I. Implementing Restraint: Changes in U.S. Regional Security Policies to Operationalize a Realist Grand Strategy of Restraint

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The RAND CORPORATION think tank, which has a total of 1850 employees with a budget of US$350 million dollars, has the official purpose of "improving policy and decision-making through research and analysis". It is primarily connected to the Department of Defense in the United States and is notorious for having been influential in developing military and other strategy during the Cold War.

Figure 1.2 Focus of The Report

Grand strategy

- **Interests**
- **Threats**
- **Objectives**

I

Broad approaches

I

Specific policies

I

Detailed implementation plan

Figure 1.1 Alternative Grand Strategies

Restrained grand strategies **Hegemonic grand strategies**

Isolationism- Minimal military- Reduced military- Selective/deep engagement Primacy- Dominion

|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|

None _____ **Total**

Extent of military involvement

CHAPTER ONE

Introduction 1
Overview of the Debate About U.S. Grand Strategy 5
Overview of a Realist Grand Strategy of Restraint 11
Approach 23
Outline of This Report 26

CHAPTER TWO

Europe 27
U.S. Policy Toward Russia 28
Alliances and Partnerships 38
Posture 41
Security Cooperation and Assistance 45
Summary of Next Steps to Develop Prescriptions for U.S. Policy Toward Europe 46

CHAPTER THREE

The Asia-Pacific 49
U.S. Policy Toward China 52
U.S. Policy Toward North Korea 63
Alliances and Partnerships 68
Posture 73
Security Cooperation and Assistance 78
Summary of Next Steps to Develop Prescriptions for U.S. Policy Toward the Asia-Pacific 81

CHAPTER FOUR

The Middle East 83
U.S. Policy Toward Iran 85
U.S. Policy Toward Syria and Iraq 90
U.S. Policy Toward Terrorism and Intrastate Conflict 95
Partnerships 98
Posture 102
Security Cooperation and Assistance 106
Summary of Next Steps to Develop Prescriptions for U.S. Policy Toward the Middle East 108

CHAPTER FIVE
South Asia 111
Ongoing Operations in Afghanistan 112
U.S. Policy Toward Terrorism and State Collapse 114
Partnerships 117
Posture 121
Security Cooperation and Assistance 122
Summary of Next Steps to Develop Prescriptions for U.S. Policy Toward South Asia 125

CHAPTER SIX
Next Steps for Operationalizing a Grand Strategy of Restraint 127
Findings 127
Recommendations for Developing the Policy Implications of a Grand Strategy of Restraint 130
Final Thoughts 139

Findings:

•1. Advocates of restraint have threat assessments and assumptions that differ from those of policymakers who have shaped U.S. grand strategy since the end of the Cold War.

•2. Generally, advocates of restraint would rely more on diplomacy to settle conflicts of interest, encourage other states to lead, and preserve military power to defend vital U.S. interests.

•3. If a grand strategy of restraint were used, the United States would have a smaller military, fewer security commitments and forces based abroad, and a higher bar for the use of military force compared with current grand strategy.

•4. The specific implications of this grand strategy vary by region depending on the level of U.S. interests and the risk that a single power could dominate the region.

•5. Advocates of restraint seek a more cooperative approach with Current U.S. adversaries, such as Russia and Iran.

•6. The primary area of disagreement among advocates of restraint is the U.S. strategy in the Asia-Pacific.

•7. Advocates of restraint note that the rise of single powerful state in East Asia, Europe, or the Persian Gulf would imperil vital U.S. interests but have not yet offered policymakers guidance on how to know that such a threat is emerging.

•8. To generate more-specific policy implications for each region, advocates of restraint need to expand on their logic and conduct additional analysis.

Recommendations to Analysts for Developing the Policy Implications of a Grand Strategy of Restraint:

1 • Evaluate the core claims underlying a grand strategy of restraint to validate and refine its policy prescriptions.

2 • Develop risk-mitigation strategies to hedge against the possibility that one of the core assumptions of a grand strategy of restraint is fully or partially incorrect.

3• Specify the conditions under which the United States would stop military retrenchment or even increase its military engagement within each region.

4• Clarify what changes in great-power capabilities and behavior would constitute a serious threat to vital U.S. interests.

5• Provide guidance on whether and how to respond to China's, Russia's, and Iran's gray zone activities.

•6. Identify the maritime areas where the United States should retain superiority.

•7. Offer prescriptions on how the United States should evaluate threats and operate in the space and cyber domains.

•8. Identify scenarios to guide U.S. Department of Defense planning.

- 9. Provide priorities for U.S. military peacetime activities, such as exercises.
- 10. Develop policies toward Africa, the Americas, and the Arctic.
- 11. Develop proposals on trade and other international economic issues.
- 12. Assess the cost savings associated with core policy prescriptions.

II. How the US planned the war and the energy crisis in Europe

Swedish newspaper publishes leaked U.S. secret plan to allegedly destroy German economy

September 14, 2022

Research Report

January 25, 2022
Confidential

Distribution: WHCS, ANSA,
Dept. of State, CIA, NSA, DNC

Executive Summary

RAND CORPORATION

THE LEAKED RAND DOCUMENT

- In what appears to be an exceptional internal leak from the close-to-government think tank RAND Corporation, known among other things to have been behind American strategy for foreign and defense policy during the Cold War, a detailed account is given of how the energy crisis in Europe was planned by the United States.
- The document, dated January 2022, acknowledges that the aggressive foreign policy pursued in Ukraine will pressure Russia into having to intervene militarily in the country. The purpose, they explain, is to introduce a sanctions package that has been prepared for a long time.
- The EU's economy, it states, "will inevitably collapse" as a result of this - and it rejoices, among other things, that resources up to 9000 billion dollars can flow to the United States, and that well-educated European youth will be forced to emigrate.
- The main goal they describe is to divide Europe - especially Germany and Russia - and destroy the European economy by getting useful idiots in politics to stop Russian energy supplies to the continent.

In a document signed by RAND, under the opening heading "Weaken Germany, strengthen the USA",

it is believed that there is an "urgent need" for an influx of resources from outside to maintain the American economy in general, but "especially to the banking system".

" *Only European countries bound by EU and NATO commitments can provide us with these without significant military and political costs* ."

The biggest obstacle to this according to RAND is the growing independence of Germany. Among other things, it is pointed out that Brexit has given Germany greater independence and made it more difficult for the US to influence the decisions of European governments.

A key goal that pervades the cynical strategy is above all to destroy the cooperation between Germany and Russia, and also France.

" *If it comes to fruition, it would make Europe not only an economic, but also a political competitor to the United States* ," it declares.

Only way: "Drag both sides into war in Ukraine”

To crush this political threat, a strategic plan is presented which is primarily aimed at destroying the German economy.

" *Stopping Russian supplies could create a systematic crisis that would be devastating for the German economy and indirectly for the entire EU* ", they state, and believe that the key is to drag Europe's countries into war.

” *The only possible way to ensure that Germany rejects Russian energy supplies is to draw both sides into the military conflict in Ukraine. Our continued actions in this country will inevitably lead to a military response from Russia. Russia is clearly not going to leave the massive Ukrainian army's pressure on the Donbass republics without a military response. It would make it possible to portray Russia as the aggressive party and then apply the entire already prepared package of sanctions* ”.

Green parties will make Germany "fall into the trap”

In particular, green parties in Europe are described as easy to manipulate to do the business of American imperialism.

” *The prerequisite for Germany to fall into this trap is the leading role of green parties and ideologies in Europe. The German environmental movement is a strongly dogmatic, if not fanatical, movement, which makes it quite easy to get them to ignore economic arguments* ," it writes, citing the current foreign minister of Germany, Annalena Baerbock, and the climate minister, Robert Habeck, as examples of this type of politician.

” *Personal characteristics and lack of professionalism make it possible to assume that it is impossible for them to admit their own mistakes in time. Thus, it will be enough to quickly shape a media image of Putin's aggressive war - and to make the Greens ardent and tough supporters of sanctions - a "party of war". It will make it possible to impose the sanctions without any obstacles* ".

Among other things, Baerbock has made a name for herself by declaring that she will maintain the stoppage of Russian gas even during the winter - regardless of what her constituents think about the matter and what the consequences are for the German population.

- *We stay with Ukraine and that means that the sanctions will stay, also in winter - even if it will be very tough for politicians* , she said at a conference in Prague recently.

Greens politicians Annalena Baerbock and Robert Habeck are described by the US as grateful to manipulate US affairs - in particular the goal of destroying Germany's economy.

"At best a total stop"

The authors express a hope that the damage between Germany and Russia will be so great that it will be impossible for the countries to re-establish normal relations later.

" *A reduction in Russian energy supplies – at best a total stop – would lead to catastrophic consequences for German industry. The need to set aside significant amounts of Russian gas to keep homes and public buildings heated during the winter will further exacerbate the shortages. Shutdowns in industry will cause a shortage of components and spare parts for manufacturing, a collapse of logistics chains and sooner or later a domino effect* ".

Ultimately, a complete collapse of Europe's economy is seen as both probable and desirable.

" *Not only will this deliver a crushing blow to the German economy, the entire EU economy will inevitably collapse* ."

They further point out the advantages of US-based companies having less competition on the world market, logistical advantages and the outflow of capital from Europe, it is estimated that it will be able to benefit the US economy by 7-9 trillion dollars. In addition, the important effect that many well-educated and young Europeans will be forced to emigrate to the USA is also emphasized.

RAND denies the origin of the report

On Wednesday, RAND issued a press release denying that the report originated with them. On the other hand, there is no response regarding how the report is false or what would not be true, but simply write that you see the content as "bizarre" and that the document is "false".

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Photo internet reproduction.
The E.U.'s economy, it states, "will inevitably collapse" as a result of this – and it rejoices, among other things, that resources up to 9,000 billion dollars can flow to the United States and that well-educated European youth will be forced to emigrate.
Their main goal is to divide Europe – especially Germany and Russia – and destroy the European economy by getting 'useful idiots' in politics to stop Russian energy supplies to the continent.

WEAKENING GERMANY, STRENGTHENING THE U.S.

Some excerpts from the alleged RAND document:

The present state of the U.S. economy does not suggest that it can function without financial and material support from external sources.

The quantitative easing policy, which the Fed has resorted to regularly in recent years, and the uncontrolled cash issue during the 2020 and 2021 Covid lockdowns, have led to a sharp increase in external debt and an increase in the dollar supply.

There is an urgent need for resources to flow into the national economy, especially the banking system.

Only European countries bound by the E.U. and NATO commitments can provide them without significant military and political costs for the U.S.

The biggest obstacle to this, according to RAND, is the growing independence of Germany.

Among other things, it is pointed out that Brexit has given Germany greater autonomy and made it more difficult for the U.S. to influence the decisions of European governments.

" If Germany and France cooperate, they will become not only an economic competitor to the United States but also a political one ".

A critical goal that pervades the cynical strategy is to destroy the cooperation between Germany, Russia, and France, which is seen as the most significant economic and political threat to the United States.

An additional factor contributing to Germany's economic independence is Brexit.

With the withdrawal of the U.K. from the E.U. structures, the U.S. has lost a meaningful opportunity to influence the negotiation of cross-governmental decisions.

Fear of a damaging U.S. response determines the relatively slow speed of those changes.

If one day the U.S. abandon Europe, there will be a good chance for Germany and France to get to a complete political consensus.

Then Italy and other Old Europe countries – primarily the former ECSC members – may join it on certain conditions.

Due to coalition constraints, the German leadership is not in complete control of the situation in the country.

Thanks to the U.S.'s precise actions, it has been possible to block the commissioning of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline.

The only feasible way to guarantee Germany's rejection of Russian energy supplies is to involve both sides in the military conflict in Ukraine.

Our further actions in this country will inevitably lead to a military response from Russia.

The prerequisite for Germany to fall into this trap is the leading role of green parties and ideology in Europe.

RAND is the author of this strategy paper, whose implementation is well underway.

The German Greens are an intensely dogmatic, if not a zealous movement, which makes it relatively easy to make them ignore economic arguments.

EXPECTED CONSEQUENCES

A reduction in Russian energy supplies – ideally, a complete halt of such supplies – would lead to disastrous outcomes for German industry.

Lockdowns in industrial enterprises will cause shortages of components and spare parts for manufacturing, a breakdown of logistic chains, and, eventually, a domino effect.

The cumulative losses of the German economy can be estimated only approximately.

Even if the restriction of Russian supplies is limited to 2022, its consequences will last for several years, and the total loss could reach 200 to 300 billion euros.

Not only will it deliver a devastating blow to the German economy, but the entire E.U. economy will inevitably collapse.

RAND writes they are not talking about a decline in economic growth pace, but a sustained recession and a decline in GDP only in material production by 3 to 4% per year for the next 5 to 6 years.

Another inevitable consequence of a prolonged economic recession will be a sharp drop in living standards and rising unemployment (up to 200k to 400k in Germany alone), which will entail the exodus of skilled labor and well-educated young people.

There are no other destinations for such migration other than the U.S. today.

III. US and Norway blew up the Nord Stream Pipelines –

Seymour Hersh

HELSINKI TIMES WORLD 16 FEBRUARY 2023

”In June 2022, the Navy divers, operating under the cover of a widely publicised mid-summer NATO exercise known as BALTOPS 22, planted the remotely triggered explosives that, three months later, destroyed three of the four Nord Stream pipelines, according to a source with direct knowledge of the operational planning,” Hersh writes in his article.

According to Hersh’s source, the decision to sabotage the pipeline came directly from US president **Joe Biden** and was the result of a highly secretive debate that lasted for over nine months within Washington's national security community. Hersh's anonymous source claimed that the issue during the debate was not whether to carry out the mission, but how to achieve the goal without getting caught. The deliberations reportedly involved extensive planning and strategising, indicating the high level of importance placed on the issue within the national security community.

Hersh reports that, President Joe Biden and his foreign policy team, including National Security Adviser **Jake Sullivan**, Secretary of State **Tony Blinken**, and Undersecretary of State for Policy **Victoria Nuland**, were strongly opposed to the Nord Stream pipelines. The two pipelines, which ran parallel to each other for 750 miles under the Baltic Sea, originated from different ports in northeastern Russia near the Estonian border, passed near the Danish island of Bornholm, and terminated in northern Germany. Biden and his team were vocal in their hostility towards the pipelines, which were seen as a means of increasing Russia's influence in Europe.

Hersh recounts that opposition to the Nord Stream 2 pipeline reached a fever pitch in January 2021, on the eve of President Joe Biden's inauguration. Senate Republicans, led by **Ted Cruz** of Texas, repeatedly raised concerns about the political threat posed by cheap Russian natural gas during the confirmation hearing of Secretary of State Tony Blinken. At the time, the Senate had successfully passed a law that ”halted the pipeline in its tracks” as Cruz put it.

At the time, the German government, then led by **Angela Merkel,** faced significant political and economic pressure to get the second pipeline online.

Investigative journalist Seymour Hersh reports that in December 2021, before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan convened a meeting of a task force composed of members from the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the CIA, and the State and Treasury Departments. The group discussed recommendations for responding to **Putin**'s impending invasion, and Sullivan reportedly made it clear that he wanted the group to come up with a plan for destroying the two Nord Stream pipelines and that the order comes directly for Biden himself. Over the next few meetings, the group debated options for an attack, including using a submarine or dropping bombs remotely. The CIA eventually began crafting a plan for a covert operation that would use deep-sea divers to trigger an explosion along the pipeline.

The BALTOPS 22 exercise was to be used as a cover to plant the camouflaged explosives which would be detonated weeks or months later by a sonar signal. Long enough time to cover the relation with the military exercise.

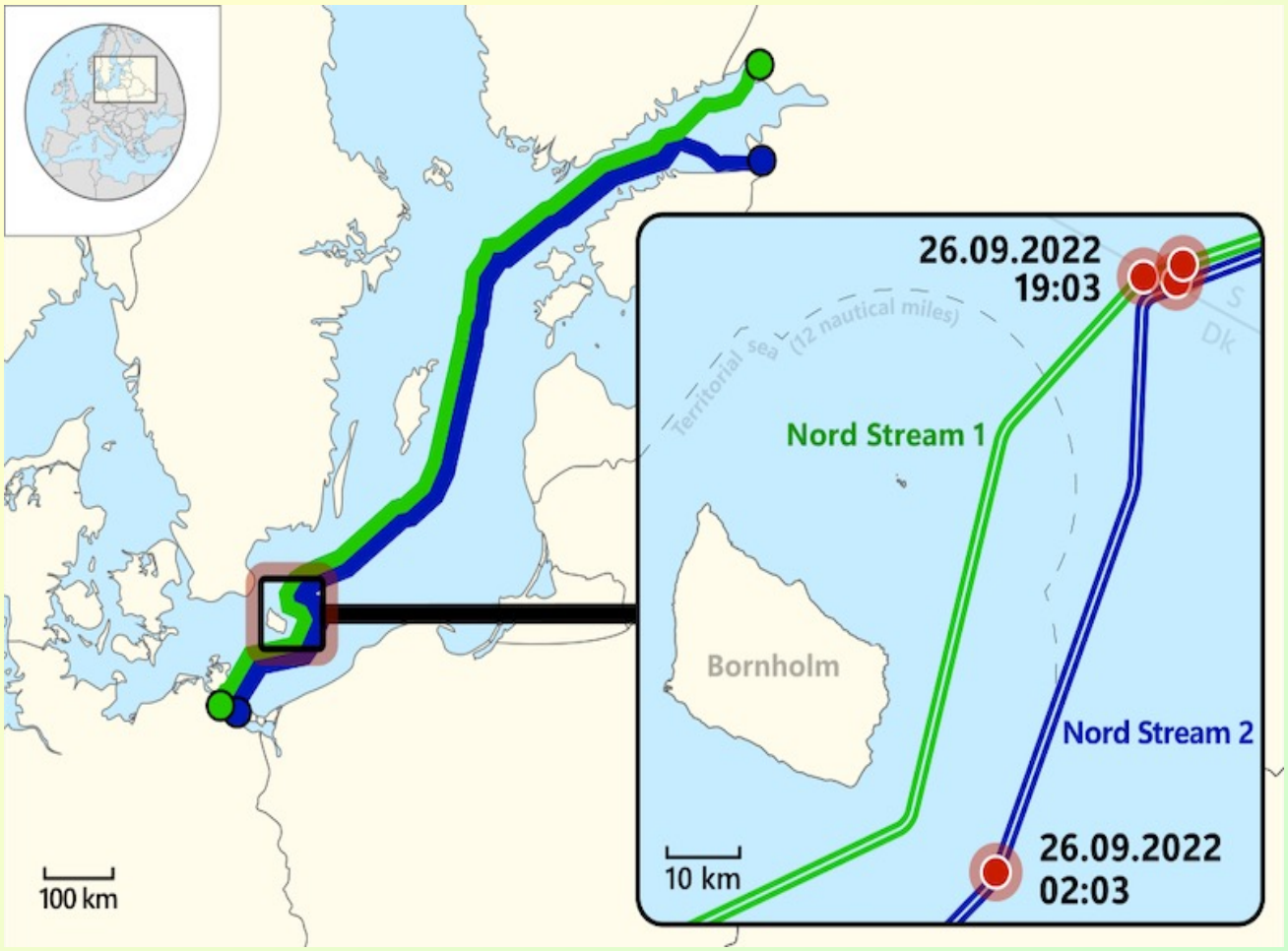
Hersh's report suggests that the plan was downgraded from a covert operation to a highly classified intelligence operation with U.S. military support after President Biden and Undersecretary Victoria Nuland made public comments indicating the administration's willingness to stop the Nord Stream 2 pipeline if Russia invaded Ukraine. At a press briefing that followed the visit of German Chancellor Olaf Scholz to the White House, Biden openly said, "If Russia invades . . . there will be no longer a Nord Stream 2. We will bring an end to it."

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OS4O8rGRLf8

According to Hersh's anonymous source, the plan to blow up the pipelines was no longer legally required to be reported to Congress as it was not considered a "covert" operation anymore, but it still had to be kept secret because of Russia's surveillance capabilities in the Baltic Sea.

Hersh writes that the Norwegian navy was able to quickly find the optimal location for blowing up the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines. The pipelines were located more than a mile apart on a seafloor that was only 260 feet deep in the shallow waters of the Baltic Sea, a few miles off Denmark's Bornholm Island. The divers, who would plant the shaped C4 charges on the pipelines with concrete protective covers, would operate from a Norwegian Alta-class mine hunter.

Hersh's report suggests that on September 26, 2022, a Norwegian Navy P8 surveillance plane dropped a sonar buoy in a seemingly routine flight, triggering high-powered C4 explosives that had been planted on the pipelines. Three of the four pipelines were put out of commission, and pools of methane gas that remained in the shuttered pipelines could be seen spreading on the water's surface.



Hersh recounts statements made by Blinken in Nuland after the Nord Stream explosions as a confirmation of the fact that the United States government was at least happy and satisfied with the outcome.

"It's a tremendous opportunity to once and for all remove the dependence on Russian energy and thus to take away from Vladimir Putin the weaponisation of energy as a means of advancing his imperial designs. That's very significant and that offers tremendous strategic opportunity for the years to come," Blinken described the event as an opportunity when asked at a press conference last September about the consequences of the energy crisis in Western Europe.

Nuland expressed her satisfaction while testifying at a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing in late January: " Like you, I am, and I think the Administration is, very gratified to know that Nord Stream 2 is now, as you say, a hunk of metal at the bottom of the sea." she told Senator Ted Cruz.

The implications of Hersh's report are significant, as they suggest that the U.S. government played a direct role in the destruction of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which can be considered the biggest terrorist act after Sept. 11, with huge environmental and social consequences. Up to 155,000 tonnes of methane were released into the atmosphere. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. 155,000 tonnes of methane is equivalent to the annual greenhouse gas emissions from approximately 33,000 passenger vehicles, or the carbon sequestered by 1.8 million acres of U.S. forests in one year. Also The German and European industry has suffered greatly and energy prices in Europe have soared dramatically for consumers.

Hersh's revelations confirm what many independent thinkers, intellectuals and experts had believed and said openly, despite the deafening propaganda of the main stream western media claiming that Russia blew up its own pipeline.

Right after the explosions, **Radoslaw Sikorski**, European Parliament member and former Polish foreign minister, on his Twitter account shared a photograph of gas leak, saying "Thank you, USA." Adding that "Now $20 billion of scrap metal lies at the bottom of the sea, another cost to Russia of its criminal decision to invade Ukraine." He later deleted the tweet.

Independent commentators have repeatedly stated that the disruption or sabotage of the Nord Stream pipeline would not benefit Russia. Already back in October 2022 in a conversation with Andrew Napolitano, the presenter of the Judging Freedom podcast, former advisor to US Defence Secretary in the administration of **Donald Trump**, **Douglas Macgregor**, said: "You have to look at who are the state actors that have the capability to do this. And that means the [UK's] Royal Navy and the United States' Navy <…> I think that's pretty clear."

Who Sabotaged Nord Stream Pipeline?

Russia has invested heavily in the Nord Stream pipeline and relies on it to export natural gas directly to Germany, bypassing other European countries. Therefore, any disruption or sabotage of the pipeline would have negative economic consequences for Russia, as it would cut off a significant source of revenue.

Additionally it has been reported that Russia is quietly exploring the possibilities of repairing the pipelines which will be extremely costly.

On the other hand the main beneficiary of the disruption has been the United States which has openly opposed and criticised the pipeline and has been exporting its three-times-more-expensive LNG to Europe since the disruption. Norway is another obvious beneficiary. Norway's own pipeline become functional around the same time Nord Stream was blown up.

Seymour Hersh is an American investigative journalist who is widely regarded as one of the most brilliant and trustworthy reporters of his generation. He has won numerous awards, including a Pulitzer Prize, for his investigative reporting on war crimes, abuses of power, and government misconduct. Hersh is known for his deep sources within the intelligence community, his uncompromising commitment to uncovering the truth, and his ability to bring to light stories that others have missed or ignored. He has a long and distinguished career that has spanned several decades, and his reporting has had a major impact on public discourse and policy.

Here are some of the most important investigative articles Seymour Hersh has written, along with a brief summary of each and how they were received:

1. My Lai Massacre (1969): Hersh broke the story of the My Lai Massacre, in which American soldiers killed hundreds of Vietnamese civilians. His reporting, which won a Pulitzer Prize, revealed a military cover-up and sparked outrage across the country.

1. Abu Ghraib Torture (2004): Hersh's reporting on the abuse of prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq exposed a culture of torture and impunity within the U.S. military. His reporting won a *George Polk Award* and helped to bring about significant changes in military policy and public opinion.

3. Nuclear Weapons in Pakistan (1998): Hersh's reporting on Pakistan's nuclear program, including its collaboration with North Korea, was controversial and initially met with skepticism. However, subsequent events confirmed much of his reporting, and it is now widely regarded as groundbreaking.

4. CIA Domestic Spying (1975): Hersh's reporting on the CIA's illegal domestic spying program helped to expose the agency's abuses of power and contributed to the creation of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

5. Iran-Contra Affair (1987): Hersh's reporting on the Iran-Contra scandal, in which the Reagan administration sold weapons to Iran and used the proceeds to fund the Contras in Nicaragua, was instrumental in exposing the corruption and illegal activities of high-ranking government officials.

Overall, Hersh's reporting has been highly regarded by many for its depth, accuracy, and impact. Even though some of his articles have been controversial and naturally met with criticism from the establishments he has revealed, and those who disagree with his reporting or his political views, his work is widely considered to be some of the most important and influential investigative journalism of the past several decades.

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