

# ARE WE SLEEPWALKING INTO WORLD WAR III?

Structural Convergence and the Crisis of 2026



# FEBRUARY 5, 2026: THE DAY THE GUARDRAILS BROKE



**\$2.43 TRILLION MILITARY SPENDING**

## **NEW START EXPIRED**

Global nuclear arsenals unconstrained for the first time since 1962.

**\$2.43T SPENDING**

+7% increase in a single year.

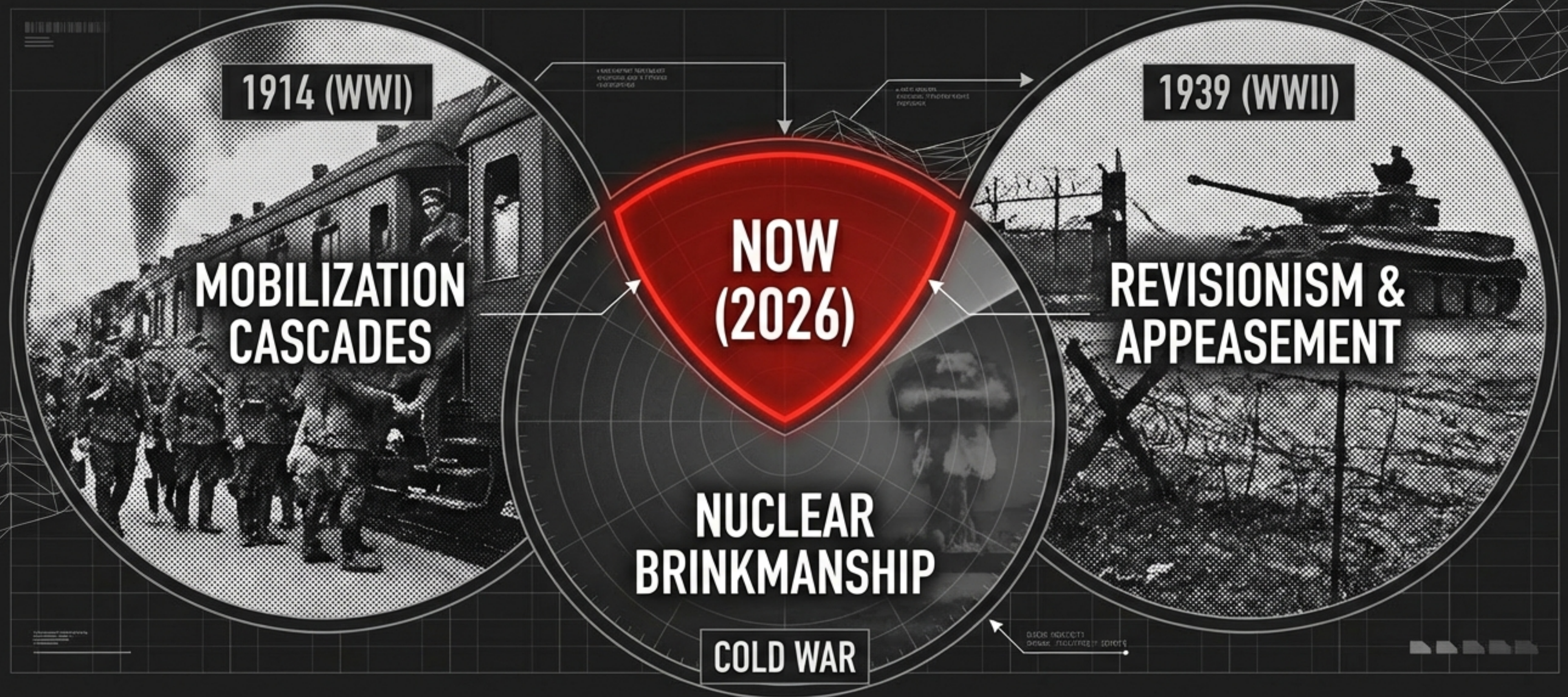
## **3 ACTIVE THEATERS**

Europe, Indo-Pacific, Middle East.

*"The question is no longer academic: are the structural conditions that produced the world wars reassembling before our eyes?"*

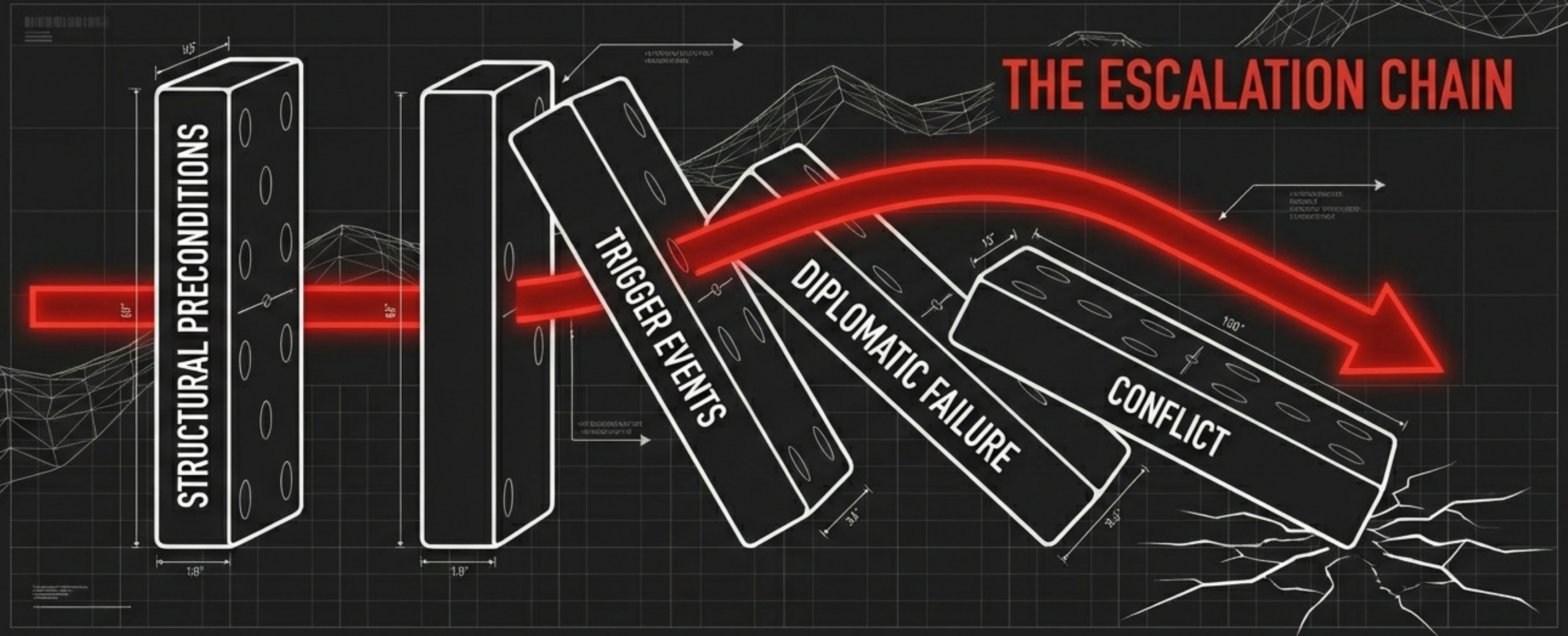
# THE CENTRAL FINDING: UNPRECEDENTED CONVERGENCE

Current dynamics activate escalation mechanisms from all three periods simultaneously.



# WAR IS A SEQUENCE, NOT AN EVENT

Wars emerge from the accumulation of unmanaged friction, culminating in a triggering event that collapses the remaining space for peace.



# WHY BARGAINING FAILS: THE 5 STRUCTURAL FORCES



## COMMITMENT PROBLEMS

(Inability to enforce agreements)



## UNCERTAINTY

(About intentions or resolve)



## UNCHECKED INTERESTS

(Leaders insulated from costs)



## MISPERCEPTIONS

(Fog of war)



## INTANGIBLE MOTIVES

(Ideology/Glory)

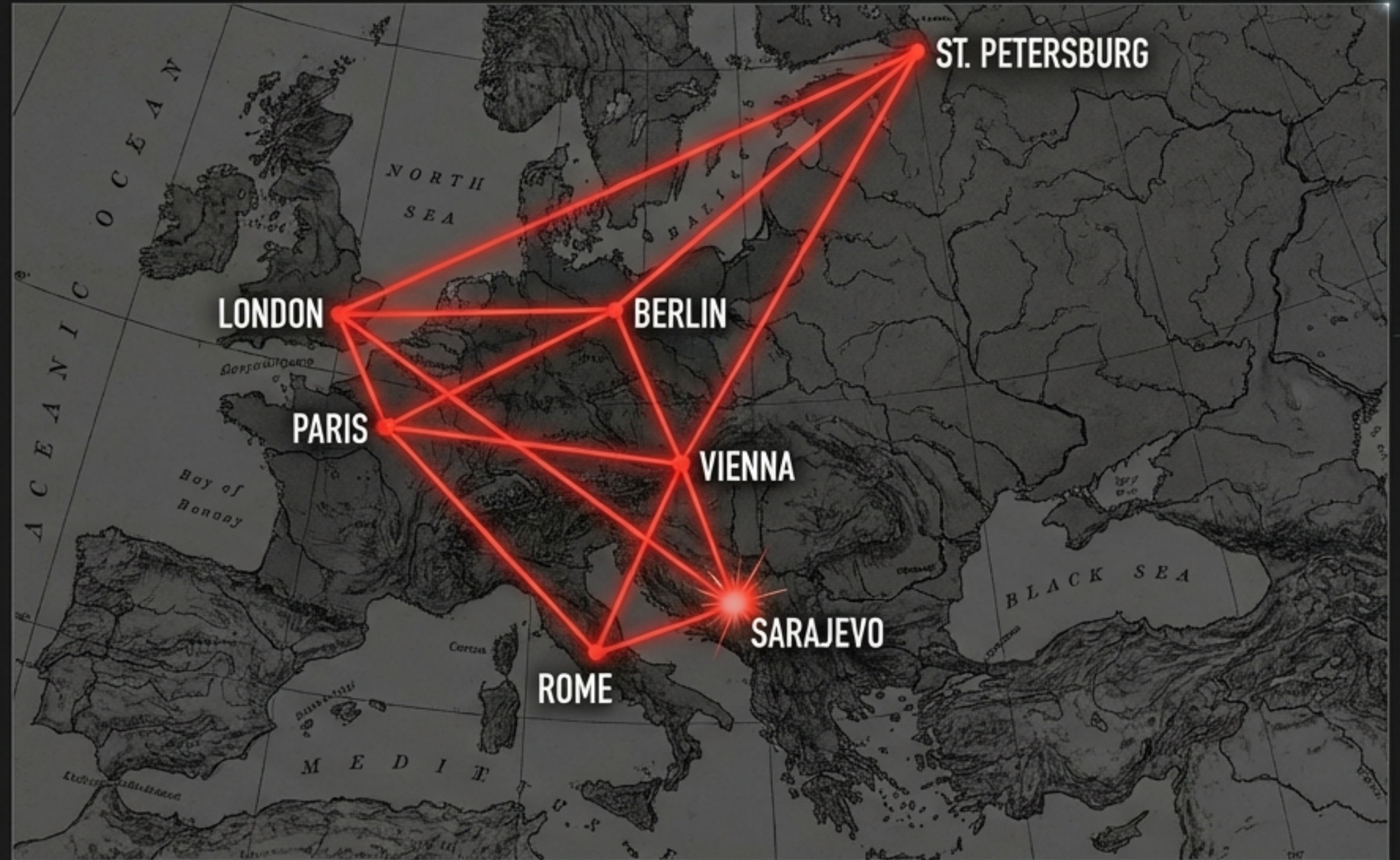
Diagnosis: These five forces are currently operating across all three major global theaters.

# THE GHOST OF 1914: THE TRAP OF RIGID ALLIANCES

## THEN: 1914

Mechanism: Mobilization Cascades.

Railway timetables meant that once mobilization began, it couldn't be stopped without leaving a nation defenseless.



# THE MODERN 1914: THE CRINK COUNTER-BLOC

## Connectivity as Risk

Unlike 1914, this is transactional, not treaty-bound. But the interconnection means a crisis in one theater drags in assets from the others.



# THE GHOST OF 1939: THE FAILURE OF APPEASEMENT

1936: RHINELAND



1938: AUSTRIA



1938: SUDETENLAND



1939: POLAND



“It is us today. It will be you tomorrow.”  
— Emperor Haile Selassie (1936)

# MODERN REVISIONISM IN 3D

The logic of pre-WWII territorial revisionism has returned. Each unchallenged act is perceived as confirmation that further aggression is viable.

## RUSSIA



## CHINA



THE EVENT:  
CUBAN MISSILE  
CRISIS (1962)

THE MICRO-STORY:  
Vasili Arkhipov refused to  
authorize a nuclear torpedo  
launch despite believing  
war had started.



# THE GHOST OF THE COLD WAR: THE BRINK



TARGET B-58  
DEPTH: 250MB  
STATUS: CRITICAL

DEPTH: 0.1 DUCK  
STATUS: 07 03 00  
STATUS: 0000  
STATUS: 0000



WAR ROOM STATUS:  
CRITICAL

DATE:  
OCT 1962

-0.89°    -11.21°

**“We survived as much by luck as by strategy.  
At some point, luck runs out.” — Tom Nichols**

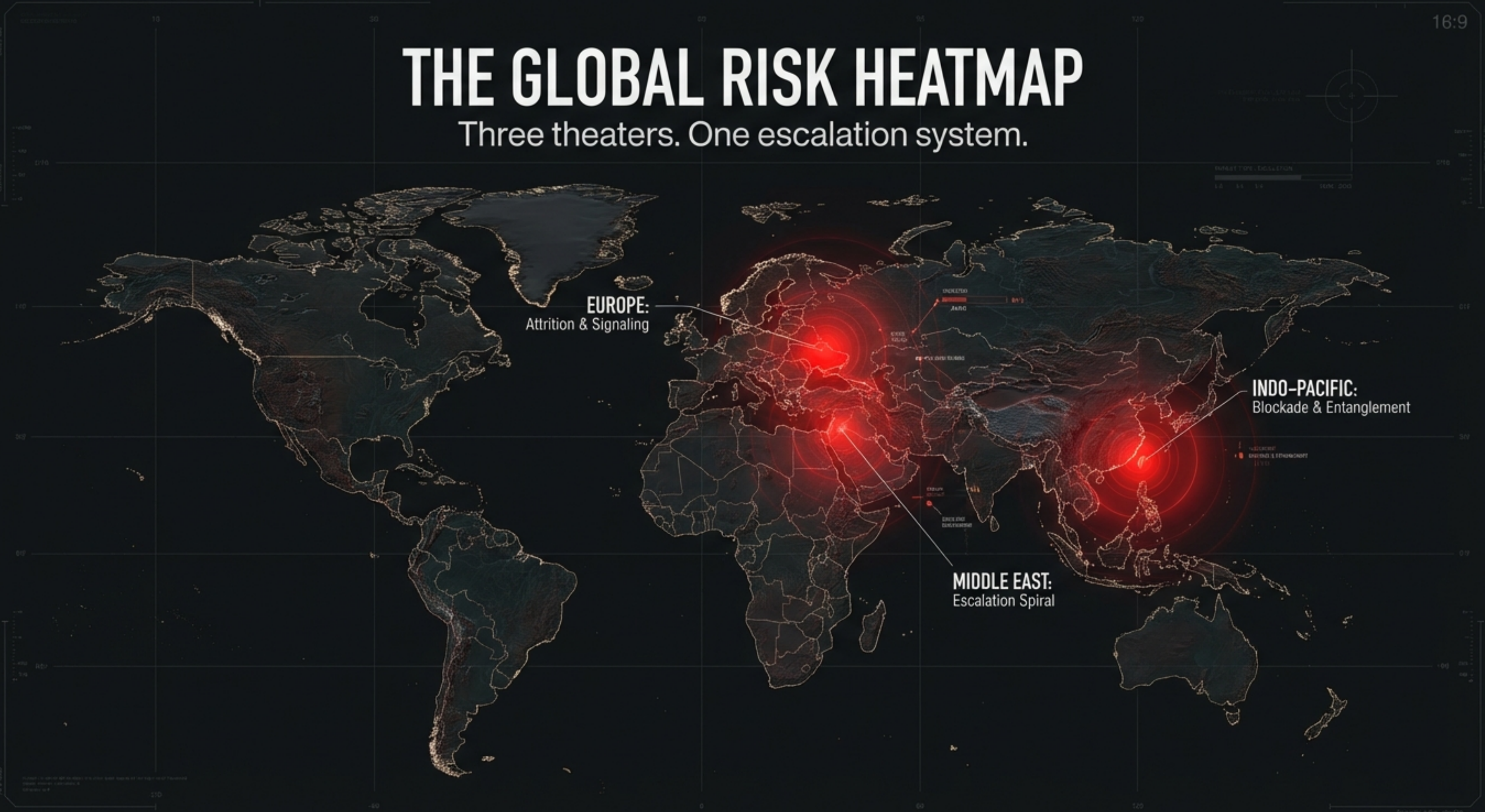
# THE MISSING GUARDRAILS: A SYSTEM DISMANTLED



**THE SAFETY NET IS GONE.**

# THE GLOBAL RISK HEATMAP

Three theaters. One escalation system.

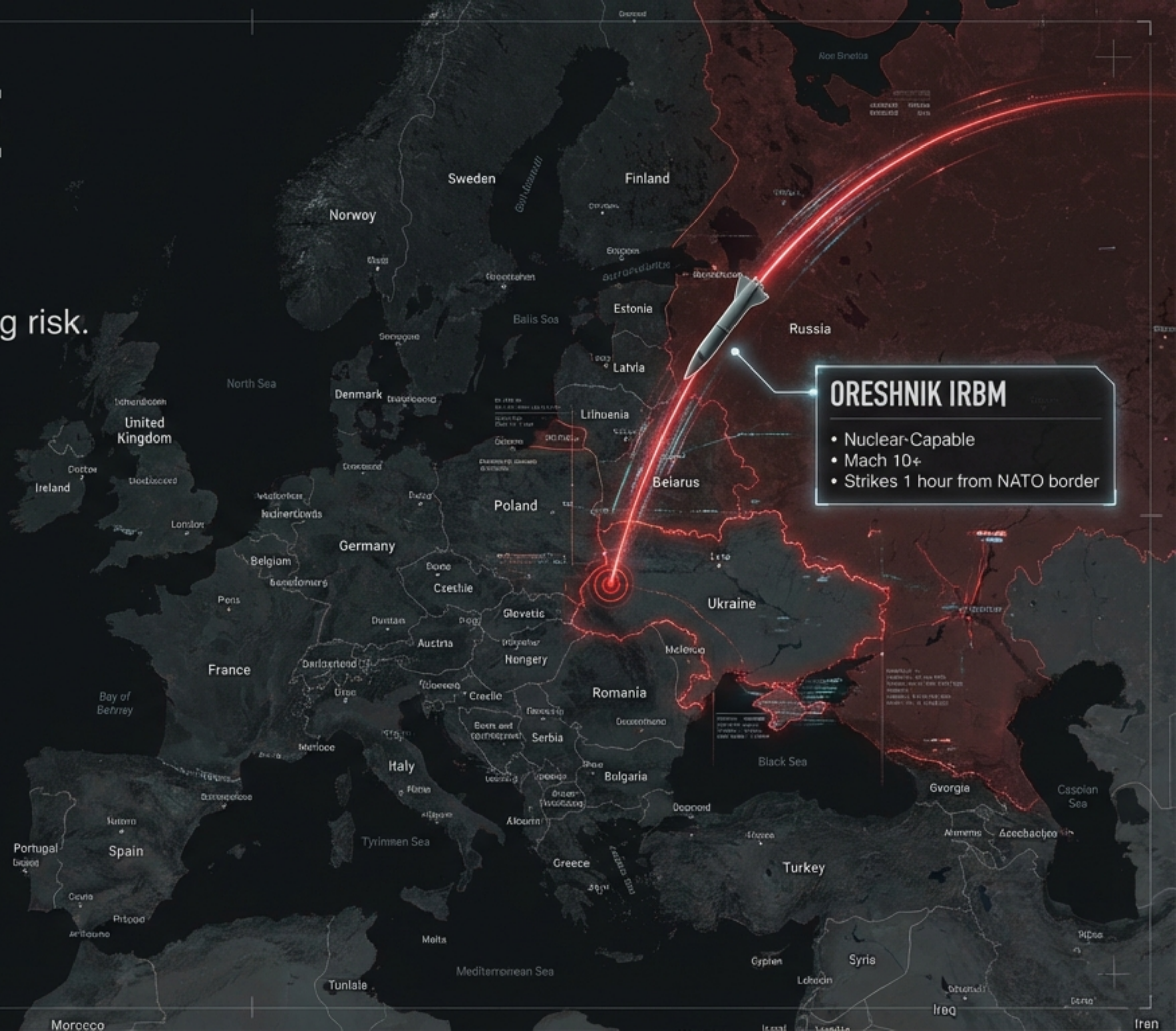


# THEATER 1: EUROPE

## Grinding Toward the Abyss

Russia controls ~20% of Ukraine.

Explicit nuclear signaling is normalizing risk.

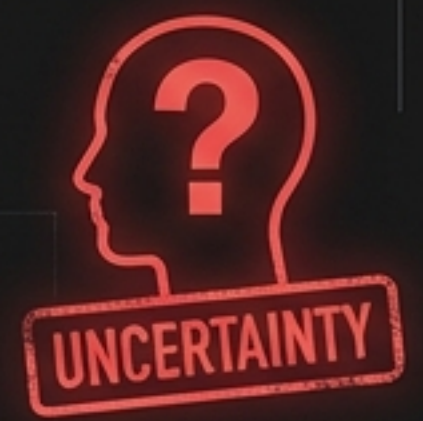


**ORESHNIK IRBM**

- Nuclear-Capable
- Mach 10+
- Strikes 1 hour from NATO border

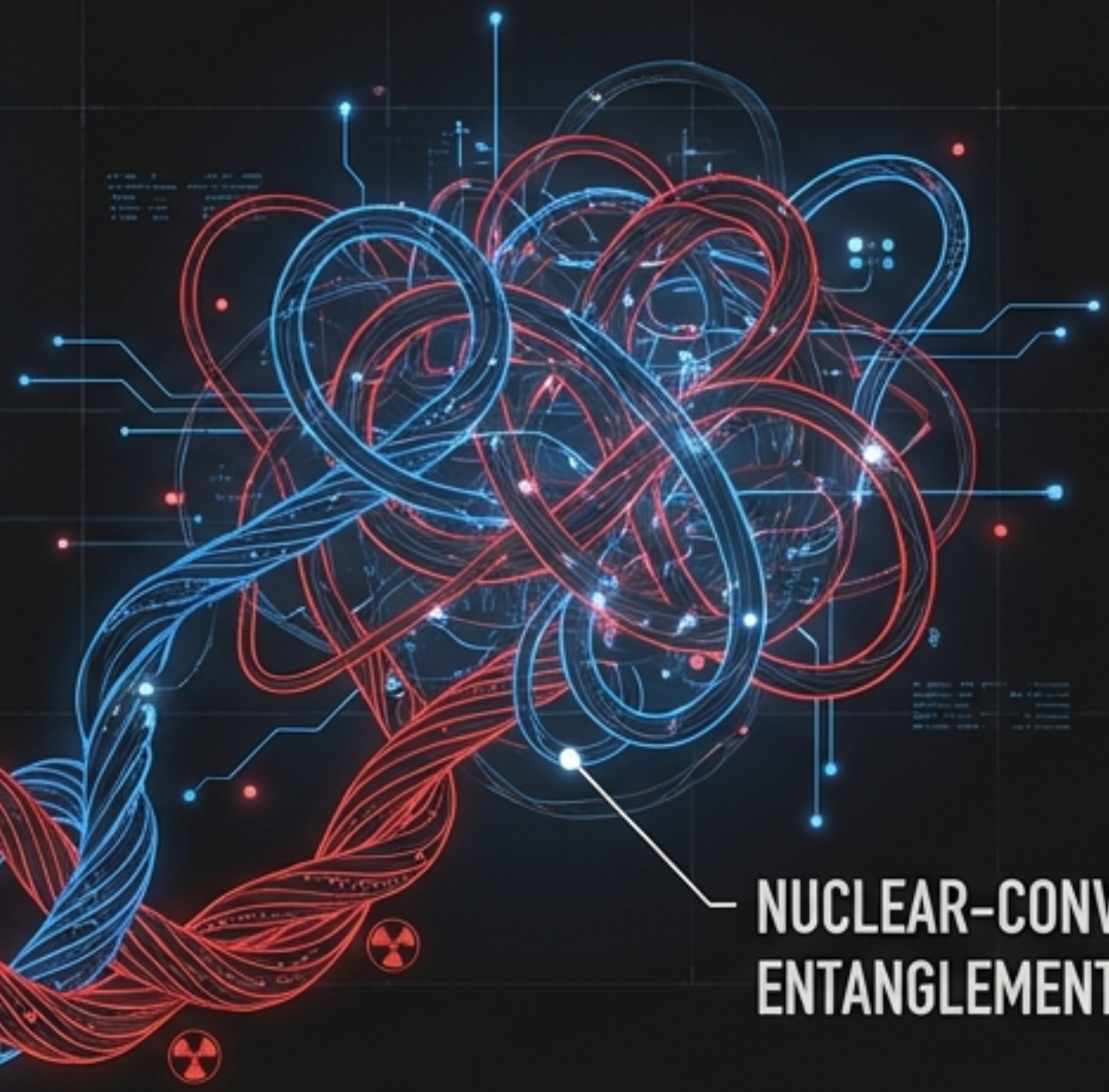
# THEATER 2: INDO-PACIFIC

The Shadow of 1941. A conventional strike on dual-use systems could blind China's nuclear eye, triggering inadvertent escalation.



CONVENTIONAL OPS

NUCLEAR DETERRENT



NUCLEAR-CONVENTIONAL ENTANGLEMENT

PROBABLY ARCHITECTURE  
FACTS AND DATA

LEADERSHIP TO BRING  
THE

DISCUSSIONS OFFICIALS  
THE

DISCUSSIONS OFFICIALS  
THE

DISCUSSIONS  
OFFICIALS

DISCUSSIONS  
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# THEATER 3: THE MIDDLE EAST

- Aftermath of the 'Twelve-Day War' (June 2025)
- Current Ceasefire: A 'Tactical Pause'
- Risk: Iran Breakout draws in U.S.



# THE SPIDERWEB: ONE WAR, THREE FRONTS


Escalation in any single theater creates cascading risks across all three.





# THE INVISIBLE FRONT: CYBER & SPACE

The 'Sarajevo Moment' might not be a gunshot, but a cyberattack on Nuclear Command & Control.

- 
- > SYSTEM ALERT: NC3 INTEGRITY UNKNOWN
  - > INCIDENT: VOLT TYPHOON PRE-POSITIONING DETECTED
  - > STATUS: ZERO TREATY COVERAGE

# THE ECONOMIC WAR

The end of globalization. If Beijing believes economic strangulation is inevitable, 'acting now' becomes rational.



- 16,000+ Russia Sanctions
- Semiconductor Bans
- End of 'Chimerica'

- Supply Chain Weaponization
- De-Dollarization Efforts
- Digital Sovereignty

# THE DOMESTIC FACTOR

Internal politics drive external escalation,  
often overriding strategic logic.

## REGIME SURVIVAL



## HISTORICAL LEGITIMACY

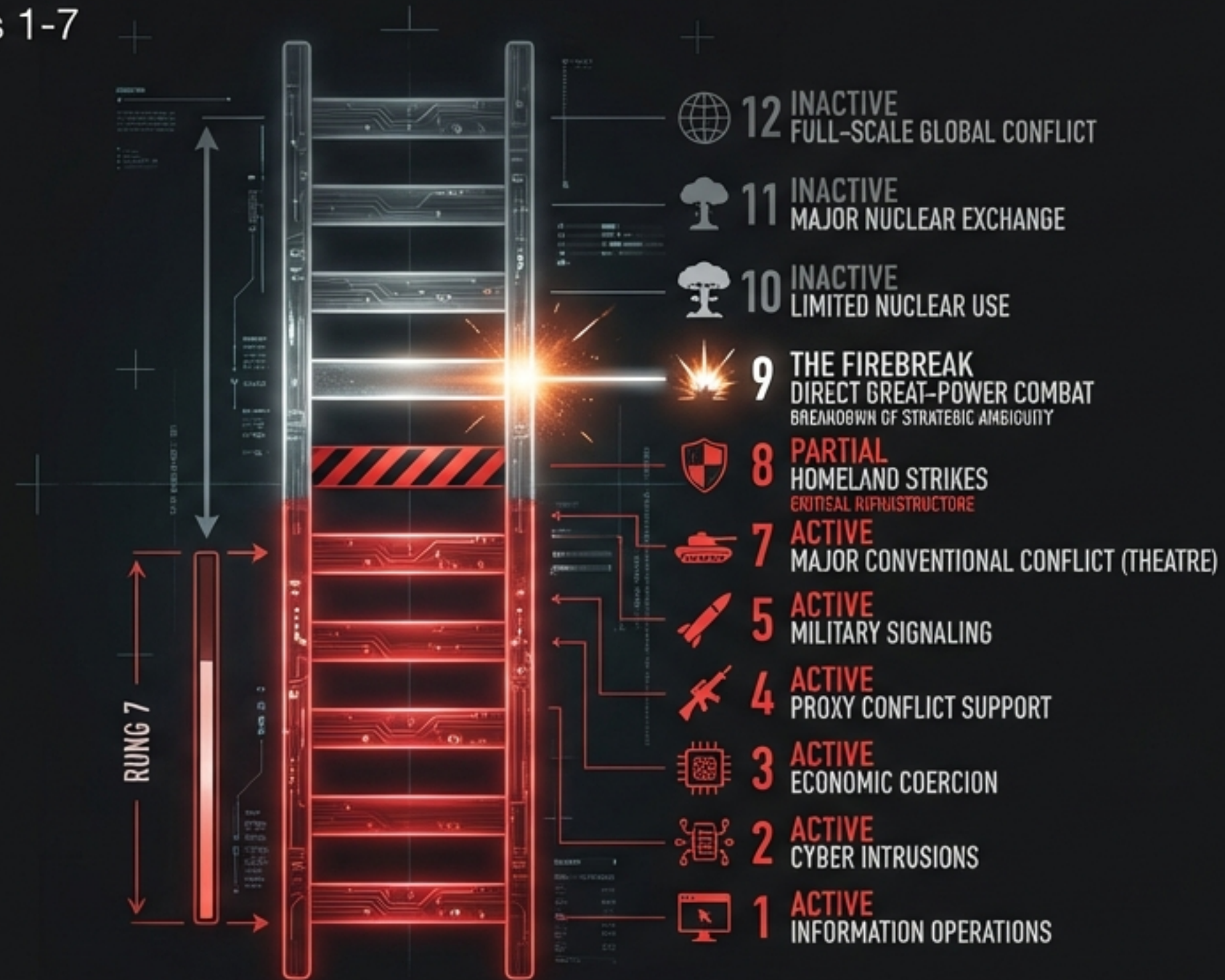


## POLARIZATION



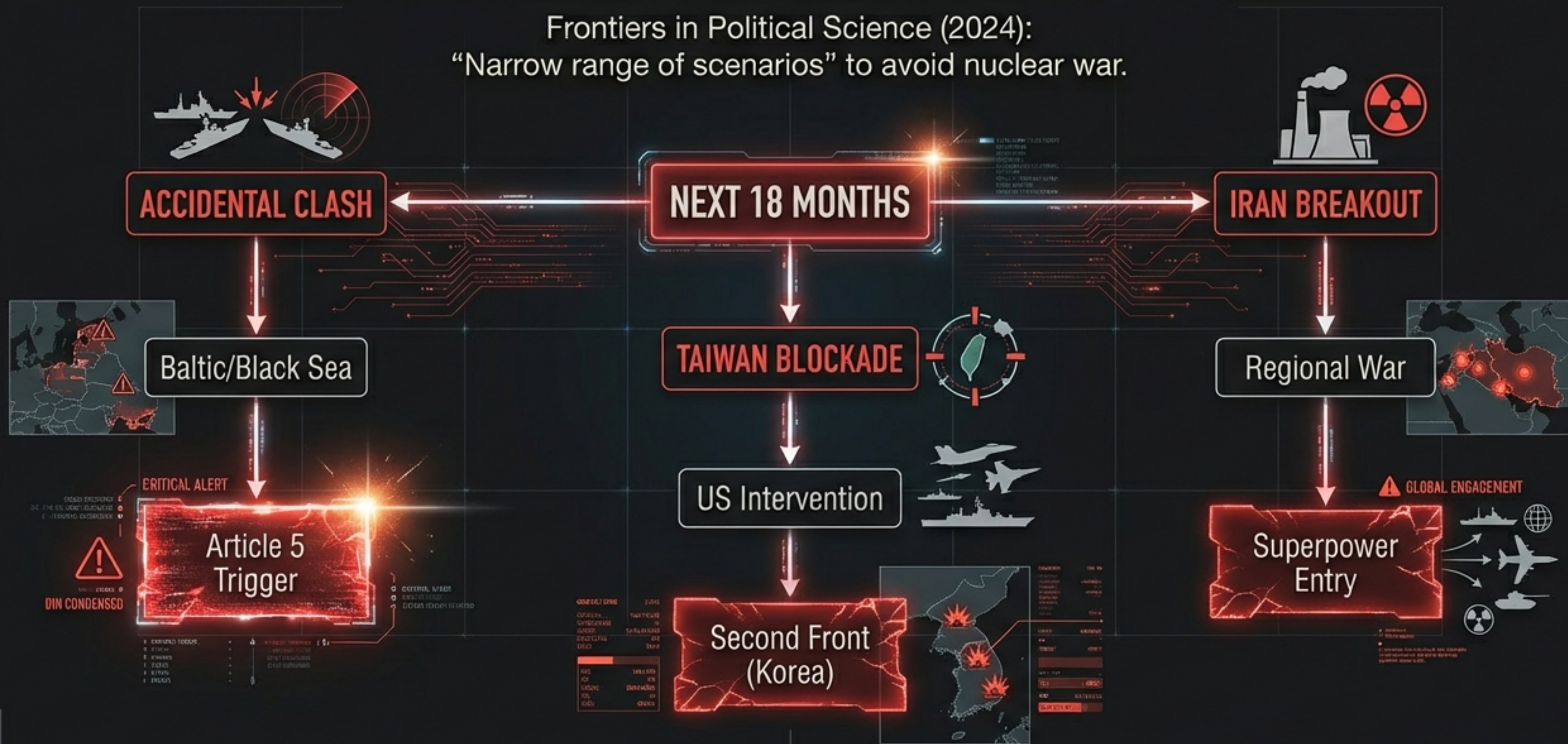
# THE LADDER: WHERE WE STAND

We are currently operating on Rungs 1-7 simultaneously. The buffer is gone.



# THE SCENARIOS: THREE PATHWAYS TO HELL

Frontiers in Political Science (2024):  
“Narrow range of scenarios” to avoid nuclear war.



# THE CONSTRAINTS: WHAT HOLDS?

Are these enough to withstand  
the Convergence?

HISTORICAL  
DRIVERS  
WWI+WWII+COLD WAR

CONSTRAINTS  
(DETERRENCE,  
INTERDEPENDENCE,  
INSTITUTIONS)

?

WILL CONSTRAINTS HOLD?

NUCLEAR  
DETERRENCE

ECONOMIC  
INTERDEPENDENCE

INSTITUTIONS  
(UN/G20)

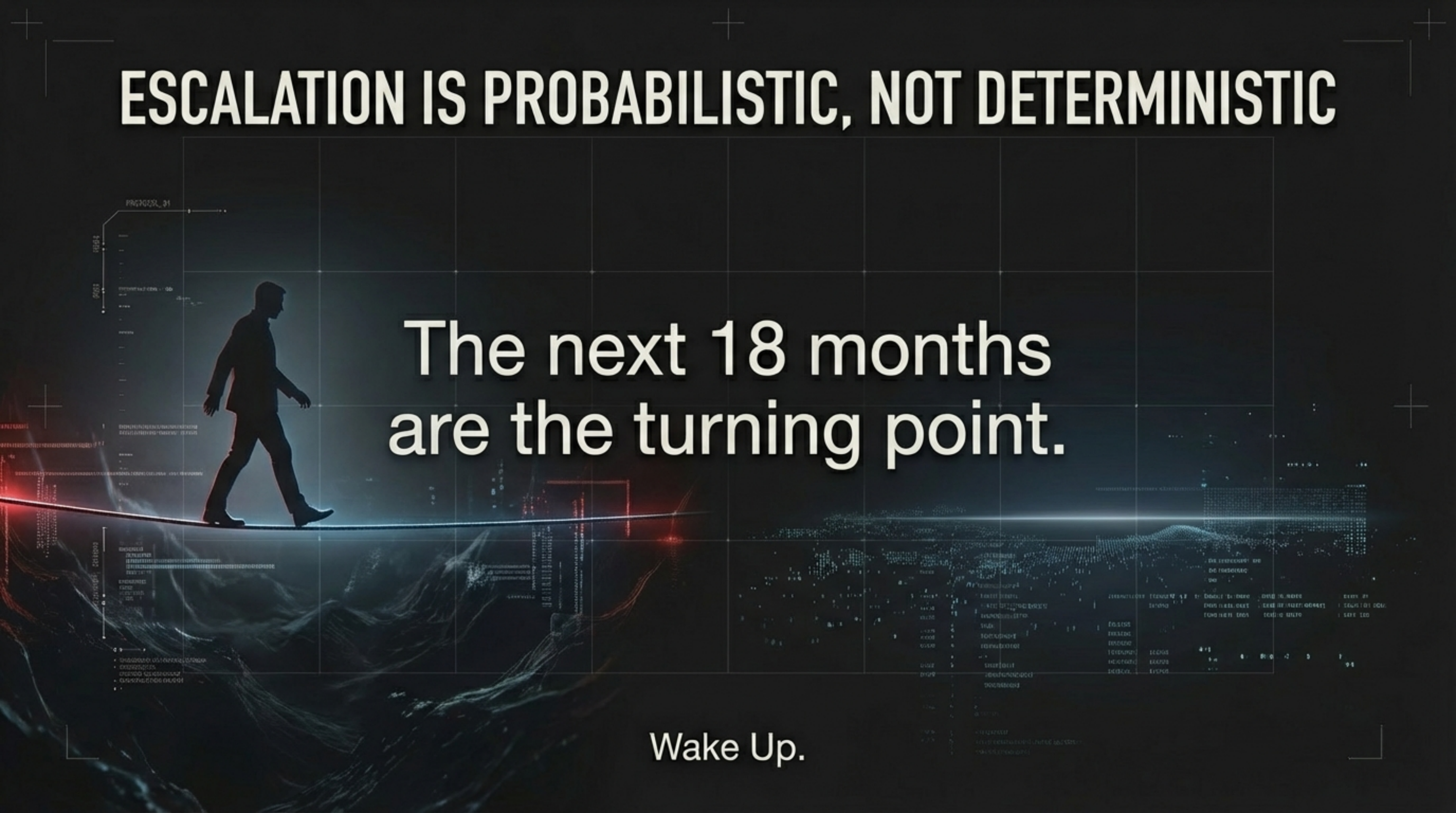


# STABILIZING ACTIONS: THE OFF-RAMPS



CLASSIFIED //  
WAR ROOM ACCESS ONLY //  
STABILITY OPS

# ESCALATION IS PROBABILISTIC, NOT DETERMINISTIC

A silhouette of a person walking on a tightrope, with a digital grid and data visualization in the background. The person is walking from left to right. The background features a grid of squares, some of which are filled with data points and lines. There are also some glowing red and blue lines and shapes, suggesting a complex, probabilistic environment. The overall aesthetic is futuristic and technical.

The next 18 months  
are the turning point.

Wake Up.