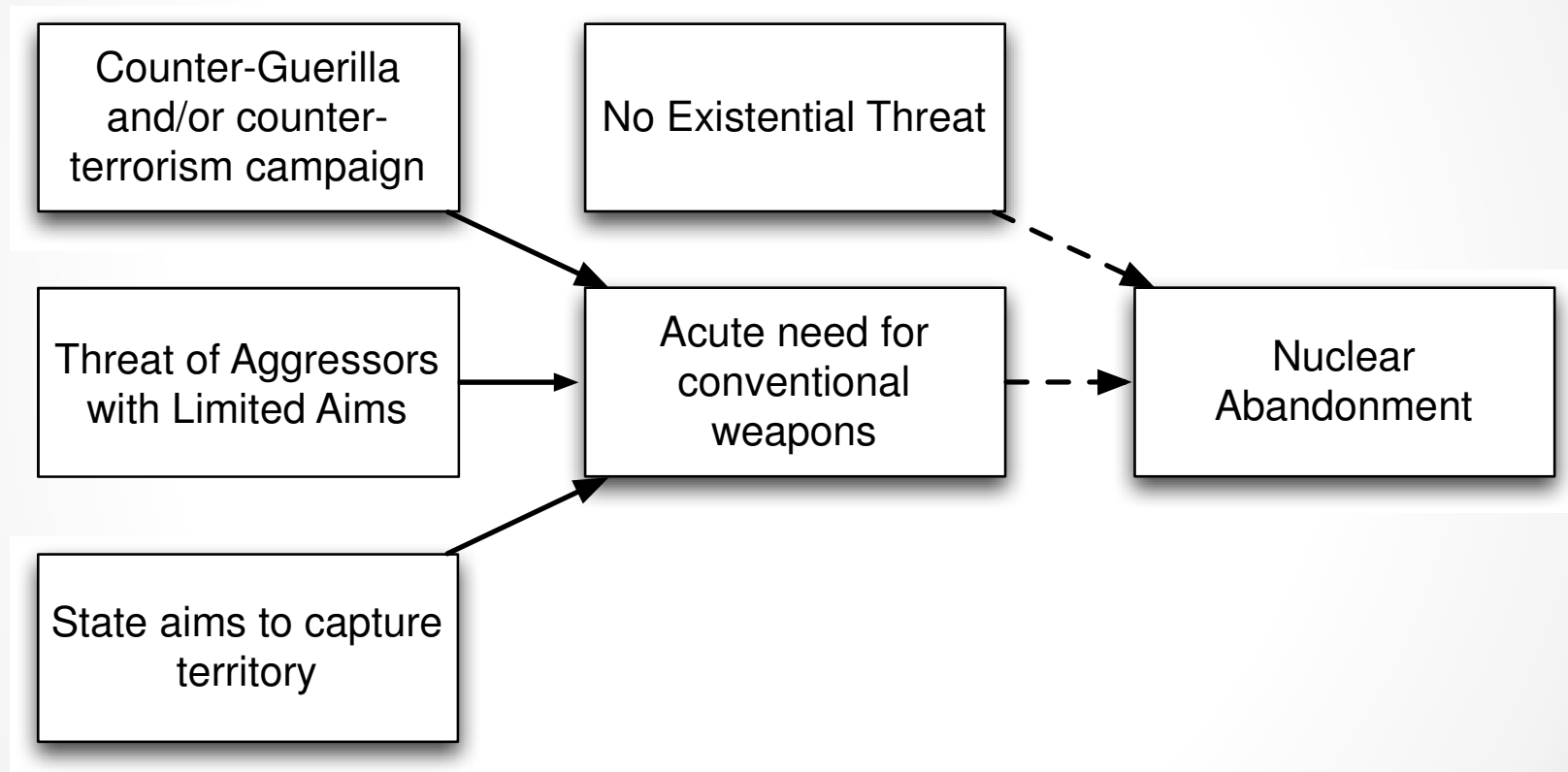
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# The Puzzle

- Nuclear weapons guarantee survival
- More “bang for your buck”
- 20-25 states pursued nuclear weapons, but only 10 acquired
- Why do states abandon pursuit of nuclear weapons?

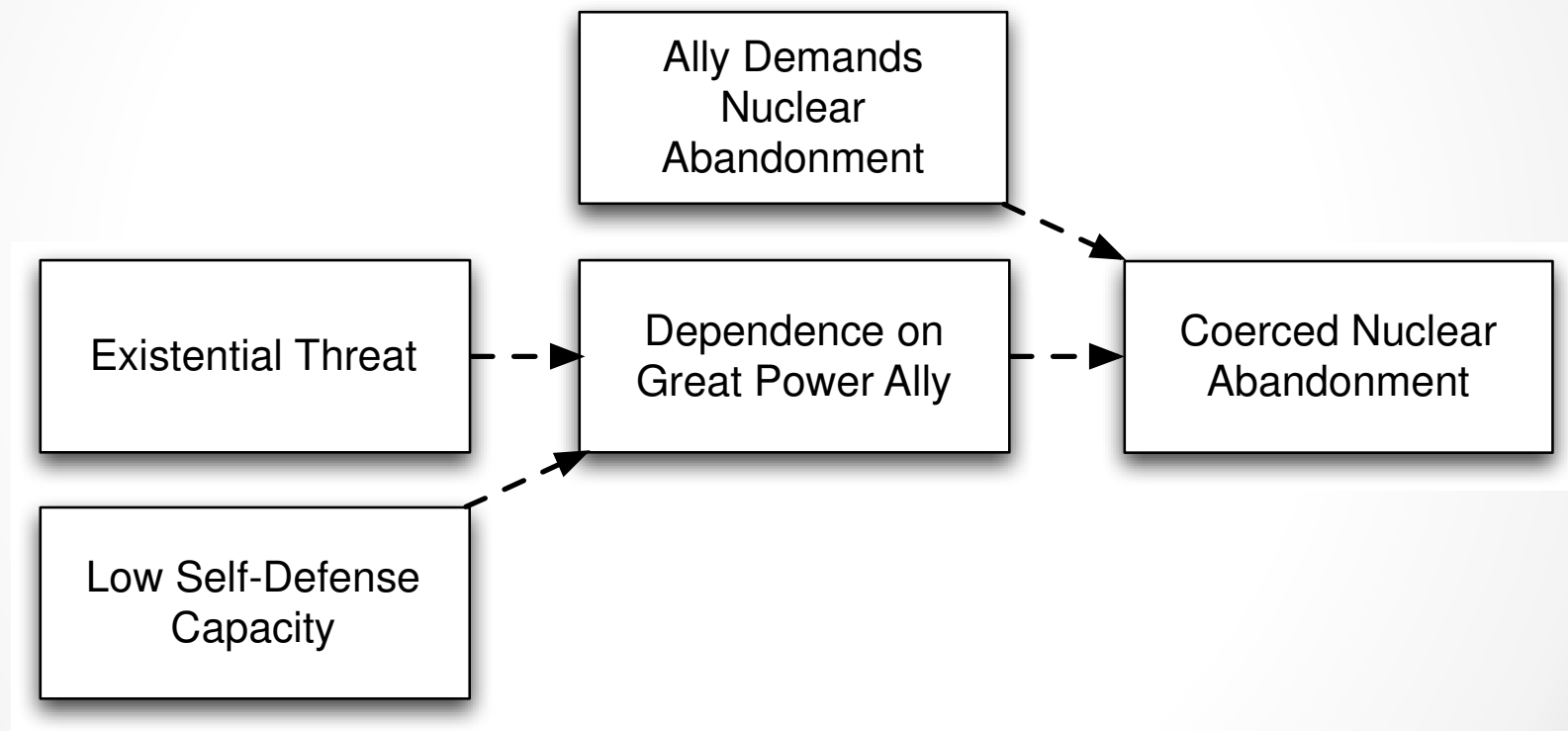
# Hypothesis 1: Trade-offs



# Cases: Hypothesis 1

- Trade-offs → abandonment:
  - Egypt
  - Argentina
- Absence of trade-offs → acquisition:
  - UK
  - France

# Hypothesis 2: Coercion



# Cases: Hypothesis 2

- Dependence → Successful coercion:
  - West Germany
  - Taiwan
  - South Korea
- Independence → failed coercion:
  - Israel
  - India
  - Pakistan

# Policy Implications

- Hypothesis 1:
  - Selling conventional weapons to prevent proliferation can backfire
  - Militaries as nuclear *opponent*
- Hypothesis 2:
  - Irrelevance of U.S. “nuclear umbrella”
  - *Contingent* importance of coercion