

Report on the Workshop 'The Changing Character of War, the State and the Utility of Force in the 21st Century', ISA Convention 2012

Introduction

The workshop took place on Saturday 31 March 2012 and all those who participated felt that it was of great benefit to all those who participated. The organisers would like to thank ISA for its support and particularly Jeanne White for all her practical assistance.

The presenters represented a good mix of senior academics and junior scholars including PhD students and there were a number of additional students in the audience. There was also a good mix of different nationalities and experiences. There were a few late absentees because of various reasons - family, health and visa issues - but substitute speakers were able to fill in drawing on conversations with the planned speakers and the book that will follow will include all the planned participants.

Session overview

In Session One we reflected on the changing character of conflict and what this might mean for the state. The discussion was excellent and saw a debate about whether the conventional and nuclear levels of conflict were fusing. We also discussed the cyber domain and how was challenging our traditional thinking on deterrence and coercion.

In Sessions Two and Three we examined a series of state case studies. There were some traditional ones, such as the United States, Germany, Russia and the United Kingdom but we also considered some that are traditionally not really examined including Belgium and Norway both of whom were highly active in the recent NATO operation in Libya. This drew out some surprising observations and one of our conclusions was that for the book that will follow additional case studies are needed.

In the final session we wanted to reflect on what all this meant for us as scholars in the classroom. We engaged in a comparison of traditional university department approaches with those of the war colleges and junior officer entry levels.

Actual Programme

The programme that ultimately was delivered was as follows:

0830 - 1000: Session 1 - Is the character of war changing?

Chair - David Dunn (Birmingham)

Presenters

- Is the role of weapons of mass destruction changing? - Tom Sauer - note Jim Wirtz had to pull out at the last minute. Jim will, however, contribute to the final volume.
- Is the role of conventional forces changing? - Benjamin Zala (Birmingham)
- Will Cyber warfare become the new battleground? - Andrew Dorman - Chris Demchak had to pull out at the last minute because of health issues. Chris will, however, contribute to the final volume

1030 - 1200: Session 2 - What does this mean for policy makers 1 - The great powers?

Chair - Andrew Dorman (King's College London)

Presenters

- Russia – Bettina Renz (Nottingham)
- United Kingdom – David McCourt (University of California-Berkley)
- United States – David H Dunn (University of Birmingham)

Note: the individual presenting the India case study was unable to attend because of visa issues. He will, however, contribute to the book.

1400 – 1530: Session 3 – What does this mean for policy makers 2 – Non-great powers?

Chair – Benjamin Zala (Birmingham)

Presenters

- Australian – Maryanne Kelton (Flinders)
- Belgium – Thomas Sauer (Antwerp)
- Germany – Gale Mattox (US Naval Academy)
- Norway – Gunhild Hoogensen (Tromso)

1600 – 1730: Session 4 – What does this mean for policy-makers and the classroom?

Chair – David H Dunn (Birmingham)

Presenters

- Katherine Brown (King's College London)
- Andrew Dorman (Kings College London)
- Gale Mattox (US Naval Academy)

Budget

As a result of the various programme changes the budget was underspent by \$1894. The detailed costings are available on a separate sheet.

Planned output

All agreed that this was an exciting project that had no real competitors in the field at present. The outputs will consist of a panel at the 2013 ISA convention and a book edited by Andrew Dorman and David Dunn. The editors have already discussed the proposed edited volume with Stanford University Press with a view to submitting a manuscript this Summer for review with publication planned for the following July.

It was agreed that additional case studies would be needed and we are currently in negotiation with potential contributors. The proposed contents page of the book follows on. Where contributors have yet to be confirmed there is no name assigned.

Andrew Dorman
King's College London
3 May 2012

Book Contents page

Introduction - Andrew M Dorman (KCL) & David H Dunn (Birmingham)

Section 1 - Changing Character of War

Chapter 1 - Weapons of Mass Destruction and the 21st Century - Jim Wirtz (Naval Postgraduate School)

Chapter 2 - The Revolution in Military Affairs and Defence Transformation -

Chapter 3 - Cyberwarfare - Chris C Demchak (Naval War College)

Section 2 - State Responses

Chapter 4 - Australia - Maryanne Felton (Finders)

Chapter 5 - Belgium - Tom Sauer

Chapter 6 - Brazil -

Chapter 7 - China -

Chapter 8 - Germany - Gale Mattox (US Naval Academy)

Chapter 9 - India - Rudra Chaudhuri (KCL)

Chapter 10 - Israel -

Chapter 11 - Norway - Gunhild Hoogensen

Chapter 12 - Russia - Bettina Renz (Nottingham)

Chapter 13 - United States - David H Dunn (Birmingham)

Chapter 14 - United Kingdom - Andrew M Dorman (KCL)

Conclusions - Andrew M Dorman (KCL) & David H Dunn (Birmingham)