Puzzle

In 1958, the USSR proposed the World Health Assembly (WHA) undertake the eradication of smallpox. The US and its allies opposed the initiative, arguing that the sunk costs of the a malaria eradication program made it more pressing. A decade later, the malaria program had failed and ended, the US had entirely reversed its position, and the global campaign to end smallpox was underway.

- How do countries justify significant shifts in foreign policy positions or priority?
- How do int'l orgs decide which public goods to provide?

Potential Explanations

- 1. Organizational incentives in the US and/or the WHO
- 2. Changes in powerful member interests, incentives, politics (i.e., the "second image revisited")
- 3. A change in scientific consensus

Story thus far

Historians (Manela 2014, Reinhart 2010) argued that the rise of smallpox on the U agenda was due to a "globalizing" of LBJ's aspirations for the Great Society. LBJ's ow words seem to indicate such

But we would be shortsighted to confine vision to this nation's shorelines. The blessings we count at home cannot be



This picture does not technically have anything to do with smallpox eradication. It has LBJ, who *did* have something to do with smallpox eradication, and more important for getting you to come see this poster, it has **puppies**.

Source: Cleveland Plain Dealer, <u>http://media.cleveland.com/plain-dealer/photo/</u> <u>2012/02/10569559-standard.jpg</u>

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Pox vobiscum, or How I learned to stop fighting malaria and love killing smallpox

Nathan A. Paxton, School of International Service, American University, Washington DC

cultivated in isolation from the worldwide earnings of men....

Ve mean to show that our dream of a great ciety does not stop at the water's edge, that is not just an American dream. All are elcome to share in it and all are invited to ontribute to it. The most urgent work of our mes--the most urgent work of all time--is give that dream reality.

at other reasons exist? Why smallpox?

1. Foreign Policy eradication ap Cold Warriors granola-eaters

• LBJ also wan contribute a the UN's Int'l Cooperation (1965).

2.Natural Scien amenable thar As with nuclea physicians cou agreed-upon medical interv

3.Rise of int'l governance: WHO could act as neutral broker/forum. A global institution turned disease into a global problem. Blocks at WHO delayed response.

What's not yet clear is why the administration picked up the smallpox program as its flagship for ICY and how the idea wended its way from an idea among physicians and technocrats to the level of the President.

Next Steps: Parsing Explanations

cy: Disease	Date	Event
appealed to rs and rs. anted to program to 'l Year (ICY)	1948	World Health Organization establish
	1955	Malaria program started
	1958	Soviet Union rejoins WHO; Zhdanc eradication
	1959	WHA passess resolution to start small
	1963	Malaria program effectively ends (fo
	1964	LBJ makes first substantive mention
ence: More an malaria. ear scientists, ould speak an language of rvention	1965	LBJ directs US to support a WHO en
	1966	Int'l Health Act includes provisions program
	1967	WHO SEP begins implementation
	1977	Last "wild" case of smallpox recorde
	1980	Smallpox officially declared eradicat

• Investigate resources that WHO provided • How would this have differed without global governance?

• How did US commitments differ for this program as versus other health progs.?

- Examine the path by which smallpox came to presidential attention (June 1964–June 1965)
 - about the epistemic scientific community?
- What international pressures (bilateral, other IGOs) came on the US to support this initiative?

Questions to you:

- What other explanations occur to you?
- What research strategy or materials would

be most convincing?

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nallpox program formal end in 1969) n of smallpox eradication program for smallpox

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• Was domestic politics responsible? What